

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15th May 2019 in the Victoria Rooms.

(Minutes draft until approved at the following meeting of the Committee)

Present: Cllr Earth – Chairman
Cllrs Adams, Goldsmith, Hale & Wilson

In Attendance: Mr P. Goddard, Town Clerk
Mrs Rachel Edwards, Assistant Town Clerk
Cllr Paton (Public Gallery)
A representative of the Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society

1. To elect a chairman

Cllr Earth proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Adams that Cllr Wilson should be appointed chairman of the General Purposes committee. All in favour. Cllr Wilson took the chair.

2. To elect a vice chairman

Cllr Adams proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hale that Cllr Earth should be appointed vice chairman of the General Purposes committee. All in favour.

3. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Anstey and Jackson.

4. To receive any declarations of interest

No declarations were made.

5. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th March 2019 and report on any matters arising.

Cllr Earth proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hale and therefore **RESOLVED**: to sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th March 2019 as a true record. All in favour (bar Cllr Wilson who abstained as she had not been present at that meeting).

Matters Arising

The Assistant Town Clerk reported that details of the Playscheme had been issued in the school book bags.

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

No matters raised.

7. To report on any matters concerning St Marys Closed Churchyard and Stuckton Road Cemetery

The Assistant Town Clerk reported that the cemetery was likely to be full in ten to fifteen years and that it can take up to seven years to arrange an extension of the cemetery. The Assistant Town Clerk recommended that the Town Council should consider membership of the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management to assist in that process.

Cllrs discussed the NFDC's role in the process as burial authority, whether an extension of the cemetery was in the interests of the town, whether the NFDC had already leased the adjacent ground and whether it was possible to arrange the compulsory purchase of adjacent ground.

Cllr Goldsmith proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hale and therefore to apply for membership of the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management. All in favour.

8. Matters relating to the Town Hall

The Town Clerk advised that the scaffolding work was in its third week. The architects advised that the work was on schedule. The main work will commence in around two weeks. The Clerk also advised that the PWLB loan paperwork had been submitted.

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

The Town Clerk reported that a two year lease had been entered into from 1st May 2019 with an 18 month break clause. The move of the Town Council staff to the Information Office had been completed and the transfer of the phone system was being finalised with BT. Cllr Wilson raised the issue of the broken pane of glass at the front of the Information Office.

Action: Town Clerk to contact the landlord regarding the broken pane of glass

10. To report any matters concerning footpaths

The representative of the Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society commented on the lack of funding available from Hampshire County Council and advised that work required on footpaths may need to be undertaken by volunteers and the lengthsman. The representative advised of an issue regarding badgers on the Avon Valley Path and commented on various measures to address the issue considered by Hampshire County Council.

Cllr Wilson commented on the work residents were doing to prevent vegetation from gardens spilling on to the town's paths. The representative from the Footpath Society commented that a lot of vegetation on certain town paths came from residents' gardens and suggested letters to those residents might have some positive impact. The representative and members discussed whether the NFDC were responsible for the paths and the representative undertook to raise this with Cllr Ann Sevier.

11. Matters concerning Highways

Cllr Wilson raised the issue of the ongoing car park works. Cllrs discussed the disruption caused, the lack of signage while the work was being undertaken and the disruption caused to local traders.

Cllr Goldsmith raised the issue of speeding and reducing the speed limit in the High Street. Cllr Hale advised that this had been previously raised with Hampshire County Council but that due to the category of the road it was not possible to reduce the speed limit. Cllr Hale suggested that speedwatch could be brought in. The Assistant Town Clerk advised that this was something that had been raised as a possibility by Chief Inspector Robert Mitchell but that it had not come to the town yet.

12. Matters concerning Allotments

Cllr Earth advised that the Information Office staff had located the allotment cups and that these were to be issued to the winner of the best allotment, runner up and the best newcomer together with a prize.

Cllr Wilson commented on the waiting list for allotments which stood at around sixteen.

Cllr Earth advised that the policing of poorly maintained plots had been stepped up with allotment holders being given notice to improve their plots within four weeks where required.

Cllr Wilson advised that the wild flower seeds had been planted at the allotments.

13. To note any items of correspondence

There were no items of correspondence.

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

Nothing further to report.

15. To note the date of the next meeting as 17th July 2019

The meeting finished at 8.25pm