

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a General Council Meeting held on 6th September 2012 at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

Present:

Cllr Connolly – Chairman

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

In attendance:

Miss D Vine, Asst Clerk

Mr G Kimmings, Fordingbridge Society

1. Apologies

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Paton, Shering, Bellows & Sevier. Cllr Connolly welcomed Cllr Price back to the meetings.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 1st August 2012 and report on any matters arising

It was proposed by Cllr Fulford and seconded by Cllr Price that the minutes of the meeting held on 1st August 2012 be signed as a true record. All in favour, Carried.

Matters Arising

Item 6 – Cllr Connolly advised that the temporary road closure at Green Lane had been postponed.

Public Session – Cllr Fulford asked if there was any update on the anti social behaviour at Roundhills. Cllr Connolly advised that the situation had improved greatly and he would maintain contact with Mr White.

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

No public present.

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

PC Deniz, Fordingbridge Safer Neighbourhoods Team submitted his report which was read to Members by Cllr Connolly.

The areas highlighted included police checks on doorstep selling in the town by a Driveways Business, which was found to be legitimate, however their practices raised concerns. Trading Standards are aware. The recommendation from the Police would always be that the public do not buy at the doorstep but if they choose to do so then they insist on a proper contract signed by all parties.

Anti social behaviour reports were low. The issue of the traveller encampment at the Recreation Ground resulted in 2 reports which could positively be linked.

There were a number of burglaries in Fordingbridge last month, a suspect involved in these incidents is currently on remand in prison. The number of thefts has also increased and Police continue to ask the public to be vigilant and take due care.

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In the last month there had been arrests related to illegal drugs. 6 persons were arrested, 2 of whom have been dealt with successfully and 4 who remain on police bail as offences include supply of illegal drugs.

6. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

The Mayor attended the following events

3rd August Summer Playscheme. The Mayor presented prizes on the closing day.

4th August 2012 Opened the fete at Allenbrook Nursing Home.

15th August Disability & Traffic Public Meeting

19th - 22nd August Travellers Encampment on the Recreation Ground. Thanks given to Ringwood Town Council and Jacksons solicitors for their assistance and advice for the drawing up and serving of an injunction to remove the travellers. The clear up cost to the Council was significant and had not been budgeted for.

23rd August Judged Best Allotment Competition

25th August Moto Guzzi Rally, Recreation Ground

26th August Moto Guzzi - Prize giving

7. To receive a report from the County Councillor

Not present.

8. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Not present.

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

Planning Committee minutes held on the 8th and 22nd August 2012 - It was RESOLVED that these minutes be received.

Finance & Policy Committee minutes held on the 29th August 2012 – It was RESOLVED that these minutes be received.

Staff & Remuneration Committee held on the 24th July 2012 – It was RESOLVED that these minutes be received, there would be recommendations made at a later date.

10. To report on Health & Safety issues

Cllr Anstey had sought clarification with regard to responsibility for health and safety matters relating to bodies of water and advised that he had received a response from Hampshire Fire and Rescue confirming that they have no responsibility or remit for health and safety of any bodies of water, river, canal, stream, pond, lake or reservoir.

11. To discuss ownership of the Obelisk monument outside the Town Hall

Following initial agreement by Members at the General Purposes Meeting on the 16th May 2012 to assume responsibility for the Obelisk, further enquires were made with regard to ownership etc. A copy of a letter forwarded to the Fordingbridge Society dated 8th August 2012 from Hampshire CC had been received by the Council indicating that in the absence of any definitive ownership documents HCC would be

in agreement to Fordingbridge Town Council assuming responsibility for ownership and insurance. The Asst Clerk had found a document received from HCC Landscape Planning Group, received in 2003 when the work was initially proposed requesting that “long term maintenance arrangements be secured with a recognised and responsible agency other than the County Council, e.g the Parish or District Councils.”

It was proposed by Cllr Perkins and seconded by Cllr Adams that Fordingbridge Town Council would assume responsibility for ownership and insurance of the Obelisk and that this would be added to the list of assets. All in favour, Carried. Contact will be made with the sculptor with regard to insurance value/cost of replacement.

12. To adopt a Code of Conduct for Fordingbridge Town Council

The Codes of Conduct drawn up by New Forest District Council and the National Parks Authority had been considered by Members for adoption. Following a short discussion it was AGREED to adopt the Code of Conduct drawn up by the National Parks Authority as it was felt to be less ambiguous than that of NFDC. Members were asked to complete and return their Register of Members' Interest Forms as soon as possible as the Code was now Law.

13. To discuss the NFDC consultation regarding Disabled Parking Charges

Members discussed the proposal by NFDC to charge Blue Badge Holders to park in council car parks. Opinion was divided amongst Members as to whether certain Blue Badge holders should pay, as holding a Blue badge was not an indication of financial ability to pay, or parking should remain free to others who were exempt from road tax on the grounds of disability. A two tier system would be costly and hard to administer. Cllr Fulford stated that the parking was not free as there was a £20 charge for the badge so in effect they would be paying twice. It was likely that there would be a rise in “pavement” parking outside shops which would lead to gridlock in the town. After further discussion it was AGREED to send a response on behalf of the Council opposing the introduction of charges for Blue Badge holders.

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

Cllr Fulford – Nothing to report

Cllr (G) Wilson – Nothing to report

Cllr (A) Wilson – Nothing to report

Cllr Adams – Nothing to report

Cllr Price – Nothing to report

Cllr Anstey – Nothing to report

Cllr Perkins – Meeting arranged with the Environment Agency to discuss flooding issues.

Cllr Hale - 23rd August Victoria Rooms Trustee Meeting. New trustee to deal with publicity. £500 grant from E Heron to decorate lobby. New website. Floor has been sanded and varnished. AGM on Friday 7th September at 7.00 pm.

FCVAG – Community payback have cut back areas on Whitsbury Road. Bishops Pond is looking tidy. The AGM is on Tuesday 18th September at 7.30 at the United Reform Church.

18th September 2012 – Rockbourne Roman Villa – Celebration of new garden and volunteers 01.00-03.00 pm

Cllr Lewendon – 4th August – Fordingbridge Hospital Project. Work on schedule with the first beds available on 17th September. A decision is to be made as to whether to keep the name Ford Ward or just be known as Fordingbridge Hospital. The PCT have submitted a Planning application to change a window to a door at the Arch Clinic. An Open Day is planned for the 3rd November 2012.

Cllr Shering – A report was submitted by Cllr Shering to be read in her absence.
4th September – Friends of Fordingbridge Hospital. The hospital is due to re-open this month in 2 stages. There was some disquiet that many of the patients coming to the hospital appeared to be from outside the Fordingbridge area. There are still funds available to build a palliative care suite in Fordingbridge. The Friends have been left a generous legacy of approx. £50,000 some of which could be used to benefit the wider community and they would be seeking ideas.

15. To note any items of correspondence

Letter of thanks from John Oram, Chairman, Festival Committee, Fordingbridge Summer Festival. Some 4000 visitors attended.

Letter of thanks from Moto Guzzi Club UK enclosing a cheque for £800 to be split £600 FTC, £100.00 Fordingbridge Sports Club and £100 to support the Mayor's Charities.

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

The Asst Clerk advised that a provisional booking had been made at the Bat & Ball Pub, Breamore on the 19th December 2012 for a Christmas meal. Menus would be available towards the end of September.

Cllr Adams had researched and now received details of savings on utilities and sought members approval to accept the new contracts which would save approx. £700 pa, as there was a time limit on the price given. It was proposed by Cllr Connolly and seconded by Cllr (G) Wilson that Cllr Adams should accept and sign the new contracts. All in favour, Carried.

17. To note the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 2nd October 2012.

The meeting closed at 08.35 pm