

## FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the General Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 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, Fulford, (G) Wilson, (A) Wilson, Earth, Hale & Perkins

#### In attendance:

Mrs H Richards, Town Clerk

Cllr E Heron, Hampshire CC

Cllr Sevier & Bellows, New Forest DC

Sally Bales, Ringwood & Fordingbridge Branch, St John's Ambulance Service

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from PC Deniz & Insp Stokes, PS Mitchley

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest made

#### 3. To confirm the Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2015 and to report on any matters arising.

It was proposed by Cllr Fulford and seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2015 be signed as a true record.

#### Matters Arising

Minute No. 4 – Container at Puddleslosh Lane. The Clerk updated the meeting that the container is not clearly visible from Puddleslosh Lane but had now been located. As this has already been reported to the Enforcement Team, no further action taken by Town Council.

Cllr Perkins joined the meeting

Minute No. 8 – Paving surface at Riverside Place – Cllr Lewendon reported that a block is now missing which causes a hazard – Clerk to report to Hampshire Highways.

Minute No. 11 – Sports Pavilion – The chairman advised that a letter would be sent shortly seeking funding from relevant organisations. Revised design awaited.

#### 4. To receive any Matters raised by Members of the Public

Sally Bells from the Ringwood & Fordingbridge branch of St John's Ambulance Service advised the meeting that the group was part of a nationwide fundraising project, seeking funding of £1000 (for national funds) any monies raised in excess of this would be retained by the branch to provide local support. The chairman advised of the Council's Grant Policy and process and requested the Clerk to provide details. The branch also queried why Fordingbridge does not have a defibrillator available – the Chairman advised that following a request from the Friends of Fordingbridge Hospital this was to be discussed under Agenda item 12 .

Cllr Heron entered the meeting.

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

No police present – verbal report made by Cllr Perkins that 2 people were due to appear in court regarding drug related offences and that there had been a recent increase in burglaries in the area.

Cllr Heron advised that the Police Commissioner, Simon Hayes, would be speaking at Breamore PC Annual Parish meeting.

**6. To receive a report from the Town Mayor**

The Mayor reported that he had not attended any engagements during February, however he reported on attendance at a service for the Normandy Veterans from WWII.

**7. To receive a report from the County Councillor**

Nothing to report. The Chairman advised Cllr Heron that the roads in Fordingbridge were in bad condition. Cllr Heron responded that a site visit would be arranged between himself, Highways and the Town Clerk at which time particular problems could be identified and prioritised.

Cllr (G) Wilson reported that the highway drain in the High Street, near to the pedestrian crossing has been blocked for some time – this has been reported to Highways section but no remedial action taken.

Cllr Heron confirmed that the new road markings should be placed in Provost Street in March.

Cllr Lewendon requested an update on the situation with the closed footpath from Church Street – closed several years ago due to badger presence. Cllrs Heron and Sevier confirmed that the Countryside Access Team were working with Natural England to find a permanent solution to the situation.

Cllr Heron advised the meeting that the finger post located on the junction of Provost Street & High Street would be replaced – new signs available but further discussion required with local traders regarding the positioning of protection bollards on the forecourt.

**8. To receive a report from the District Councillors**

Cllr Sevier reported that the remaining grant funding budget had been allocated to the Scout Group towards replacement of the roof at the Scout Hut and that they had been advised to seek funding from the NPA.

Cllr Sevier also advised that discussions were continuing regarding the works required at Falconwood/Downwood Close to repair the broken culvert. With regard to the Planning Appeals for Sequoia Farm, the Planning Inspectorate had advised New Forest DC today that these would not now be heard at a Informal Hearing in April and would be decided by the Written Representation Process. The District Council will contact the Planning Inspectorate to discuss retaining the Informal Hearing process as this was instigated due to the volume of public interest in the applications.

Cllr Bellows advised the meeting that the works on the A338 slip road at Burgate were now complete but the new scheme has yet to be implemented. It was generally agreed that it was now the responsibility of Burgate School to implement the measures proposed and enforce the conditions. Cllr Fulford advised that the Burgate Community Partnership Committee had agreed that local residents would be contacted prior to implementation.

Cllrs Heron, Bellows and Sevier and Sally Bales left the meeting.

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

- Planning Committee – 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015 Received by Cllr Fulford
- Finance & Policy Committee 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015 Received by Cllr Connolly

Cllr Fulford report that following consideration of the application relating to Harleys, 1 Shaftesbury Street at the meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> February, the property is now For Sale. Following discussion over the future of the premises, it was AGREED that the Clerk should ascertain status of the building (Listed?) with the Conservation Officer.

**10. To report on any Health and Safety issues**

Cllr Anstey - nothing to report

Concern was raised regarding an overgrown hedge on Station Road between the Augustus John and the Fire Station. Clerk to investigate.

**11. To receive reports from representatives on Outside Bodies**

Cllr (G) Wilson Twining Association – successful Murder Mystery evening. Commemorative tree planted in Memorial Garden vandalised and removed some years ago. Replacement to be discuss at Amenities Committee on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

Cllr Perkins – Resilience Forum –attended inaugural meeting, working to produce Community Plan but requested assistance. Cllr Anstey to assist.

Cllr Anstey – Football Clubs amalgamation dinner attended (Town & Turks clubs) need input from the club into provision of new sports facility, Development Plan required from club.

**12. To note any items of correspondence**

Friends of Fordingbridge Hospital – Request for suggestions for location of 2 defibrillators to be purchased by the group for Fordingbridge. Members agreed that the Co-Op and Avonway Community Centre would be suitable locations. Town Clerk to investigate type of units to be purchased to see if suitable for outside positioning.

Hampshire Police - request for members to complete online survey for Community Priorities

Rotary Club of Fordingbridge – Nominations sought for Citizen of the Year 2015

New Forest Advice Network (NFAN) – Information regarding the organisation and requesting suggestions for promotion of its work – The Clerk to copy to the Avonway Community Centre.

Hampshire Association of Local Councils – Questionnaire regarding Rural Broadband Provision

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

The Clerk reported on attendance at an Election training session at New Forest District Council and highlighted important deadlines and issues relating to nominations for Council. (Timetable and nomination packs distributed). The Chairman advised members that posters would be erected in the Town to encourage nominations from potential councillors. An informal session would be held following the General Council meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 for interested parties. It was agreed that Nominations would be collated at the Town Hall for delivery New Forest District Council.

**14. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015.**

The meeting closed at 8.34pm