

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 17th September 2014 at 8.42pm in the Town Hall, Fordingbridge following a visit to Stuckton Road Cemetery and Fry's Field Allotments

Present:

Cllr (G) Wilson – Chairman
Cllrs Price, Adams, (A) Wilson, Connolly & Earth

In Attendance:

Helen Richards – Town Clerk
Cllr Perkins

1. To accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr E Hale & Ruth Croker, Footpaths Officer

2. To Receive any Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest made.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2014 and report on any matters arising

Cllr Adams proposed and it was seconded by Cllr (A) Wilson and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2014 be signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Minute No 6 – Matters relating to the Town Hall – The Clerk reported that the First Aid Kit had been placed within easy reach prior to its permanent relocation fixed to the wall.

Minute No 14 – Fordingbridge Club – Sold but purchaser still unknown.

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

No Members of the Public in attendance, however Mrs J Harnham, 17 Provost Street had visited the Town Hall to request that the subject of proposed parking restrictions in Provost Street be raised with members. Mrs Harnham considered that the proposed yellow lines should be extended to include the highway up to the Southern end of the parking area outside of the Bicycle and Kebab Shops. Cllr Connolly confirmed that the scheme would be implemented in accordance with the order and no amendments could be made at this stage; however once implemented the effectiveness of the restrictions would be monitored.

Cllr G Wilson reported that the on street parking problems could be made worse in the area outside of Tesco Express in Salisbury Street as Tesco was advising customers to park on the street (notice displayed within the store). Members agreed that a photograph of the notice should be obtained and sent to New Forest District Councillors.

5. To Report on matters relating to St Mary's closed Churchyard and Stuckton Road Cemetery.

- Provision of new pathway at St Mary's Church - The Clerk confirmed that following a visit by a representative from the Church (Judith Dowsett), the Church are awaiting a specification of the proposed works and materials to be carried out to construct a replacement path at St. Mary's Church. The Town Clerk to send copies of specification and quotes received.

- To discuss Refund of Reserved Plot Fees. The Clerk advised that a request had been received from a person who had previously reserved a plot at the Stuckton Road Cemetery for the fee paid to be refunded and the reservation cancelled. This person no longer requires the plot. Members AGREED that the fee should be refunded as the plot can be re-allocated.

6. To report any matters relating to the Town Hall

Members raised concern that the Town Hall Clock was not chiming – Town Clerk to investigate when next maintenance/service visit due or action repairs.

The Chairman reminded Members of the Committee that budgets were due to be set next month and consideration needed to be given to any proposals to be put forward for the Town Hall. Cllr Price requested that this should include the installation of a stairway to allow disabled access to the Council Chamber located on the first floor.

7. To Report on any matters concerning Footpaths

Footpath Officer absent.

Footpath 78b Puddleslosh Lane - Cllr (G) Wilson reported that the footpath would remain closed until January 2015.

8. To Report on any matters concerning Highways

- A338 Ringwood to Salisbury Road – Road closure notification received from Fryern Court Road to Burgate School – diversion route via A36 & A31. It was suggested that notifications of this kind should be printed and displayed on notice boards within the main car park.

- Cllr Perkins (from the public gallery) raised concern over the amount of dog fouling on highways and pavements particularly in Provost Street. Cllr Wilson suggested that the dog bin located in Elmwood Close be relocated to Provost Street – Town Clerk to investigate.

- The Town Clerk advised that notification had been received from the Highways Authority that drain covers were soon to be replaced within the roads through the town.

9. To Report on any matters concerning Allotments

The Clerk confirmed that the Groundsman would be placing soil in the allotment grounds to build the boundary bank up. Following the earlier visit, concern was raised regarding the weed growth in the adjacent stream/waterway which hampers the flow (this was raised in the Amenities Committee Meeting).

The Chairman confirmed the date for the Allotment Committee AGM as 2nd October 2014 at 7.30pm. This would include presentations for the Best Kept allotment competition. Cllr Wilson confirmed that the dumping of rubbish on or adjacent to the bank would be placed on the Agenda as rubbish was being dumped which prevented the Groundsman to mow the adjacent grass track.

10. To Report on any matter concerning the Information Office

The Clerk advised that works were still ongoing to provide a new drawer or till to the reception desk.

11. To note any items of Correspondence

No items of correspondence

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

Nothing to report from the Clerk

Cllr Wilson updated the Committee of the progress made on Planning the Late Night Shopping event on Friday 28th November 2014 and that the Co Op had agreed to hold a raffle for a Christmas Hamper with the proceeds going to the Council towards the cost of the Christmas events.

13. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 22nd October 2014. The Chairman reminded Members that this would be a budget meeting.

The Meeting closed at 09.15pm