

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Council Meeting held on 6th August 2014 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall

Present:

Cllr Connolly – Chairman

Cllrs Fulford, Adams, Paton, Price, Lewendon, Hale, Anstey,(G) Wilson, & Perkins

In Attendance:

Mrs H Richards, Town Clerk

Cllr A Sevier, New Forest DC

P C Deniz, Hampshire Police

Patricia Earth, Lyndsey Kramer, applicants for Councillors vacancy

6 Members of the Public

1. Apologies

There were apologies for absence from Cllr A Wilson, Cllr Heron (HCC) and Cllr R Bellows (NFDC)

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations received

3. To receive applications for co-option as a Member of the Town Council

Applications were received from:

Ms Patricia Earth, Mrs Lyndsey Kramer & Mr Lee Britten-Jones. Mr Britten-Jones had made a presentation to Council at the Finance & Policy Meeting held on 30th July 2014. The Chairman then invited the applicants present at the meeting to give a presentation to Members to introduce themselves and explain why they wanted to be a member of the Council. Following the presentations, the meeting was then adjourned whilst Members voted by ballot paper.

The meeting re-convened following voting and verification.

The following person was co-opted onto the Town Council: Ms Patricia Earth.

The Chairman thanked the candidates for applying and welcomed Ms Earth onto the Council.

6. To receive a report on any matters under Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act

This item was brought forward on the Agenda due to PC Deniz being on duty.

PC Deniz reported that the police currently had no real concerns usual for this time of year despite the school holidays having started. One area of concern was the recent presence of a person claiming to be homeless, (located in the Town Centre for several days in July) who went on to commit two serious fraud crimes in Fordingbridge and police are currently trying to locate the person in question.

No concerns or issues since Harleys Public House had opened.

Cllr G Wilson raised the problem of parking on the paved area outside of the Town Hall and adjacent shops. Several concerns and complaints have been received by the Town Council. PC Deniz confirmed that this area is for deliveries and loading short term parking only. He also confirmed that the Police do speak with offenders whenever possible but the on-street parking enforcement is an issue for the District Council Parking Attendants. The Chairman agreed to write to New Forest District Council and the highways authority, Hampshire County Council.

PC Deniz confirmed that the new Police Station in Provost Street would be ready in early September.

PC Deniz then left the meeting.

The Agenda then resumed at item 4.

4. To confirm the Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 2nd July 2014 and to report any matters arising.

It was proposed by Cllr Lewendon and seconded by Cllr Price and **RESOLVED**: that the Minutes of the 2nd July 2014 be signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Minute No. 7 – Street Lighting Replacement – The Clerk confirmed that following representation from both local residents and the Town Council & subsequent negotiation with Hampshire County Council, both of the lights at Vimoutier Court would be replaced with the older heritage style lights.

5. To receive any matters raised by Members of the Public.

Footpath 78b Puddleslosh Lane – Members of public present requested an update on the situation with the footpath. The Chairman reported that the Council had been copied into a response to Mr Colin Burt from Hampshire CC explaining that the situation is ongoing and that the footpath may remain closed longer than the period of 21 days of the temporary closure notice. Cllr Fulford confirmed that the path remains in a dangerous condition.

Cllr Lewendon stated that the original line of the path must be established, not the line that users had become accustomed to walk along. This path is not the most dangerous footpath in the area and the situation should be clarified and the path re-opened for users to decide whether to use it.

It was also reported that the swinging gate was not positioned in line with the current path and was this located on the official line?

Cllr Sevier reported on the current position of the Sequoia Farm Planning Applications and Enforcement – this site is adjacent to the land on which the footpath is located. The Planning situation at Sequoia Farm is now in the hands of the Planning Inspectorate as Appeals have been lodged to both the Enforcement Notices and refused Planning Applications. Cllr Sevier confirmed that the area has been identified as a Site of Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) in the Neighbourhood Plan and an Article 4 Direction may be considered which limits Permitted Development rights. The Mobile Home needs to be removed from the site (subject to the outcome of the Appeal) however the access/hardstanding has gained Planning Permission.

The caravan on the site refused planning permission as a travellers site (located off Marl Lane but within this larger parcel of land) should be removed under Enforcement powers.

Cllr Sevier then went on to announce that the WW1 commemorative website was now live - this item completed Cllr Sevier's report for New Forest DC, listed as Agenda Item 9.

Members of the Public left the meeting

7. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

The Mayor reported on attendance at the following events during July:

1st – Allotment Judging – undertaken with the chairman of General Purposes Committee Cllr G Wilson – an excellent standard of care had been achieved this year awards to be announced in September

4th – Village Scene, WW1 commemorative event at St Mary's Church – very successful and now currently on tour

11th – Junior School Reception Class

14th – Mini Olympics

Cllr Sevier left the meeting.

8. To receive a Report from the County Councillor

Not present at the meeting & no report received.

9. To receive a Report from the District Councillors

Previously reported and included under Agenda Item 5.

10. To receive the following Committee meeting minutes and any recommendations to General Council contained therein.

Planning Committee – 9th July 2014

Amenities Committee – 16th July 2014 (not 17th as stated on the Agenda)

General Purposes Committee – 16th July 2014 (not 17th as stated on the Agenda)

Extraordinary General Council Meeting – 23rd July 2014

Finance & Policy Committee – 30th July 2014

Matters arising from Amenities Meeting 16th July 2014

- To review Fishing Permit charges

It was proposed by Cllr Lewendon and seconded by Cllr Fulford and **RESOLVED:** that new charges be introduced of:

- Weekly Permit £15.00 which would be available to all to purchase
- Annual Permit £50.00 for local residents only, proof of residency will be required before purchase

All voted in favour.

11. To report any Health & Safety issues

Cllr Anstey reported that the missing lifebuoy had still not been replaced at the Recreation Ground – the Clerk confirmed that this was being actioned with the correct size being sourced.

Cllr Anstey then reported that a Fire Risk Assessment must be provided by the Town Council for the Town Hall and also by the Fordingbridge Entertainment Society for the events held. Town Clerk to action for Council and all users of the hall should be required to provide an assessment.

Cllr Paton reported that the steps on the Playhouse in the Recreation Ground play area were broken – Town Clerk to investigate and action.

12. To agree a protocol for Recording and use of Social Media at Council Meetings.

The Chairman reported that following new legislation "The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 20142 which came into force on 31st July 2014 an agreed protocol was required.

Cllr Lewendon raised concern that recordings made could be edited before publication. Cllrs Anstey and Perkins considered that the Council should record its meetings in order to alleviate any possible contentions.

It was also AGREED that Minutes must be published as soon as possible following each meeting and always within 1 week.

Members were asked to consider the distributed protocol of New Forest DC and comment at the Finance and Policy meeting on 27th August 2014.

13. To discuss the naming of the Concession Building in the Recreation Ground.

Councillors agreed that the building should not be named by the tenant as this may cause problems should the tenant change – the successful tender had expressed an intention to name the building. Members also agreed that the name should include reference to the Riverside.

It was proposed by Cllr Fulford and seconded by Cllr Lewendon that the building should be named “Riverside Kiosk”.

Cllr Perkins then proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Adams that the building be named “Riverside Snack Bar”.

Members then voted on the proposals with 5 votes received for each proposal – Cllr Anstey abstained. The Chairman used his casting vote to vote in favour of the Proposal to name the building “Riverside Snack Bar”.

14. To receive reports from representatives on Outside Bodies and meetings attended

Cllr Fulford reported that the parking and traffic proposals at Burgate School would not be resolved until after September when the new term begins.

Cllr Hale reported that the Conservation Volunteers Group had met with the Lengthsman, Robert Heron, yesterday at Whitsbury Road to discuss weed cutting and it has been agreed that Robert will undertake this work.

Cllr Perkins reported that the residents of Redbrook Cottages had requested a meeting to discuss flooding from Cllr E Heron but had yet to receive a response.

Cllr Anstey reported that following a request from a running group, Whitestar to hold a marathon from the Recreation Ground a response was awaited for further information.

15. Correspondence

No correspondence to report.

16. To receive a report from the Clerk or any other relevant business

Cllr Lewendon raised concern over the overgrown hedges at Tinkers Cross. Responsibility for hedge cutting lies with the landowners – Town Clerk to inform Highways.

Cllr Connolly informed Members that he had received an email for an Agent acting on behalf of the purchasers of the former Fordingbridge Club building confirming that a high-quality food retailer would purchase the premises subject to obtaining from NFDC (through purchase or lease) 30 parking spaces in the main town car park for dedicated use by the supermarkets customers. Councillors then discussed whether the Council should write to NFDC to support this request, with concern being raised from Cllr Adams that this could be unfair to other traders and Cllr Perkins considered that customers already travel to Ringwood to shop at Waitrose. Any free parking would need to be time-limited which would have to be

enforced. Members agreed that the Chairman should write to NFDC requesting negotiation and a positive resolution to this request.

Cllr Fulford requested that a Staff and Remuneration Committee meeting take place – Clerk to circulate date.

Cllr Anstey raised concern over the protocol of dealing with Matters Raised by Members of the Public, considering that concerns should be minuted but full debate and response should not be entered into.

17. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 3rd September 2014.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.