

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4th December 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

Present:

Cllr Connolly – Chairman

Cllrs Adams, Anstey, Buchanan, Fulford, Hale, Paton, Perkins, Price, (A) Wilson & (G) Wilson

In attendance:

HCC Cllr Heron

NFDC Cllr Sevier

NFDC Cllr Bellows

Mr I Newman

1. Apologies

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Lewendon.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To confirm the minutes of the General Council Meeting held on Wednesday 6th November and any matters arising.

It was proposed by Cllr Hale and seconded by Cllr (G) Wilson and **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 6th November 2013 be signed as a true record.

Matters arising:

Parking in Provost St – Cllr Fulford advised that this was a worsening problem. This evening there were cars parked on both sides of the road causing difficulties for vehicles to pass by. A response was still forthcoming from NFDC.

Cllr Perkins entered the meeting.

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

Late Night Shopping – Mr I Newman congratulated the Town Council on the successful Late Night Shopping and Christmas Light Switch-on event which took place on the 29th November and investing in the Christmas lights. A record 900 people attended making it one of the best attended evenings in recent years. The consensus was that holding it on an earlier date meant it did not clash with similar events held in other towns.

When the lights are removed new catenary wires will be erected ready for next year's lights to be hung on.

The Chairman agreed it had been a great success, with everyone working together and thanked Mr Newman his input.

A meeting will be called in early February to discuss the planning for next year's event.

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

No police were present and no report was received.

The Clerk reported that £20 had been paid to the Town Council by a youth who had broken a padlock to gain entry to the Pavilion. He was arrested at the time of the incident. The Police are aware of the donation.

6. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

2nd November – I carried out a staff appraisal

4th November – I attended a meeting of Fordingbridge Turks with Cllr Anstey.

8th November - I met with the new Headteacher of the Junior School, Mrs Robinson.

13th November – With the Town Clerk I met with officers of NFDC to discuss 106 Developers contribution monies.

18th November – I met with the new chair of the Twinning Association, Alison Ayling. It is hoped they will become involved with the WWI commemoration events next year.

23rd November – I attended the Rotary Quiz in aid of the Christmas lights.

29th November – I attended the Late night Shopping and Christmas Light Switch-on

7. To receive a report from the County Councillor

Cllr (G) Wilson reported an incident with 2 lorries in the High St mounting the pavements to pass and knocking off the Co-op sign. Cllr Heron acknowledged the problem of the narrow High St but explained that while it was an unfortunate incident there was little that could be done. If a loading restriction was put in place it could prevent larger suppliers delivering which would have a detrimental effect on businesses.

The Chairman advised that the Transport Committee had looked at the problems and had discussed them with Nick Hunt of NFDC and Hampshire Highways. Dialogue was continuing but there was a problem of resources and money. For those reasons a feasibility study had not been carried out to look at traffic flow and alternative solutions.

8. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Sevier reported that she was liaising with NFDC over the problems caused by the pedestrians walkway through the development.

Cllr Bellows reported that following the intervention of NFDC Environmental Health Dept. in the Co-Op the problems were being sorted out.

Cllrs Heron, Sevier and Bellows left the meeting.

9. To receive the following Committee meeting minutes and any recommendations to General Council contained therein:

Planning Committee – **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2013 be received.

Amenities Meeting – **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2013 be received.

General Purposes Meeting – **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held 20th November 2013 be received.

Finance & Policy Committee – **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 27th November 2013 be received.

There were no recommendations.

10. To report on any Health & Safety Issues

Nothing to report.

11. To receive reports from representatives on outside bodies and meetings attended

Cllr E Hale

Victoria Rooms Trustee Meeting – I attended a meeting on Thursday 14th November:

- Finance: Building insurance has been paid, which is largest single expenditure for the year. Trustees still have small surplus so far for current year

- Events: Forest Forge booked for Anne of Green Gables on 11th January 2014. Trustees discussed ticket prices and arrangements for refreshments and raffle
- Repairs: Flooding outside Rooms in the road has been reduced by recent Highways work. Still concerns about gutters overflowing in heavy rain. Possible CCTV survey required

Fordingbridge Conservation Volunteers Management Team – I attended a meeting on Tuesday 26th November:

- Team thanked Town Council for sorting out volunteer insurance. They were disappointed that unable to have display at Late Night Shopping as no suitable venue.
- Bishops Pond. Still planning to use digger to clear pond providing trees cleared from access. Graham to visit HCC to get expert advice on best way to re-line historic pond
- Hoping for good display of Bluebells and Snowdrops on both sites next Spring.
- Planning: Dates agreed for working groups from January to April 2014

Cllr P Anstey

Turks Football Club – I attended a Football Club meeting at Sport Club on 11th November 2013.

Cllr A Wilson

Fordingbridge and District Community Association - I attended a meeting of Fordingbridge and District Community Association at Avonway on 18th November 2013.

The following was discussed:

- The lettings are up for their new large room.
- They have managed to add to their reserves.
- They are planning future maintenance projects

Cllr Fulford

Disability Access in Fordingbridge - On 21st November Cllr Fulford walked from Bridge St to St Marys with the Highways Officer, Bob Brown looking at disability access issues.

Illegal and inconsiderate parking of vehicles posed great access problems reducing space to pass on the pavements. There is restricted vision when exiting West St onto Provost St because of parking on Provost St.

More Police and Warden supervision is needed to help tackle the problem.

The dropped kerbs put in many years ago are unlikely to be replaced. They have a small lip between the kerb and the pavement which can cause difficulties. Newer dropped kerbs are flush with the road.

The Pedestrian Crossing in the High St is on the list to be repaired, the kerb made flush and the large hole removed.

The configuration at the top of Provost St has raised surfaces indicating to the visually impaired it is a safe place to cross. This is not safe. It was noted by the Highways Officer.

It was confirmed by the Highway's Officer the highway extends to the end of Church St next to the church where the proposed new footpath through the churchyard will begin. It is likely that Highways will made good the footpath from the end of the pavement to the church.

The gradient on Knowle Bridge is too steep and cambered making it potentially dangerous for wheelchair and buggy users. An incident of someone falling out of a wheelchair has already occurred.

Burgate School Community Management – Cllr Fulford attend the last meeting and reported that a request has been made to NFDC for 106 Developers contribution monies to help fund sports development at Burgate School.

12. To note any items of correspondence

Nothing to report.

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

Traffic & Parking Problems – Cllr Buchanan express concern that little seemed to be done about the problems of traffic and parking in Fordingbridge. These appeared to be getting worse. The Chairman explained the Transport Group had looked into these issued and were in dialogue with HCC and NFDC. The problem was there was no money and little resource. The solutions were very costly and even feasibility studies (which have to be carried out prior to any scheme) were very expensive.

Cllr Fulford suggested that a scheme could be considered following the development of land off Whitsbury Road (which will generate more traffic) and when that occurred it would be a justifiable reason for money to be spent by the Highway authority.

Cllr Buchanan announced he would write to the MP Desmond Swayne, as a resident, to try and gain some support.

14. To note the date of the next General Council Meeting as Wednesday 8th January 2014

The Chairman wished everyone a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

The meeting ended at 8.25 pm.