

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held at 7.10pm on Wednesday 18th July 2018 in the Town Hall

(Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Council)

Present: Cllr Wilson (Vice Chair)
Cllrs Adams, Anstey, Fulford, Connolly & Hale

In Attendance: Mrs H Richards (Town Clerk)
Mrs M Coatham (Finance Officer)
Katie Griffin, Salisbury Journal
3 Members of the Public
Cllrs Lewendon, Mouland & Paton (public gallery)
Ruth Croker, Footpath Officer

As Members of the Committee were all present, the Vice Chairman agreed to start the meeting earlier with the proviso that should members of the public arrive (after 7.30pm) and wish to speak, this will be accommodated.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Earth

2. To receive Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

3. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 16th May 2018 and report on any matters arising

Cllr Hale proposed and Cllr Adams seconded and it was therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on 16th May 2018 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

Matters Arising

Minute no. 3 – Planters in Church Street ongoing

Action: Clerk to follow up.

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

Cllr Lewendon raised the following matter from the public gallery:

Avon Valley Path – flooded at Burgate Manor Farm due to sluice gates being closed further downstream, particular concern as this is a route used by school children.

The footpaths officer confirmed later in the meeting that the operation of the sluice gates is the responsibility of the Environment Agency

Action – Clerk to contact Hampshire CC/Environment Agency

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

- To review provision of area for Quaker Burials – as there have been no issues raised, members **AGREED** that the arrangement/provision should continue at Stuckton Road Cemetery.

6. To report on any matters relating to the Town Hall

- To consider the report from SBA for repair works. Members did not wish to discuss or comment following the briefing which had preceded this Committee meeting. Further discussion would be required once costings had been identified.
- To consider the use of equipment by hirers. The Clerk reported that a request had been received from a hirer to use the projector at a private function; however the Clerk informed members that problems had recently been experienced by users of the projector.

Members considered the potential impact on the regular hire of the equipment by organisations should the equipment be damaged or become faulty.

Cllr Adams proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Fulford and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the projector and associated equipment should not be made available to private hirers of the hall but will be available to groups and organisations who have received training in its use.

Action Clerk to amend charging schedule and advise private hirer accordingly.

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

- The Clerk reported that there was a problem with the door to the Information Office and repairs are required. As this is the Council's responsibility under the terms of the lease, quotes have been sought.

Item 9 was brought forward to allow a Member of the Public to speak regarding Highways.

9. To report on any matters concerning Highways

A local resident enquired whether any progress had been made regarding the Planters placed by private individuals in Church Street. The Clerk advised that correspondence was ongoing with Hampshire County Council regarding the extent of the Highway; unfortunately the officer dealing with the issue was not available. Members raised concern over the impact of plastic containers in a conservation area.

Action: Clerk to chase with Highways & contact Conservation Officer

10. Matters concerning the Allotments

- To consider quotations for replacement of boundary fence

Members considered 2 quotes received for the replacement of the boundary fence (car park boundary).

Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Fulford and therefore **RESOLVED**: to recommend to the Finance & Policy Committee on 25th July 2018 to accept the quotation for the replacement of the fence received from Matthew Bright in the sum of **£1,410.00 inc VAT.**

Member of the public left the meeting.

11. To consider a request to display a plaque on the flower towers

Members considered the request from Scentsational Plants to place a plaque on the towers indicating that the company had filled the towers. Some members considered that this was a form of advertising by a commercial enterprise.

Cllr Fulford proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Adams to allow the placing of a plaque on the towers as described above – following a vote of 2 for and 3 against (1 abstention) it was **RESOLVED** not to allow the provision.

8. To report on any matter relating to Footpaths

The Footpath Officer (RC) confirmed the responsibility regarding sluice gates – see note on Minute No. 4.

The following items were also reported by RC:

- **Vegetation** – seasonal growth had not yet been cut back (priority cutting list scheduled for June). Footpath No. 8 is particularly bad – lengthsman to be asked to cut back.
- **HEAP** project – Historic Walks on footpaths – information through Quadrant meetings
- **AVP Map** – New commercial guide to be launched at Fordingbridge Festival on 21st July.

12. To receive any items of correspondence

There were no items of correspondence

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

Nothing further to report.

18. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 19th September 2018

The meeting closed at 8.08pm