

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 21st March 2018 in the Town Hall **(Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Council)**

Present: Cllr Earth (Chair)
Cllrs Adams, Anstey, Connolly, Hale, White & Wilson

In Attendance: Mrs H Richards (Town Clerk)
Mrs R Edwards (Asst Town Clerk)
Mrs M Coatham (Finance Officer)
Cllrs Lewendon, Paton & Price (Public Gallery)
Ruth Croker (Footpath Officer)
A representative from the Salisbury Journal
2 Members of the Public

1. To receive apologies for absence

No apologies were received

2. To receive Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

3. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2018 and report on any matters arising

Cllr Wilson proposed and Cllr Hale seconded and it was therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2018 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

Matters Arising

Minute no. 6 – The scaffolding is due to be put up next week.

Cllr White entered the meeting during this item.

4. To confirm the Minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting held on 28th February 2018 and report on any matters arising

Cllr Anstey proposed and Cllr Wilson seconded and it was therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on 28th February 2018 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

Matters Arising - None

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

The possibility of setting up a community workshop in Fordingbridge similar to the 'Gosport Shed' was proposed to the Council, with the aim of giving older men the social opportunities to get together and make and repair things. The Council thought it a good idea worth pursuing but struggled to think of suitable available premises. Cllr Anstey asked about the constitution of the club – guidance would be sought from the UK Men's Shed Association <https://menssheds.org.uk/>

6. To report on matters concerning St Mary's Closed churchyard and Stuckton Road Cemetery

- **To review Burial Charges**

Cllr Hale proposed and Cllr Adams seconded and it was therefore **RESOLVED**: to accept the proposed increases in the burial charges. All in favour.

7. To review Hire Charges for the Town Hall

Cllr Wilson proposed and Cllr Hale seconded and it was therefore **RESOLVED**: to accept the proposed increases in the hire charges of the Town Hall. All in favour.

The Clerk reported that the scaffolding would go up in the Council Chamber next week and the damp investigated. A further area of damp had appeared at the end of the town hall, the area was missing pointing and a hole was letting in moisture.

***Action:** Clerk to speak to Sheerin Bettle Architecture about commissioning a full survey.*

8. To report on any matters relating to the Information Office

The Town Council office staff will need a second phone line in the Information Office when they move there, while works are being done in the Town Hall. Options are being investigated.

9. To report on any matter relating to Footpaths

- **Avon Valley Path Map & Sign**

The Footpath Officer reported on the new Map Board. Permission has been granted from the church and the vicar has been very helpful. However, the design needs more information and better photos before it is ready.

The Asst Town Clerk reported that Hampshire County Council are willing to provide extra Finger Posts and Waymarkers for the AVP at no cost to Fordingbridge Town Council, providing there were volunteers to put them in. These signs could be put anywhere along the route with the landowner's permission, although HCC would need to be informed of the location of any new signs. AVP stickers could be fixed to lampposts to guide people through the town. New stickers would need to be printed and paid for by FTC if required (approx. £120 for 480 stickers). HCC suggested that the Footpath Society conduct a survey of what additional signage was required. The Footpath Officer thought the current signage was adequate and people only got lost because they didn't look in the right places for the signs.

A complaint has been received about the flooding by Hillbury Farm on footpath number 2.

***Action:** Clerk to report flooding of footpath number 2 by Hillbury Farm to HCC.*

10. To report on any matters concerning Highways

• **To consider parking provision at Church Street**

Four planters have been placed outside two houses on Church Street, therefore preventing this land being used for parking. There is some confusion as to whether the land they are on is designated as highway or not. If it is highway then the planters would either have to be removed or be licenced by Fordingbridge Town Council. Church Street is part of the conservation area and it was thought that plastic planters may therefore be unsuitable. The planters are often full of grass, weeds and water and unattractive to look at.

Action: Clerk to confirm whether the land is highway or not.

11. To report on any matters concerning the Allotments

Cllr Earth reported that the next Allotment Committee meeting will be held on 17th April 2018. The second allotment newsletter was published at the end of February and the next would be out at the end of May.

The Members of the Public left the room.

12. To receive any items of correspondence

There were no items of correspondence

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

Nothing further to report.

14. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 16th May 2018

The meeting closed at 8.33pm