

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held at 7.53pm on Wednesday 18th September 2019 in the Town Hall.

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

Present: Cllr Wilson – Chairman
Cllrs Adams, Anstey, Earth, Hale and Jackson

In Attendance: Mrs R. Edwards, Assistant Town Clerk
Cllr Lewendon (Public Gallery)
Ruth Croker (Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society)

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Bellows (NFDC)

2. To receive any declarations of interest

No declarations were made.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 17th July 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 17th July 2019 as a true record. All in favour.

Matters Arising

Minute 3 – a glazier has been asked to quote for the replacement pane of glass in the Information Office door.

Minute 6 – The water leak by the old gates at the cemetery (church land) has been repaired by Bournemouth Water. The small water leak at the cemetery (Council land) is being monitored by the groundsman.

Minute 11 – The Town Clerk had asked that the old ash tree growing on the green bank of the allotments be inspected as part of the tree survey by NFDC but this hasn't been done. The Clerk will follow this up. Cllr Wilson reported that the tree is becoming dangerous.

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

No matters raised.

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

Ian Newman has emailed the Council asking that NFDC be asked to resolve the following issues at St Mary's Churchyard as the local authority under the Burial Acts legislation.

- Limes trees need pollarding
- Two Yew trees need attention
- Garden of Rest area needs a bark mulch to put around the shrub to stop the weeds growing.

Ian also noted that the wooden post and rail fence to the south side of the church, has rotted away at ground level and needs replacing. Ian Newman's email has been forwarded to NFDC and is awaiting a response.

6. Matters relating to the Town Hall

Clock

A platform has been removed during the building works. Without this platform it has become dangerous to wind the clock and hence the clock will be stopped until the platform can be replaced. The clock chimes became erratic and have been stopped. Cllr Adams reported that it would cost thousands of pounds to repair the chimes so they keep the correct time. Cllr Jackson suggested that an electronic controller may be cheaper.

Action : Clerk to investigate cost of repairing the chimes both electronically and manually

Lightning conductor

A licence is needed in order to fit the lightning conductor. The licence application is expected to take 6-8 weeks.

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

Nothing to report

8. To report any matters concerning footpaths

Hampshire County Council gave permission for the diversion of Fordingbridge Footpath No. 68. The landowner will need to do the work to divert the path.

Ruth Croker (RFFS) asked about the new Avon Valley Path noticeboard and whether there was any update on this project. She advised that the Council had received a grant towards the new noticeboard.

Action : Clerk to follow up and report back to Ruth Croker.

Ruth Croker (RFFS) reported that the footpaths were overgrown on the old Breamore railway line which forms part of the Avon Valley Path. She also advised that path warden volunteers had begun working with Hampshire County Council.

Cllr Wilson asked that the subject of a new footpath from Sandy Balls Holiday Village to Fordingbridge be brought up at the meeting with Sandy Balls and Go New Forest on 23rd October. Cllr Jackson reported that Sandy Balls want to become more involved with Fordingbridge Town. Cllr Anstey advised that the feasibility study alone is very expensive. Ruth Croker (RFFS) reported that in places the path would be too close to the road and the police weren't happy with the proposal. Cllr Wilson thought it worth investigating further and would like to continue the discussion with Sandy Balls.

Ruth Croker (RFFS) reported that she would be leading a walk from Breamore as part of the New Forest National Park Walking Festival.

Cllr Lewendon left the meeting.

9. Matters concerning Highways

Cllr Earth asked for an update on the Salisbury Street parking issue.

Cllr Anstey would like to see enforcement of the yellow lines already on Salisbury Street.

Action: Clerk to provide update at next meeting

10. Matters concerning Allotments

Cllr Wilson advised that the Allotment Prize Giving and AGM would be held on Wednesday 16th October in the Town Hall. She reported that two allotments had been made available to Homebridge House Retirement Home and that twelve residents are currently working two plots together. The allotment committee want to create another community plot at the bottom of the allotments, with raised beds and a place to meet and chat. Cllr Wilson has applied for a grant from Hampshire County Council for this project. She reported that as part of this application the Council's Health and Safety policy will need reviewing.

11. To note any items of correspondence

No items of correspondence received.

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

Cllr Goldsmith reported that the bin on Witt Way has been removed as part of the car park redevelopment. There is no dog waste bin on this path now and there is a need for it to be returned.

Action: Clerk to contact NFDC and arrange for bin to be reinstated.

Ruth Croker reported that the Witt Way footpath needs to be cut back.

Action: Ruth Croker to ask Cllr Ann Sevier (NFDC) who's responsible for maintaining this path

Cllr Wilson reported that there is still graffiti on Witt Way on the end of the Dialogic building

Action: Clerk to speak to Dialogic about the graffiti

13. To note the date of the next meeting as 20th November 2019

The meeting finished at 8.33pm