

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a General Council held on Wednesday 3rd February 2016 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall (Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Committee)

Present: Cllr Connolly - Chairman
Cllrs Adams, Price, Lewendon, Anstey, Hale, Earth, Fulford, Perkins

In attendance: Mrs H Richards, Town Clerk
Cllrs A Sevier & R Bellows, New Forest DC
Cllr E Heron, Hampshire CC
Brian Currie, Corintech
J Yeton, Christchurch Angling Club
2 Members of the Public

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Wilson & Paton

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest

No declarations made.

The Chairman requested that Members agree a change to the running order of the Agenda to allow presentations from the public gallery to be received first.

John Yeton from Christchurch Angling Club then advised members of the clubs wishes to encourage younger anglers in the area to participate; currently have waters in the Verwood, Holt and Ibsley area, there is a club house located at Ibsley. Mr Yeton also spoke of meeting with the Angling Trust, the cost of providing coaching and that the Club are seeking help with contact details for people or organisations in the area who could help with setting up after school or holiday clubs – age range from 10/11 years to 16 years. Contact Cllr Connolly with details.

Mr Yeton left the meeting

Brian Currie, Corintech gave details of developments at Corintech, an electrical engineering company based in Fordingbridge including implementation of a new automated production line. Specialist staff are required within the company and it offers careers to graduates. Corintech have also purchased the former Branksome China premises in Shaftesbury Street. Mr Currie provided details of proposals for redevelopment to provide new apartments (primarily for graduate staff) and also the provision of a 30 seat cinema. Prior to Branksome China's occupation the building had previously been an Art Deco cinema and the Mr Currie is eager to restore the Art Deco building. Initial plans were presented although no formal planning application has been submitted at this stage – the company are keen to keep the local community informed of developments and will be holding open days.

Members were enthusiastic for this sympathetic re-use of the building and await further details.

Mr Currie left the meeting

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 6th January 2016 and report any matters arising

Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Anstey and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 6th January 2016 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

Matters Arising

Minute No. 16 – Member Vacancy – The Clerk reported that following confirmation from New Forest DC that no election was required, the vacancy could be filled by co-option and had subsequently been advertised.

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

Mr Burt gave thanks to those involved for the listing of the Augustus John Statue. Public access must now be improved to the statue and the statue needs cleaning. (Town Clerk to investigate cleaning)

Cllr Sevier will raise the issue of access with the Planning Department of New Forest DC.

It was suggested that the statue should be moved to the High Street/Market Place if the access issue cannot be resolved.

Mr Burt left the meeting

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

No report received.

6. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

The Mayor reported the following activities during January

7th – Xmas meeting with stakeholders
Sandleheath WI

26th – Meeting with Mr Yeton re. fishing

29th – Queens 90th Birthday celebrations meeting – Agreement reached on the following events to be held in Fordingbridge:

- 30th April - Clean for the Queen Litter Pick
- 12th June – Community Picnic – Church Service, Procession through Town Centre & Picnic at the Recreation Ground

7. To receive a report from the County Councillor

Cllr Heron reported that no further budget cuts had been announced and nothing else to report.

8. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Bellows advised that the average Council Tax bill will rise by £158 for the year 2016/17.

Cllr Bellows also reported that the Jamaica Inn in Cornwall had a letter displayed relating to Captain Diamond (former smuggler in Fordingbridge).

Cllr Sevier advised that New Forest District Council had undergone a management restructure. With regard to the Clean for the Queen campaign, Cllr Sevier reported that Hyde Parish will be undertaking a litter pick after Easter.

Cllr Sevier also reported that the WW1 Committee had been approached by Josh Deniz (former Police constable in Fordingbridge) regarding a proposed visit by a member of the joint group for Turkish/British – the visit was scheduled for 22nd February and will chiefly be concerned with the Gallipoli Campaign and will include a visit to the museum. The National Park Authority are holding an exhibition relating to WW1 from 6th February to 1st May 2016 at the New Forest Centre, Lyndhurst.

Cllr Perkins reported that buildings were being erected on land at the rear of Mulberry Gardens/Ashford Road – Cllr Sevier to contact Enforcement.

Cllr Heron reported that footpath 78b at Puddleslosh Lane, was now being treated as high priority for resolution.

Cllr Fulford reported that following completion of works to the path (Avon Valley Path) to bypass the badger sets, the path had re-opened. However further issues had been experienced to land disturbance and collapse around the area of the works. The path is currently closed at the Ibsley/Harbridge end due to a damaged bridge.

Cllrs Heron, Sevier & Bellows left the meeting.

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

- Planning Committee – 13th January – Received Cllr Fulford
- Amenities Committee 20th January – Received by Cllr Anstey
- General Purposes Committee 20th January – Received by Cllr Earth
- Finance & Policy Committee 27th January – Received by Cllr Connolly

10. To report on any Health & Safety issues

Cllr Anstey had noted that Harleys Public House was closed due to “Health & Safety issues” – this relates to smoking outside of the premises for which there is no designated area.

Cllr Anstey requested action on a previously reported issue – removal of grass on the jetty at the recreation ground – Town Clerk to instruct Groundsman.

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

Cllr Fulford reported on a meeting of the Burgate Community Partnership and the continued desire for community engagement. Cllr Fulford reported that the school are undertaking a project to create a WW1 trench within the grounds (this would be above ground). The issue of refurbishment of the Drama Studio had also been discussed together with the associated funding concerns.

Cllr Earth reported on a meeting on a meeting at Avonway Community Centre when the following items were noted: works to lobby completed, new kitchen proposal plus a list of other works required.

Cllr Earth had also attended an event on 9th January for the retirement from the Centre of Helen Tague and Maureen Burt.

Cllr Hale 14th January meeting of the Victoria Room Trustees and reported on events by the Forest Forge theatre Company.

Cllr Connolly – Reported that he had attended the 100th Birthday celebration for a local resident.

12. To note any items of correspondence

The chairman reported on correspondence received from the Fordingbridge Society advising that a request had been made to Hampshire County Council for a traffic survey to be undertaken in the Town – as there had been little change since the last survey was undertaken and no funds to action this, it is not likely to go ahead. Cllr Connolly reported that the Society had been requested to provide details of the purpose of the survey.

The Clerk reported on a consultation from New Forest DC regarding a Cycling Event to be held on 24th April 2016, 2 of the routes would pass through the Town Centre. Members noted the event however, despite having concerns over safety, no response should be made.

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

Queen for the Clean Litter Pick – the Clerk requested that Members advise of potential areas to be cleaned. Tidy Britain Campaign Health & Safety Guidelines would be followed for the event.

14. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 2nd March 2016

The meeting closed at 8.50pm