

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 7th January 2015 in the Town Hall (Minutes subject to approval at the next General Council meeting)

Present:

Cllr Connolly – Chairman

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

In Attendance:

Mrs H Richards, Town Clerk

Cllr Heron, Hampshire County Council

Cllrs R Bellows & Cllr A Sevier New Forest District Council

PC Deniz

1. Apologies

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs (G) Wilson & P Earth

2. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest made.

3. To confirm the Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 3rd December 2014 and to report on any matters arising.

It was proposed by Cllr (A) Wilson and seconded by Cllr Price and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2014 be signed as a true record.

Cllrs Paton & Perkins joined the meeting.

Matters Arising

Minute No 11 – .The Chairman reported that the Twinning Association event held on Friday 5th December was very successful.

4. To receive any matters raised by members of the public

No members of the public present

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

PC Deniz informed Members that reported crimes were at a low level over the festive period and there were no particular incidents to report.

PC Deniz then reported that following the move to the new office in Provost Street, Police awareness of the parking problems in the area had risen. Of particular concern is the abuse of the restrictions between 8.00am and 6.00pm and local residents had been spoken to – PC Deniz to contact New Forest parking Enforcement with a view to issuing tickets to offenders. Cllr Bellows advised that this had already been undertaken and tickets issued. Cllr Heron to chase new parking

order road markings restricting parking further in this area. It was also noted that on-street parking offences occur frequently on Sundays.

Cllr Hale that a caravan had been parked in Park Road for a while – PC Deniz to investigate.

6. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

The Mayor reported that he had attended the Rotary Dinner however due to illness had not attended any other events or meetings.

7. To receive a report from the County Councillor

Street Lighting - Cllr Heron reported that the lights on the pedestrian crossings in the Town Centre had been changed – originally installed too high.

Two complaints had recently been received regarding the lack of street lighting in Salisbury Street over the festive period. As the replacement project is nearing completion, a check must be made for defects or variances to the original plan and any problems should be reported.

Discussion then took place following the Town Council's visit to the Fordingbridge Hospital before Christmas. At the time of the visit the unit was under-used; however the bed allocation has now returned to 20 beds. Cllr Heron informed the meeting that problems with recruiting suitable staff and accommodation needs for those staff had forced the reduction in beds.

It was agreed that communication needs to be improved between stakeholders – this is particularly important due to high turnover of doctors within the town who may be unaware of allocation criteria for the unit. Town Council to set up stakeholder group.

8. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Bellows had nothing to report.

Cllr Sevier reported the following items:

Sequoia Farm planning application for mobile home to be presented to Committee on Wednesday 14th January.

WW1 Committee – Looking at permanent memorial to Fordingbridge residents who were victims of WW1. This would include the whole former Fordingbridge area and residents should be consulted over the form of the memorial.

Cllr Perkins asked for an update regarding Sweatsford Water – Cllr Heron responded that ongoing discussion regarding retention by NFDC as SANGS allocation.

Cllrs Heron, Sevier and Bellows and PC Deniz left the meeting.

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

- **Planning Committee 10th December 2014** Cllr Fulford proposed that the Minutes are accepted and reminded Members that the Sequoia Farm

application would be heard by New Forest DC Development Control Committee on Wednesday 14th January 2015 for clarification of Council's position only, not for determination.

No recommendations contained in above Committee Minutes.

10. To receive a recommendation from the Finance & Policy Committee on the precept for 2015/2016.

It was proposed by Cllr Connolly and seconded by Cllr Adams and **RESOLVED:** that a precept request for the financial year 2015/16 of £191,237.00 be requested from New Forest District Council.

11. To report on any Health & Safety Matters

Cllr Anstey had nothing to report.

Replacement of the seat in the Bus Shelter in Salisbury Street was discussed – Town Clerk to investigate previous resolution.

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

No outside bodies reports.

13. To note any items of correspondence

The Clerk reported on a response received from Marston's Brewery regarding the future of the Augustus John pub and that there is currently no intention to close the pub.

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

Town Clerk – nothing to report.

The Chairman advised Members that an event was to be held in the Town Hall on 24th January in aid of the Stars Appeal to raise funds for a dedicated Breast Unit at Salisbury District Hospital.

Parish Poll consultation - Clerk to re-circulate link – Members to let Town clerk have any comments to co-ordinate a response.

15. To note the date of the next General Council Meeting as Wednesday 4th February 2015

The meeting closed at 8.25pm