

FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Fordwich Town Council
held on Monday 19 December 2011 at Fordwich Town Hall, Fordwich

The meeting commenced at 7.40pm

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Patrick Heren

146/11 Confirmation of Summons: It was confirmed that all Councillors had received their summons to attend this meeting and that the public notice had been served correctly.

147/11 Attendance and Apologies: Present Cllrs Patrick Heren, Andrea Russo, Roger Green and Philip Lewis. Apology received from Cllr. June Hardcastle.

148/11 Declaration of Interests:

Cllr. Green declared his role with Friends of Fordwich and District in matters relating to the Old School Room (item 151 on the agenda) and Moate Farm (item 152 on the Agenda) and also declared his position as a trustee of Fordwich United Charities.

149/11 Minutes

The minutes were deferred until the next ordinary meeting

150/11 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

151/11 Finance

1) The following items were presented for payment :-

- a. the Clerk's salary for the December (less tax): £212.90
- b. Clerk's Invoice no. 7 : £61.98
- c. G. Castle (reimbursement for book token for Canon Rosemary Walters – Civic Service) £25.00
- d. R. Green (extension lead – Christmas tree lights) : £12.98
- f. HMRC (PAYE) : £159.66

Cllr. Russo proposed and Cllr. Heren seconded a motion that the book token be sent to Canon Rosemary Walters as a token of appreciation from the Town Council for her conducting the Civic Service and that the cost of the same be met out of the Chairman's Allowance and that subject thereto all the above payments be authorised and paid. Motion carried

2) Cllr. Heren reported that he would forward the invoice from Gary Bounds (in respect of works to the notice board) to the Clerk and it was agreed that the cheque in favour of Gary Bounds which had not been drawn at the previous meeting in view of the absence of the invoice would now be drawn on the understanding that it would be released upon production of the invoice.

3) Cllr. Russo reported that Natwest had advised him that the bank new mandate should be processed within the next 14 days.

4) Cllr. Green (who declared his interest as chairman of Friends of Fordwich and District) had previously circulated the draft application for a capital grant from the City Council in respect of insulation and secondary double glazing to be installed in the Old School Room. He advised that the total cost was £1150 of which Friends of Fordwich and District would contribute £483, resulting in an application for a capital grant of £667; estimates had been obtained in support of the grant application. Cllr. Green outlined the position with regard

to funding for works to the Old School Room – the cost of completing works to the Old School Room was £130,000 and grants had been received for £90,000; he agreed to prepare within the next month a note of the various works, the funding which had been obtained and works in respect of which funding was required.

Cllr. Green then withdrew from discussion on the matter. Councillors considered the application and Cllr Heren proposed and Cllr Russo seconded a motion that the grant application be approved and submitted to the City Council by the Clerk. Motion carried.

5) The Clerk had circulated a draft budget for 2012/2013 for the purposes of the precept for consideration by Councillors prior to the meeting. The Clerk reported that the provisions of the Localism Act which made provision for Council tax referendums to be held if a precepting authority increased its Council tax by an amount exceeding principles determined by the Secretary of State and agreed by the House of Commons would not apply to the Town Council for the precept for 2012/2013. However, provisions might be introduced for referendums to be held in relation to increases above a certain amount in the precept for 2013/2014. Accordingly the Council should bear this in mind when setting the precept the 2012/2013.

Councillors duly considered the draft budget and made amendments to the same. Cllr. Green proposed and Cllr. Lewis seconded a motion that the amended budget be approved. Motion carried.

During the course of discussion on the draft budget the position with regard to the sandbags was noted, in particular the question of disposal of the sand in the existing sandbags. Councillors wondered whether any local organisations such as the anglers and allotment holders would be interested; it was a matter which could be advertised in a newsletter. It was agreed that the Clerk would approach the City Council with regard to the matter.

The meeting was not adjourned for public participation as there were no members of the public present.

152/11 Planning

1) There were no planning applications to consider.

2) The Clerk stated that he had been made aware of a report that Moate farm had been sold.

3) The Clerk reported that a reply from the enforcement team at the City Council in relation to Sandpit Wood, Well Lane had been promised at the end of August but had still not materialised.

153/11 Newsletter

Councillors had been circularised with a draft newsletter and duly considered the same. Cllr. Lewis proposed and Cllr. Green seconded a motion that the newsletter (with a small amendment) should be circularised to local residents before Christmas. Motion carried.

154/11 Sturry Fire Station

A draft letter to Kent Fire and Rescue from the Chairman objecting to the proposed closure of Sturry fire station was considered by Councillors. Cllr. Lewis proposed and Cllr. Green seconded a motion that a letter in the terms of the proposed draft should be sent to Kent Fire and Rescue. Motion carried.

155/11 Date of forthcoming meeting

It was agreed that the next ordinary Town Council meeting would be held on Wednesday 25 January 2012 in the Town Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm