

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held at 8.00pm on
Wednesday 20th January 2016 in the Town Hall

(Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Committee)

Present: Cllr Earth – Vice Chairman
Cllrs (A) Wilson, Hale, Price, Connolly, Anstey & Adams

In Attendance: Mrs H Richards, Town Clerk

Following the resignation of Cllr (G) Wilson, Cllr Earth chaired the meeting

1. To receive any apologies for absence

No apologies received

2. To receive any declarations of interest

No declarations made

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2015 and report on any matters arising

Cllr Adams proposed and Cllr Price seconded and it was therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 18th November 2015 be signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Minute no. 3 – Falconwood Footpath – Path is in poor condition

Minute No. 5 – Grave Surrounds – Clerk reported that one unauthorised surround had been removed

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

No matters raised by Members of the Public.

5. To report on matters concerning St Mary's Closed Churchyard and Stuckton Road Cemetery

- Grounds Maintenance costs – Meeting with St Mary's Church and New Forest DC still awaited.

6. To report on any matter relating to the Town Hall

- Gutter clearance & ongoing maintenance – works completed at rear of building. Town Clerk to obtain quotes for ongoing maintenance contract.
- Water Boiler –Cllr Adams to report back to General Purposes Committee in March.

7. To report on any matters relating to the Information Office

The Town Clerk reported that following the resignation of the 3rd casual cover post holder last year, it had become apparent that this additional resource is still required. Town Clerk to advertise vacancy.

8. To report on matters concerning highways

The Town Clerk reported that following the distribution of the cutting schedule for Hampshire CC footpaths, any additional essential cutting requirements would be met through the lengthsman scheme.

Members raised concern over the dangerous condition of the footpath in Marl Lane and in particular the positioning of barbed wire – Cllr Wilson to ascertain legal requirements for use of barbed wire.

The Clerk reported that a sections of the Avon Valley Path bordering Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley Parish (path nos 56 & 501) are closed due to an unsafe footbridge.

9. To report on matters concerning Highways

The Clerk reported on correspondence received from the Fordingbridge Society regarding the Speedwatch project. Volunteers have received training and funding and support is sought towards providing the equipment for Fordingbridge use. Members raised concern over whether sufficient volunteers would be found to undertake Speedwatch and also that volunteers are required to carry out duties in their own parish – Town Clerk to request further details and costings and report to General Council on 3rd February 2016.

The Clerk reported that the Finger Post is shortly to be replaced at the High Street/Provost Street junction.

10. To report on any matters concerning allotments

The Clerk reported that the lengthsman would be asked to clear a vacant plot before re-letting and also to maintain the areas between the plots.

11. To note any items of correspondence

The Clerk reported on a request received to plant an Oak Tree in the Stuckton Road Cemetery in memory; however as problems have been experienced with falling leaves covering graves; the offer of planting the tree at the recreation ground had been made.

The Clerk reported on a message received regarding Drop-In Shops which is a new initiative being operated in Ringwood from 3rd February – these are similar to a market stall are offered in the Furlong Centre. It was agreed that at the present time, Fordingbridge does not have any suitable locations for these but may be suitable for the Christmas event.

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

The Town Clerk had nothing to further to report.

Cllr Connolly reported on a request received from a local resident to place a memorial bench on the green space at Allenwater Drive, near to the Railway Bridge. Members agreed that this request should be supported and reported to General Council.

13. To note the date of the next meeting as 16th March 2016

The meeting closed at 8.50pm