

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 5th June 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

Present:

Cllr Connolly – Chairman

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

In attendance:

Ms K Mason, Town Clerk

NFDC Cllr R Bellows

NFDC Cllr Sevier

1. Apologies

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Fulford and HCC Cllr Heron.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

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

No members of the public present.

4. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 1st May 2013 and report on any matters arising

It was proposed by Cllr (G) Wilson and seconded by Cllr Hale that the minutes of the meeting held on 1st May be signed as a true record. All in favour, Carried.

There were no matters arising.

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

PC Josh Deniz and PCSO Daisy Towers were in attendance.

Crime figures for all reported crimes are currently on a downward trend. The Mayor advised that there has been vandalism in the toilets on the Recreation Ground. PC Deniz confirmed that if crime on the Recreation Ground increases then there will be justification to place a CCTV camera there.

The Mayor welcomed PCSO Towers to the meeting. He thanked the Safer Neighbourhood Team for their work and added a request that they include the Recreation Ground on their beat when in the Town.

PC Josh Deniz and PCSO Daisy Towers left the meeting.

6. To receive a report from the Town Mayor.

The Mayor hosted a morning reception for visitors from Vimoutiers on Saturday 18th May. It was a very successful event and part of a weekend of entertainment for the French visitors who were visiting Fordingbridge with their Youth Band, who later gave a concert at St Mary's Church.

French sellers from Vimoutiers will be at the Fordingbridge Festival in July.

7. To receive a report from the County Councillor.

Cllr Heron was not in attendance.

8. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Sevier reported that the excess of bottles by the bottle bank in the car park have been removed. If there are any queries regarding the unlawful traveller site in Marl Lane then they should be

reported to herself. NFDC Planning Enforcement are aware and are currently working through the process of enforcement action.

Cllr Bellows reported that It's Your Choice charity won the HCC bid to provide youth provision in Fordingbridge. They are about to start a Friday Night drop-in based at the Sports Club on the Recreation Ground.

9. To discuss proposed changes to the X3 Bus Service between Salisbury & Bournemouth

Cllr Lewendon reported.

Changes to the Wilts & Dorset X3 bus service which currently runs from Salisbury to Bournemouth have been proposed by Wiltshire Council. The last two buses of the day are proposed to be cut. This will mean that passengers coming from London, Heathrow, Poole, Southampton & Basingstoke will need to start their homeward journey, in some cases, as early as 3.15pm. The latest bus will depart at 6.42pm. This means that Fordingbridge residents will have no link to the national transport network (including trains from Salisbury or Southampton) in the evening and would be unable to get a bus back to Fordingbridge.

Cllr Lewendon has contacted Poole & Bournemouth Colleges who are collating the number of students who will be affected by the proposed changes. The last bus a student could catch back to Fordingbridge will depart from Bournemouth at 5pm. The Clerk to advise Burgate School of the proposed changes.

The service is currently subsidised by Wiltshire Council. Hampshire CC provides £480k of subsidies to bus services in New Forest District but withdrew subsidies to the X3 service in 2008. The subsidy required to keep the service running at its current rate is £30k.

Wiltshire Council have produced a questionnaire for users of the service to complete and return which is being handed out on buses and available in the Town Council Information Office in Kings Yard.

Members expressed concern as to the problems that the changes will cause to residents, not only in Fordingbridge but of the surrounding villages also. The Clerk to forward a copy of the letter to surrounding Parish Councils. Cllr Sevier and Cllr Bellows agreed it will be detrimental and were supportive in the Town Councils efforts to keep the evening bus service.

It was AGREED that Cllr Lewendon and the Clerk produce a response to send to HCC requesting it provide the subsidy needed to keep the X3 bus service running at its current rate.

Cllr Bellows and Cllr Sevier 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 8th May 2013 be received.

Amenities Committee – Resolved: that the minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 15th May 2013 be received.

General Purposes Committee – Resolved: that the minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on 15th May 2013 be received.

Finance & Policy Committee – Resolved: that the minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee held on 29th May be received.

11. To discuss the Town Council provision of hanging baskets throughout the town.

At the Finance & Policy Committee on 29th May a request was made from the Business Forum for funding to plant the 5 planters at a cost of £750. This decision was deferred until this meeting in order that the Business Forum could verify funding last year.

It was AGREED that the Business Forum be contacted and if a decision was required imminently then a Finance & Policy Committee meeting to discuss this one agenda item could take place after Planning Committee on the 8th June.

It was confirmed that the hanging baskets were now in place and the planters have been planted.

12. To report on any Health & Safety issues

Lifebuoy – It was AGREED to replace the missing lifebuoy on the Recreation Ground.

13. To receive reports from representatives on outside bodies

Cllr (A) Wilson – advised there is a new Chairman of Avonway Community Centre.

Cllr Hale – attended the Victoria Rooms Trustee meeting on 30th May. Finances are steadily improving with more income than expenditure. Regular new bookings have been received from an indoor market and art classes. A fundraiser will take place on 21st June and there are plans to re-decorate the Main Hall.

Fordingbridge Conservation Volunteers held a Committee meeting on 21st May. There have been costs incurred from Insurance cover (£196.76) and to pay Community Payback (£165.00) which is requested to be funded from the money held for the group by the Town Council. Membership is down but it is hoped that recruitment can be generated from stands at the Fordingbridge Festival and Frogham Show.

The Whitsbury Road area needs to be cut mechanically. The Clerk to discuss with the Groundsman.

Bishops Pond wildlife is thriving but there is no water now in the pond. The Group are requesting help from HCC and Cllr Heron.

Cllr Robbins – reported that she had attended a meeting of the Friends of Fordingbridge Hospital and had agreed to help them with their DBS checks for volunteers.

Cllr Robbins confirmed that TUFF will be operating out of Avonway each Wednesday morning during the school summer holiday and will also be running a babysitting course.

Cllr Anstey – attended a Sports Facility Steering Group at the Recreation Ground on 2nd May. Jason Bowers from the RFU was in attendance to discuss possible funding.

Sports Club AGM on 13th May – the Whippets have arranged for the Sports Club bar to be opened during their Whippet Meet in June.

Rugby Club AGM on 4th June – The pitch maintenance of the Brownsey Field is going ahead. It was noted at the meeting that the Town Council are fully committed to the new Sports Facility.

Cllr Anstey confirmed he has visited all areas covered by the recent ROSPA inspection in May.

14. To note any items of correspondence

Noting to report

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

Nothing to report

16. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as Wednesday 3rd July 2013

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.