

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 19th September 2018 in the Town Hall **(Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Council)**

Present: Cllr Earth (Chair)
Cllrs Adams, Anstey, Hale & Wilson

In Attendance: Mrs H Richards (Town Clerk)
Mrs R Edwards (Asst Town Clerk)
Mrs M Coatham (Finance Officer)
Cllrs Lewendon & Paton (public gallery)
Ruth Croker, Footpath Officer
1 Member of the Public

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Connolly and Fulford

2. To receive Declarations of Interest

Cllr Adams declared an interest in agenda item 5. He has a reserved plot.

3. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2018 and report on any matters arising

The numbering of the minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2018 is incorrect.

Cllr Hale proposed and Cllr Wilson seconded and it was therefore **RESOLVED**: that with the exception of the numbering, the minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2018 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

Matters Arising

No matters arising.

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

A member of the public asked for Fordingbridge Town Council's view on the siting of the four planters on Church Street, which prevent cars parking on this piece of land. There was discussion about whether the land was designated as highway land or not and also whether the planters were suitable for a conservation area.

The Clerk has asked NFDC and Highways several times about the land designation and will ask again. It was agreed to canvas local opinion on this by inviting the owners of the planters and the residents of Church Street to the Planning meeting on 10th October.

Action – Clerk to add item to Planning Agenda 10th October 2018

Action – Clerk to write to David Groom NFDC

Action – Clerk to write to Management Company of Timbermill Court, the owners of number 57 Church Street and the neighbours to advise that the planters would be discussed at the Planning Meeting.

5. To report on matters concerning St Mary's Closed churchyard and Stuckton Road Cemetery

- To consider policy on renouncing of Exclusive Rights of Burial and refund

Fordingbridge Town Council currently has no policy in place to renounce the Exclusive Rights of Burial of a reserved and unused plot.

New Forest District Council's policy to surrender a Burial Plot with an Exclusive Right of Burial is that NFDC may be able to buy back the plot and issue a refund of the original purchase payment, less the years of ownership. Paperwork required in support of a surrender request include:

- A completed Deed of Surrender of Right of Burial form for each grave that is to be surrendered
- The original Deed of Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial for each grave to be surrendered
- A short letter outlining your Surrender instruction.

Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hale and therefore **RESOLVED**: that Fordingbridge Town Council adopts the New Forest District Council policy on the renouncement of reserved plots. All in favour.

The Member of Public left the room.

6. To report on any matters relating to the Town Hall

• To consider the provision of bird proofing measures

The Town Clerk has been contacted by Environmental Health regarding the pigeons in the alleyway between the Town Hall and flats 61 and 61A – Environmental Health want spikes to be put along all gutters and ledges on that side of the town hall. The Clerk reported that the biggest problem was the porch roof outside the flats and that this has now been removed. However, the pigeons continue to sit on the ground.

Avon Valley Properties, who clean Fordingbridge Town Council's gutters, estimate that spikes on the edges of the gutters would double the time and cost of cleaning the gutters. They suggested putting spikes on window ledges and other perching places but not on the gutters. Avon Valley Properties quoted £550+VAT to supply and fit the spikes, including on the edge of the gutters. Cllr Adams said that wires instead of spikes are quite common now.

It is believed that the pigeons are regularly fed, Environmental Health has asked for evidence of feeding.

Cllr Perkins entered the room and sat in the public gallery.

It was agreed to arrange for spikes to be put up on ledges, but not on the gutters. A plastic hawk bird-deterrent has been bought and will be put up once a suitable spot has been identified.

The Town Clerk has also received quotes for replacing the lost slates on the Town Hall roof:
£1500+VAT – Avon Valley Properties
£1704+VAT – Matt Bright

Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Wilson and therefore **RESOLVED**: that money be spent on the spikes and slates from the £6k budget. All in favour.

7. To report on any matters relating to the Information Office

• Insurance and continued requirements

The total cost of the insurance is £507.78, of which we pay half - £253.89. This compares to a figure of £244.20 last year. The Information Office lease is due from renewal at the end of April.

8. To report on any matter relating to Footpaths

- **Footpath 8a Diversion** – the order has been made by HCC to officially divert this footpath.

- **Poo bins** – People are hanging bags of dog poo on the fence at Mulberry Gardens where there is no bin. The bin at Elmwood Avenue is not used.
Action: Clerk to ask NFDC to move Elmwood Avenue bin to footpath 95 behind Mulberry Gardens.

9. Playscheme Refunds

Fordingbridge Town Council currently has no playscheme refund policy in place as they've not been asked for a refund before. Two requests for playscheme refunds have been received this year.

After the Council had considered the details of the two cases, Cllr Hale suggested making a 50% refund as a gesture of goodwill to both parties. All in favour.

Next year the booking form will be changed to make it clear that there will be no refunds except in the unlikely instance that FTC does not run the play-scheme after bookings have been taken.

10. Matters concerning Highways

Planters – already covered in Agenda Item 4 above.

11. Matters concerning Allotments

- **To review allotment fees**

Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Adams and therefore **RESOLVED**: to increase the allotment rent to £19pa for a part plot and £32pa for a full plot. All in favour.

The allotment toilet costs £100 per month to hire and is on site from May to September. Cllr Paton suggested charging 20p a wee and also enquired about the possibility of a compostable toilet. A compostable toilet had been looked into previously and deemed too expensive.

Cllr Hale whether the allotment fence had been replaced yet, which it hasn't.

12. To receive any items of correspondence

There were no items of correspondence

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

Nothing further to report.

14. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 21st November 2018

The meeting closed at 8.37pm