

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held at 8.20pm on Wednesday 20th May 2015 in the Town Hall (Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Council)

Present:

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

In Attendance:

Mrs H Richards – Town Clerk

1. To elect a Chairman

Cllr Connolly proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Adams and therefore **RESOLVED:** that Cllr (G) Wilson be elected as Chairman of the General Purposes Committee.

All voted in favour.

2. To elect a Vice Chairman

Cllr Connolly proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Adams and therefore **RESOLVED:** that Cllr Earth be elected as Vice Chairman of the General Purposes Committee.

All voted in favour.

3. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Hale and (A) Wilson

4. To receive any declarations of interest

No declarations given.

5. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on the 18th March 2015

Cllr Price proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Connolly and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2015 be signed as a true record.
All voted in favour.

No matters arising.

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

No members of the public present

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

- Burial Regulations The Clerk reported on the review of the Council's Burial Regulations relating to Stuckton Road Cemetery – these have been re-written to incorporate current legislation and are in line with the regulations for New Forest DC (owners of the Cemetery).

Cllr Connolly proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Adams and therefore **RESOLVED**: that a recommendation be made to Finance & Policy Committee on 27th May 2015 to accept the amended Burial Regulations with the following inserts

- a) Section relating to the Quaker Burial Area – Clerk to contact Quaker Group for clarification of requirements.
- b) Item regarding settlement period of graves from burial to erection of headstone.

All voted in favour

- Review of unearned income from Exclusive Rights of Burial The clerk reported that following discussion at the meeting of the Committee on 18th March 2015 regarding the income lost through the non-sale of Exclusive Rights of Burial for the period 2009 – 2014, the Internal Auditor required a formal resolution to write-off the lost income of an estimated £20,000-£25,000.

Cllr Connolly proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Adams and therefore **RESOLVED** that a recommendation be made to the Finance & Policy Committee on 27th May 2015 to write-off the unearned income.

All voted in favour

8. To report on any matters relating to the Town Hall

The chairman reported that a further leak had occurred through the roof of the Council Chamber – builder contacted but unable to establish source. Members **AGREED** that the Town Clerk should contact a roofing contractor.

The Chairman also reported that a complaint had been received at the election that the disabled access ramp on the main door was not fit for purpose. A further complaint had also been received regarding the ramp at the Information Office. Members agreed that the Town Clerk should investigate replacement of both ramps.

9. To report on any matters concerning footpaths

The chairman reported that footpath 78b at Puddleslosh Lane remains closed and no further update has been received from either New Forest DC or Hampshire County Council.

The Clerk informed Members that following an application to Hampshire County Council for a Small Works Grant towards the cost of re-printing the Exploring Fordingbridge leaflet, the decision had been deferred. The Panel will support production of a revised leaflet and the Countryside Access Team have been requested to liaise with the Council over revisions.

10. To report on any matters concerning Highways

The Chairman reported that the highway drains in the High Street were once again blocked – reported to Highways. The Street Furniture in the Town had been repainted. One of the Planters from outside of the Town Hall had been re-located at Fred's Place to allow for re-positioning of the Finger Post. Consideration was being given for an additional sign to be placed on the second finger post located at the

Entrance to Roundhills from Salisbury Street – this would indicate “To the Riverside” pointing towards Riverside Place. This would be an alternative to placing a sign on the buildings of Riverside Place which the Council do not have permission to do.

The Clerk reported that the Hanging Basket licence had been applied for (Hampshire Highways) but further information has been requested.

11. To report on any matters concerning the Allotments

The Chairman advised members that a visit was planned to Christchurch to view a composting toilet. The Allotment Committee are considering forming an Allotment Association. The Chairman highlighted that a Table Top Sale would be held on Saturday 23rd May 2015 at the Town Hall to raise funds towards provision of the toilet at the allotment.

12. To note any items of correspondence

No correspondence to report

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

Nothing to report from the Clerk and no other business.

14. To note the date of the next meeting as 15th July 2015

The meeting closed at 8.50pm