

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held at 8.15pm on Wednesday 21st November 2018 in the Town Hall

(Minutes draft until approved at the following meeting of the Committee)

Present: Cllr Earth – Chairman
Cllrs Adams, Fulford, Hale, Wilson & Anstey

In Attendance: Mrs H Richards, Town Clerk
Mrs M Coatham, Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)
Cllr Paton (Public Gallery)
2 Members of Public

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Connolly

2. To receive any declarations of interest

No declarations were made.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 19th September 2018 and report on any matters arising.

Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Adams and therefore **RESOLVED:** to sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 19th September 2018 as a true record.

Matters Arising

Minute No. 6 – Preventative measures regarding the pigeons have been installed on the town hall (anti-perch spikes).

Minute No. 8 – the dog waste bin has yet to be moved

Cllr Fulford reported that while stile repairs have been undertaken by a member of the public on footpath 8a, there is barbed wire on the stile – Clerk to contact HCC Countryside ranger.

Minute No. 9 – Refunds had been made regarding the Playscheme

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

No matters raised.

5. To report on any matters concerning St Marys Closed Churchyard and Stuckton Road Cemetery

No items to report.

6. Matters relating to the Town Hall

The Clerk reported that the Architect had been asked to include repairs to windows on the front elevation in the forthcoming tender – the architect hoped to meet with the Conservation Officer shortly prior to submitting a Listed Building application.

7. To consider the purchase of the Tidy Britain Solution

Members discussed the ongoing problem of dog fouling and the initiative by Tidy Britain regarding tackling the increased fouling taking place at night (in darkness). Members agreed to investigate providing stickers, seeking sponsorship for provision of “poo” bags and request that schools help in educating children & parents.

8. To report any matters concerning footpaths

Nothing to report.

9. Matters concerning Highways

Members raised concern over parking, flood risk and damage to kerbs following works recently undertaken at Picket Close believed to be undertaken by NFDC - Clerk to check/complain with NFDC.

10. Matters concerning Allotments

The Clerk read out details of a request received from 2 allotment tenants to install an electric pump to serve their plots – this would be similar to one already provided on another plot – concern over whether a licence was required from the Environment Agency. Clerk to check.

The Chairman reported that a Risk Assessment template is needed for the allotments – Information Officer to check with allotment society.

The Chairman advised that the allotment committee has requested that a skip is provided for a limited period in order that the allotments could be tidied – weekend amnesty for plot holders to clear plots and tidy the bank.

The RFO confirmed that the contractor would be replacing the fence at the allotments on the 5th December.

11. To discuss budget proposals for 2019/20 financial year and make a recommendation to the Finance & Policy Committee meeting on the 28th November 2018.

Members discussed the draft budget prepared by the RFO following discussion with the Chairman of General Purposes Committee, members noted that the Town Hall income will be reduced this year due to the forthcoming building works and temporary closure; it was uncertain if or how much grant monies would be received from HCC for the Playscheme. Members requested that the RFO investigate if any claim could be made for the repairs from insurance and also requested that the budget is amended (reduced) by £3,000 for general repairs to the Town Hall.

Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Adams and therefore **RESOLVED:** to recommend to the Finance & Policy Committee on the 28th November 2018 to accept the budget proposal prepared by the RFO subject to the reduction of £3,000 from the Town Hall General Repairs expenditure budget.

12. To note any items of correspondence

The Clerk advised members of correspondence received suggesting that the Augustus John Statue is moved to enable access by members of the public. The Clerk confirmed that this should be unnecessary as New Forest DC have confirmed that they are taking action to resolve the situation and allow public access.

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

The Clerk had nothing further to report

The Chairman raised concern that the disabled toilet was found to be locked (during the day) by a mother wishing to use the baby change facilities. Town Clerk to check with groundsman.

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

The meeting finished at 9.00pm