

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 1st April 2015 in the Town Hall

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

Present:

Cllr Connolly – Chairman

Cllrs Adams, Price Lewendon, Paton, Anstey, (G) Wilson, (A) Wilson, Earth & Hale

In Attendance:

Mrs H Richards – Town Clerk

Cllrs Sevier & Bellows – New Forest DC

Kathy Griffin – Salisbury Newspapers

Robin Padfield – Deputy Headteacher, Burgate School

Tim Norman-Walker , Brian Mould, Dennis Gumbrecht – Burgate Residents Company Ltd

26 Members of the Public

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Fulford & Perkins and Cllr Heron, Hampshire CC.

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest

Cllr Adams declared an interest in Agenda Item 10, Payment of Accounts on the Finance & Policy Minutes but remained in the room to speak and vote

3. To confirm the minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 4th March 2015 and to report on any matters arising.

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hale and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2015 be signed as a true record.

There were no matters arising

4. To receive a presentation from Burgate School and Burgate Fields Residents Committee on school plans for the future and road safety/parking issues

Mr Padfield, Deputy Headteacher, Burgate School gave a presentation regarding future site development ideas for the school, these included:

- 1st priority – parking and vehicular access to the school. Will work with the Residents of Burgate Fields to find a solution.
- Linking existing buildings together to make better use of space
- Develop and extend the 2 existing 6th Form buildings to include Classrooms, Hall and other Community Space
- Constant desire to improve sports facilities, create more changing space. Also further parking could be created on existing green space
- Approach private company to provide/manage facilities such as 5 a side pitches which would be available to all outside of school hours
- Parking currently insufficient - Plans to amend layout of existing parking area to create additional spaces, very few schools receive funding for hard standing (priority classrooms)

Currently: 95 spaces available within school grounds
 193 spaces needed
 223 spaces could be provided with some works
 269 spaces potential with expansion

The School is eager to work with the community on the future development of the school.

Following a question from a resident regarding parking, the Chairman explained that there would not be a discussion of the problems and plans at this meeting. Mr Padfield explained that sources of funding would be investigated following the election in May.

The Chairman of Burgate Fields Residents Company Ltd, Tim Norman-Walker then gave a presentation on the problems experienced with parking within Burgate Fields. Burgate Fields is a residential area adjacent to Burgate School and in close proximity to Fordingbridge Junior and Infant Schools.

Problems with parking of non-residents vehicles have been experienced since 1996 but have increased significantly since the introduction of the 6th Form at Burgate School and more recently since the new transport plans have been put into place as 24 vehicle spaces have been lost (parking in Burgate Fields increase by 30%). Surveys have been undertaken at varying times with photos being displayed to the meeting and the following problems highlighted:

- Inconsiderate and large volumes of parking at peak school times results in danger to pedestrians and vehicles
- Service vehicles (refuse) unable to drive into the close without causing further danger and also damage to grassed area of open space
- Vehicles parked on verge of grassed area causing damage
- Concerns that emergency vehicles would be unable to gain access
- New bus lane and parking restrictions to the access road at Burgate School have improved safety for bus users but have cause problems and danger elsewhere
- Letter from New Forest DC in response to concerns from residents, situation to be reviewed in the Autumn – this is too late, situation needs to be addressed now
- Burgate Fields also used for parking and drop off for both the Junior and Infant schools

The Burgate Fields Residents would like zoning introduced to the close which would restrict parking during peak (school) times.

Mr Padfield clarified that some buses are required to turn and enter and exit from a southerly direction and also that the land on which Burgate Fields is built, used to belong to the education authority and was sold for the development – however the school did not directly benefit from the revenue raised by the sale of the land.

Following further discussion, the Chairman agreed that at the present time the Town Council could not debate this issue, however would make representations to New Forest District Council expressing the Council's concern.

The Chairman then suspended the meeting at 8.16pm while members of the public and Mr Padfield left the meeting. One member of the public remained at the meeting.

Meeting reconvened at 8.23pm

5. To receive any matters raised by Members of the public

No matters raised.

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

No representative of the Police present and no written report received.

7. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

The Mayor reported on 2 meetings of the former Business Forum attended during March. It is hoped that this will be reformed and rejuvenated, meeting awaited with New Forest DC

The Chairman then reported on attendance at a Hampshire CC event on 26th March and advised that the County Council would be cutting £102m from the budget in this financial year with further cuts of £83m from the budget for 2016-17. Hampshire CC waste management now recycle 94% of all waste produced throughout the County. The Mayor reported that the County Council sell composted material and suggested that the Town Council investigated selling this.

Lastly Mayor reported on the opening of an exhibition for Augustus John attended on 31st March at the museum at which the author of a new book, Neil Fox was present.

8. To receive a report from the County Councillor

County Councillor not present and no report received.

9. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Bellows reported that works had been carried out by New Forest DC at Sweatsford Water Meadows including repairs to walkways and gates. Tree Surveys had also been carried out and any required works actioned. Regular grass cutting is planned from the end of April.

Cllr Sevier confirmed that no further update had been received regarding the footpath/culvert works at Falconwood Close and this will be chased in April.

Cllr Bellows also reported that the Parking Enforcement Officer would be patrolling Green Lane.

Cllr Anstey raised concern regarding the Pillbox at Whitsbury Road and any works required to maintain safety are the responsibility of the landowner (New Forest DC).

The Chairman then gave thanks to the District Councillors for their support for Fordingbridge.

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

- Planning Committee – 11th March 2015
- General Purposes Committee – 18th March 2015
- Amenities Committee – 18th March 2015
- Finance & Policy Committee – 25th March 2015

All minutes received – no recommendations to General Council.

11. To report on any Health & Safety issues

Nothing to report

12. To receive reports from representatives on Outside Bodies and meetings attended

Cllr (G) Wilson

Twinning Association – AGM to be held at 7.30pm on 23rd April 2015 at the Avonway Community Centre. Details to be announced of Jazz in the Autumn event to be held in the Town Hall on 24th October 2015.

Cllr Hale

Fordingbridge Conservation Volunteers – Meeting attended 24th March 2015 - Only 12 members. Works at Bishops Pond planned to dig out part of pond, no clay lining and Hampshire CC have no objections Issue of disposal of waste. Source funding with help from Finance Officer.

Concern over continued support of land at Whitsbury Road – no insurance cover as owned by District Council not Town Council.

Victoria Rooms Trust - Redecoration of the first floor agreed and funding for stair-lift replacement. AGM to be held at 7.00pm on 17th April 2015.

Cllr Anstey

Whippet Club – Met with club on 25th March 2015 – track maintenance discussed

Museum – Attended Open Day

Sports Club – No response from Turks Football Club to email requesting supply of Development Plan – crucial that this is provided or funding from Football Association and Sport England could be in jeopardy.

Cllr Paton

Youth Group – Attended meeting, Salvation Army providing more activities and discussion regarding the use of the Old Toilet Block at the Recreation Ground.

13. To note any items of Correspondence

The Chairman reported on an email received from Inspector Rachel Stokes, Hampshire Constabulary regarding both non-attendance of Police at the monthly General Council meeting and the ceasing of the quarterly Police Liaison meetings. Inspector Stokes explained that due to reduction in Officer numbers, attendance used resources that could be allocated elsewhere. Members discussed the value of the Liaison meetings to all Parishes and AGREED that the Council would write to all parishes informing them of the proposal and also to respond to Inspector Stokes expressing dissatisfaction.

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

The Clerk reported that following the Police Liaison meeting held on the 10th March 2015, Clerks have been invited to an information session at Lyndhurst Police Station on 15th April 2015 regarding the procedure for dealing with travellers illegally camped. Town Clerk to attend.

15. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as Wednesday 13th May 2015

The meeting closed at 8.47pm