

## FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May  
2021 at 7:30pm**

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

**Present:** Cllr Wilson – Chair  
Cllrs Adams, Earth, Goldsmith, Hale, Lewendon & Perkins

**In Attendance:** Mr P Goddard, Town Clerk  
Mrs R Edwards, Asst Town Clerk  
Cllrs Anstey, Jackson, Moulard & Paton (Public Gallery)  
Cllr Bellows (NFDC)  
A representative from the Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society  
("RFFS")  
A representative from the Salisbury Journal  
A representative from Turn Up For Fun

**1. To elect a chairman**

Cllr Adams proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore **RESOLVED**: to elect Cllr Wilson as chairman. All in favour.

**2. To elect a vice chairman**

Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Perkins and therefore **RESOLVED**: to elect Cllr Earth as vice chairman. All in favour.

**3. To receive any apologies for absence**

No apologies received.

**4. To receive any declarations of interest**

No declarations were made.

**5. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and report on any matters arising.**

Cllr Goldsmith proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Adams and therefore **RESOLVED**: to sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021 as a true record. All in favour. No matters arising.

**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 Clerk reported that there was a small leak on the cemetery side of the external water meter box (which should be monitored) and that a leaking tap had been replaced. The assistant Clerk reported that there had been a first interment in the new burial area.

**8. Matters relating to the Town Hall**

The Clerk reported that Sheerin Bettle had now received Heritage Advisory's updated report which they had forwarded to Jerry Davis, the planning consultant they would suggest using and have asked him for a fee proposal if the Town Council was to proceed with a planning application for the scheme. Cllr Adams raised concern about reducing the size of the main hall when there will be more residents in the town and noted that it would not be possible to hold this meeting if the size of the hall had been reduced already. He

felt that the concerns of the planning officer needed to be addressed. Cllr Wilson summarised some of the concerns of the planning officer. Cllr Hale said that the Town Council had already agreed to progress the proposal. It was agreed that the Clerk should chase Sheerin Bettle for the consultant's fee proposal and that the consultant may also provide some views regarding the viability of the scheme and any planning application.

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

The Clerk reported that following discussions with the landlord of the Information Office the Town Council has been offered a new lease on the Information Office for a further two years from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021 at the same rent (£375 per month) with a one-year break that needs six months' notice to exercise. Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hale and therefore RESOLVED: to enter into the lease that had been offered.

#### **10. To report any matters concerning footpaths**

The representative from the RFFS advised that the Avon Valley Path needed attention and signage. HCC will do this work but progress is slow. There have also been problems with the owner of that section of the footpath. She also reported that the footpaths at Midgham Farm were bad. HCC will need to get in touch with the owners. The representative noted that the area is used for camping so she would have thought it was in the owners interest to maintain the footpaths. The representative would send details to the Assistant Clerk.

- Jobs for Lengthsman – 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Cllr Wilson queried whether the April jobs had been completed.

**Action: Clerk to establish whether the April jobs had been completed.**

#### **11. To report on any matters concerning Allotments**

Cllr Wilson advised that there were 27 people on the waiting list for the Fry's Field allotments and 23 people for the new allotments. Two new water pumps have been purchased, one of which has already been installed. The Greener Living Ridan Composter has been installed. Residents need to apply to join a composting club. Membership is free but you need to have training and accept the rules to join. Residents are keen to use the composter. There are security concerns that Greener Living are looking into and they may need to construct a cage around the composter. Cllr Wilson visited the community allotment at the Ringwood allotments. The plot is sponsored by dementia.org and the local walking group is also involved. The purpose of the community plot is to alleviate loneliness.

#### **12. To consider a further proposal from Turn Up For Fun ("TUFF")**

Cllr Wilson noted that it had already been agreed to run two TUFF sessions every Thursday during the school summer holidays. Cllr Wilson asked whether TUFF had capacity to run more sessions and the TUFF representative advised that it would be possible to offer an additional session on Wednesdays. The representative from TUFF advised that it would be possible to offer a **story telling session** as they successfully have at Damerham. The storyteller has confirmed that they are happy to do it and a date would need to be agreed. The cost for the storyteller, who is nationally known, would be £100. TUFF staff could steward the event whether it was at the Recreation Ground or the school (if controlling numbers was an issue). The storyteller tells traditional folk and fairy tales that can then be tailored to the local area. Generally these events are put on in the evening and children should be supervised. The representative advised that the event was not aimed at young children (she suggested aged ten upwards) and that people come as families potentially with a picnic. The event would last two hours with a break. The representative advised that it may also be possible to have a **family fun day**. This would need to be at the end of the summer (as a grand finale) as it is too late to organise anything for the beginning of the summer. Other organisations such as the Wildlife Trust could be involved. The representative suggested it should be held at the

weekend so wider families can get involved. The representative also suggested a **samba session** but she would need to obtain costings for this. This would involve the Code of Music Trust based in Sway. Previous samba sessions have proved to be popular family events. This is a full day event with a break in the middle where people gather and learn the dance moves. Alternatively on a day during August a **salsa day** could be arranged which has also proved to be a popular family event. The TUFF sessions for one and half days a week would involve play and craft over the five weeks of the summer holidays. They would be staffed by three play workers who are DBS checked and first aid trained. This could culminate in a final family fun day. Then there could be a samba/salsa day on one other day during the five-week period and TUFF could steward this event and manage the bookings. Finally, the representative proposed a story telling session one evening at the weekend. The representative suggested that the cost of the additional TUFF sessions would be at the same rate as the £2,100 cost already agreed so would be around another £1,000. The storyteller would cost £100 and the stewarding £100. Cllr Adams asked for costings of the dance sessions to be provided and Cllr Wilson asked whether a proposal for the proposed event could be considered by the Finance & Policy committee at the end of this month. The Clerk advised that the cost of £2,100 for the original TUFF proposal had already been agreed. There may be additional Playscheme budget available but this would need to be considered by the RFO. Cllr Wilson suggested that it may also be possible to use funds from the COVID grant.

**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**

The Clerk noted the proposed change of the June meeting dates due to the Art Club booking of the Town Hall. General Council would now be on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and the planning committee would now meet on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021. Given this new date for the planning committee it was likely that one of the items to consider would be revised plans for the Tinkers Cross site. The Clerk also noted the Salisbury Street site visit at 9am on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. The purpose of the visit is to gather facts rather than consider any representations from interested parties.

**15. To note the date of the next meeting as 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021**

The meeting finished at 7.54pm.