

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a General Council Meeting held on 3rd April 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

Prior to the meeting, Paula & Richard Downard of Hale & Redlynch Transition Group gave a short presentation on a proposal to open up the old railway line as a footpath/cycleway and took questions from Members.

Present:

Cllr Connolly – Chairman
Cllrs Adams, Anstey, Fulford, Hale, Lewendon, Paton, Perkins, Price, Robbins, (A) Wilson & (G) Wilson

In attendance:

HCC Cllr E Heron
NFDC Cllr A Sevier
Ms K Mason, Town Clerk

1. Apologies

There were apologies for absence from NFDC Cllr Bellows

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

3. To confirm the minutes of the General Council meetings held on Wednesday 6th March 2013 and report on any matters arising.

It was proposed by Cllr Paton and seconded by Cllr (G) Wilson that the minutes of the meeting held on the 6th March 2013 be signed as a true record. All in favour. Carried.

There were no matters arising.

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

No public present.

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

No Police were present. Cllr Lewendon advised members that he had been telephoned as part of a car insurance scam, and warned people to be vigilant.

6. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

During March the Mayor attended:

- 9th March – Met with Moto Guzzi who will be visiting Fordingbridge during the August Bank holiday weekend. They would like funding to buy a new banner and will advise prices. They are going to take part in the Fordingbridge Festival.
- 12th March – Attended the Police Liaison Meeting where the new Sergeant, Paul Towler was introduced.
- 26th March – Met with NFDC Cllrs Sevier & Bellows to discuss the distribution of Developer's Contributions in Fordingbridge.
- Christmas Lights – discussions are taking place regarding the Christmas lights for 2013.

7. To receive a report from the County Councillor

Cllr Perkins asked why road repairs were taking so long to take place, particularly on 'A' roads. Cllr Heron explained that there were two separate highway maintenance programmes taking place. Operation Resilience has a £10 million annual budget and makes large sections of road more

resilient by dealing with structural problems. The General Road repairs (potholes etc.) timetable has experienced problems with the winter weather. Currently large gangs are visiting areas to tackle a range of problems every two weeks. It is important to report problems so that they can deal with them on each visit. An additional £8m is being placed in the road repair budget .

The new computerised system has had some teething problems but now appears to be working well.

8. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Sevier had nothing to report.

9. To receive the following Committee meeting minutes and any recommendations contained therein

Planning Committee – Resolved that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on the 13th March 2013 be received.

Disability Access Committee – Resolved that the minutes of the Disability Access Committee held on the 19th March 2013 be received.

General Purposes Committee – Resolved that the minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on the 20th March 2013 be received.

Amenities Committee – Resolved that the minutes of the Amenities Committee held on the 20th March 2013 be received.

Transport Committee – Resolved that the minutes of the Transport Committee held on the 21st March 2013 be received.

Finance & Policy Committee – Resolved that the Minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee held on the 27th March 2013 be received.

10. To discuss a Quaker burial area at Stuckton Road Cemetery

A request has been made by the Bournemouth & Fordingbridge Quaker Group for a space in Stuckton Road Cemetery to be set aside for Quaker burials and/or scattering of ashes. Currently, there are no Quaker Burial Grounds in the immediate area, the nearest being the ‘Strangers Field’ near Shaftesbury. There is an active Quaker Group in Fordingbridge which meets on a weekly basis in the URC Church rooms.

There has been a long history of Quakers in Fordingbridge and the previous burial ground now lies underneath the Fordingbridge Conservative Club building. Quaker burial tradition is for all grave stones to be uniform, of a similar shape and height, and any memorials would conform to the memorial regulations set by FTC.

The Group is aware that the site will be maintained by FTC and individuals will be liable to pay the fees set for interment by the Council for all burials and cremations, whether residents or non-residents of Fordingbridge. Quakers have no objection to other denominations being buried in the area set aside should that be necessary.

The proposed site within Stuckton Road Cemetery is marked on the attached plan hatched in red [attached to these minutes].

It was proposed by Cllr (G) Wilson and seconded by Cllr Adams that the hatched area on the plan be set aside for Quaker burials. All in favour, Carried.

11. To discuss the proposed plans for the new Sports facility

Cllr Connolly advised that the plans had been slightly altered to change the former youth area into a multi-use area which would provide more flexibility for use. It was proposed by Cllr Connolly and seconded by Cllr Anstey that the plans be accepted. All in favour, Carried.

It was AGREED to display the plans in the Town Hall and Information Office from Tuesday 9th April with comment slips for the public to use. Michael Weakley Associates will present the plans at the Annual Town Assembly on Wednesday 24th April. Planning permission can then be sought subject to comments received.

Cllr Fulford pointed out that current funding seems to look for a multiplicity of sport use not just focusing on one or two sports. The Chairman advised that the funding bids will be for pitch based sports fitting in with the Recreation Ground use.

Cllr Adams expressed concern that there was not enough storage space. Cllr Anstey advised that funding did not cover storage space and while there was storage space included it was a sporting venue not a storage facility.

It was AGREED to speak with organisations in Fordingbridge who provide Sporting facilities in order to start to put together a Sport

12. To report on any Health & Safety issues

Nothing to report.

13. To receive reports from representatives on Outside Bodies and meeting attended

Cllr Fulford – suggested to Burgate Community Partnership that appoint a Deputy which will prevent meetings keep being cancelled due to the Chair being unable to attend due to short notice commitments. The Clerk of the Partnership will address it with the Governing Board.

Hire Charges at Burgate have been raised 10% last year and this year and bookings are up.

The Mayor to discuss Student Councillors with the Chair, Ian Newman.

A Burgate Family Fun Day will take place on 28th June from 3pm to 9pm.

Cllr Fulford attend the inaugural meeting of the Joint Partnership Boards for the Surestart Children's Centres now that the Fordingbridge Centre has been amalgamated with Ringwood. There was no quarterly report available and the Annual Conversation which contains the Quality Performance report was also not available.

A new head teacher has been appointed at the Fordingbridge Junior School who will start in September.

Cllr (G) Wilson – reported that the Dorset Health Authority leaflets have been delivered in Fordingbridge in error. The Surgery has been informed.

Cllr Hale – attended a Trustee meeting of the Victoria Rooms on 14th March. There is a surplus in the accounts at the end of the financial year of £1,851.00. the AGM will be held on 26th April at 7pm. the lobby decorating was complete and tenders were being sought for the decoration of the main hall. It has been decided to book a Forest Forge production in January 2014.

Cllr Lewendon – reported that he attended a hospital meeting on 21st March. All the finances for the hospital building works have been completed and signed off.

14. To note any items of correspondence

Nothing to report.

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

Annual Town Assembly will now be held on Wednesday 24th April at 7.30pm.

16. To note the date of the Annual Council Meeting as Wednesday 1st May 2013