

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 19th November 2014 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall, (Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Committee)

Present:

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

In Attendance:

Helen Richards – Town Clerk
Ruth Croker, Footpath Officer
Cllrs Anstey & Paton

1. To accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Connolly

2. To Receive any Declarations of Interest

No declarations of Interest made.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd October 2014 and report on any matters arising

Cllr Earth proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hale and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd October 2014 be signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Minute No 3

Dog Warden – Cllr (G) Wilson reported that patrols had been increased in the Town.
Late Night Shopping – The Chairman reported on final preparations for the event including the raffle being held in the Co-op with various prizes being donated by local businesses. The Salvation Army Hall was available for use this year and the Conservation Society will have a stall within the hall.

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

No Members of the Public present.

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

The Chairman reported that following a report from the Police of anti-social behaviour including forced entry with a vehicle to Stuckton Road Cemetery, no further problems had been experienced.

Members raised concern regarding the cost of maintaining the closed St Mary's churchyard and it was agreed that the Clerk should review the agreement and income received from New Forest District Council.

6. To report any matters relating to the Town Hall

The Clerk reported that the gutters had now been cleared and work was ongoing to clear the downpipes – it was hoped that this would alleviate the damp problem to the front of the building. The cost of providing a Stair lift and disabled toilets would be investigated.

7. To Report on any matters concerning Footpaths

The Footpath Officer reported that the badgers were still present on the Avon Valley path. The Landowner at Footpath 78b Puddleslosh Lane had been instructed to move the adjacent fence but was now unable to do so as an Article 4 direction had been placed on the land prohibiting the erection of fences.

Cllr (A) Wilson raised concern over the footpath at Downwood Close/Falconwood Close and ownership – unclear if owned by developer (Linden Homes), New Forest DC or in private ownership. Footpath Officer also raised concern over path adjacent to the infant and junior schools, condition and ownership.

8. To Report on any matters concerning Highways

The chairman reported that a notice had been erected at the eastern end of the High Street advising that the road would be closed overnight on the 26th and 27th November but it was unclear of the reason for the closure – the Clerk confirmed that Hampshire County Council are unaware of the closure.

9. To Report on any matters concerning Allotments

The Chairman reported that there are currently 2 vacant plots and no waiting list – may need to advertise.

No other reported issues at present. The Grounds man would take over the maintenance of the pumps (not the allotment holders) as costs were increasing for parts for the pumps. It is still hoped that the forming of an Allotment Association may be considered.

10. To Report on any matter concerning the Information Office

The Clerk reported that extra cover had been arranged for the Parking Clock sales period in December and January – this would be provided by a former Information Officer who would be retained for 1 day per month.

11. To note any items of Correspondence

The Clerk advised that correspondence had been received regarding the Quiet Lanes project. Ruth Croker, Footpath Officer, reported that Stuckton Road, past the cemetery could not be considered for this as it is too busy. Fryern Court Road is one possible route which could be made into a quiet lane.

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

Nothing to report from the Clerk and no other business

13. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 21st January 2015.

General Purposes Committee 19.11.14

The Meeting closed at 8.12pm