

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a General Council Meeting held on 6th March 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

Prior to the Meeting, Joanne Gore, Source to Sea Field officer of the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust gave a presentation on the Source to Sea Project and took questions from Members.

Present:

Cllr Connolly – Chairman

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

In attendance:

Miss D Vine, Assistant Town Clerk

HCC Cllr E Heron

NFDC Cllr R Bellows

NFDC Cllr A Sevier

Mrs M Robbins

Mr R Hayward

1. Apologies

There were apologies for absence from Cllr (A) Wilson

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

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

A vacancy exists on the Town Council following the resignation of Cllr Shering.

Mrs Mandy Robbins and Mr Richard Hayward had advised the Clerk they wished to be considered. Each candidate was asked to introduce themselves to the meeting and explain why they wanted to be a member of the Town Council.

The meeting was adjourned whilst Members then voted by ballot paper.

The meeting re-convened following voting and verification.

The following person was co-opted onto the Town Council: Mrs M Robbins

The Chairman thanked both candidates for applying and welcomed Mrs Robbins onto the Town Council.

4. To confirm the minutes of the General Council meetings held on Wednesday 2nd January and Wednesday 6th February 2013 and report on any matters arising.

It was proposed by Cllr Price and seconded by Cllr Fulford that the minutes of the meetings held on the 2nd January and 6th February 2013 be signed as a true record. All in favour. Carried.

There were no matters arising.

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

No public present.

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

No Police present. Cllr Connolly confirmed that a meeting of the Police & Parish Liaison Committee was due to be held on Tuesday 12th March 2013 at the Town Hall.

7. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

During February the Mayor attended

- Official opening of Fordingbridge Information Office
- Ibsley Airfield Memorial Trust Day

8. To receive a report from the County Councillor

Cllr Heron regretfully advised that due to contractor commitments remedial work required in Green Lane would now not take place until June. He was pleased to announce that a grant of £640 had been made towards the fund to enable the town's flower baskets and Christmas Lights to continue for this year.

Cllr (G) Wilson advised that she had received complaints concerning the quality of the bin bags which had recently been distributed. Cllr Heron advised that there has been no change in the manufacture as far as he was aware.

Cllr Lewendon asked for clarification concerning Operation Resilience and the proposed road closures in Salisbury Street and proposed alternative routes which involved lengthy detours out towards Cranborne before being able to come back into the town. Cllr Heron advised that although this was an NFDC matter, the reason was due to the fact that Highways are not permitted to advertise an diversion via roads which are designated less of a category than that being closed.

9. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Sevier had nothing to report.

Cllr Bellows advised that the Friday Night Project had closed for the time being but it was hoped that new bids for providing the service taking place in April would see it start again. Cllr Connolly asked if the bids would be from local or private organisations. Cllr Heron advised that this was part of a County Project and whilst he hoped it would be a local organisation, it may be an organisation familiar with youth where a local element could be introduced. Cllr Bellows re-iterated the importance of the Town Council engaging with the Youth Action Committee.

Cllr Bellows advised that she had received a number of comments concerning benches in the town being removed and not replaced. The Assistant Clerk advised that 2 new benches had been bought, one for the top of Station Road and another to be placed in Queens Road Playing fields, with a further one on order for the Recreation Ground. She confirmed that some benches had had to be removed as they were deemed unsafe and would be replaced where practicable.

Cllr Connolly requested that a suitable meeting date and time be arranged to discuss Developer Contributions. Clerk/Assistant Clerk to arrange.

Cllr Lewendon advised that notification of Planning applications appeared to be taking too long, detailing citing an application which affected him in a personal capacity where the time between the application being accepted and notification letters being written and then sent to residents amounted to some 35 days. Cllr Sevier took details and agreed to investigate the matter.

Cllrs Heron, Sevier & Bellows left the meeting

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

Planning Committee – Resolved that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on the 13th February 2013 be received.

Finance & Policy Committee – Resolved that the Minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee held on the 27th February 2013 be received.

11. To resolve to accept the local Government Pension Scheme

At a meeting of the Finance & Policy Committee held on the 13th February 2013 Members had agreed to propose a resolution to accept the local Government Pension Scheme.

It was Resolved that all Fordingbridge Town Council staff who are eligible can join the Local Government Pension Scheme.

12. To resolve to defer the staging date for Pension Scheme auto enrolment

At a meeting of the Finance & Policy Committee held on the 13th February 2013 members had agreed to propose a resolution to defer to the staging date for Pension Scheme auto enrolment.

It was Resolved that Fordingbridge Town Council defer to the staging date of auto enrolling staff into a pension scheme until April 2017.

13. To report on any Health & Safety issues

Cllr Anstey reported that there was a lifebuoy missing at the Recreation Ground which would require replacing and that he had covered the housing to ensure the public were aware it was not in use. It appeared that would be justification for reducing the number of lifebuoys on the rec and Cllr Anstey would provide further facts at the Amenities Committee Meeting on the 20th March 2013.

Cllr Connolly reminded Councillors to ensure that any health and safety issues were reported to the Clerk/Assistant Clerk as and when they arose.

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

Cllr Fulford – reported her concern that Burgate Community Partnership meetings keep being cancelled due to the Chair being unable to always attend due to short notice commitments. Cllr Fulford sought Members' support to write to the Clerk of the Committee asking that a deputy be appointed in order that meetings could go ahead. Members agreed that it was important that meetings took place in view of shared interests within the community.

Cllr (G) Wilson – attended a “wash up” meeting in respect of Christmas Shopping 2012 and to say thank you to those who took part.

Cllr Hale – 5th March - FCVAG Management Meeting with a request to the Town Council for £165.00 for Community Payback (Supervision) and insurance £196.76. A request for a sign at the northern end of the site at Bishops Pond was also made stating “No Dumping” as garden waste had again been found there. The Clerk/Assistant Clerk to ask Andy Lane, Groundsman to look at the possibility of erecting a fence at the northern end, near the access to the house. FCVAG asked to be advised of the outcome of the tree survey at both sites in respect of any problem trees.

Cllr Perkins – Nothing to report

Cllr Paton – Nothing to report

Cllr Anstey – 2th February 2013 – attended meeting of the Sports Club Committee

1st March 2013 – attended an Events Seminar at New Milton

5th March 2013 – attended the Recreation Ground to look at a pitch maintenance regime with Mike Reagan from Abbots and Ian Brown from the rugby club.

Cllr Lewendon – advised that the proposed meeting of the Hospital Steering Group due to be held on the 21st February 2013 had been cancelled at very short notice.

Cllr Price – Nothing to report

Cllr Adams – Nothing to report

Cllr Connolly – also attended the “wash up” meeting in respect of Christmas Shopping 2012 and was pleased to hear that the Business Forum had re-formed. Donations and pledges had also been received from members of the public in respect of the flower baskets and Christmas Lights which were under threat due to financial constraints.

15. To note any items of correspondence

Members were asked to give thought to a request from the Group Scout Leader of 1st Fordingbridge Scouts for projects during Scout Community Week taking place in June 2013.

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

Nothing to report

17. To note the date of the next General Council Meeting as Wednesday 3rd April 2013

The meeting then went into closed session

Standing Orders were suspended.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.