

FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd June 2015.

Present: Councillors Patrick Heren (chair), Val Clark, Roger Green, Adrian McCarthy. In attendance: Guy Foster (clerk), Alan Marsh (KCC) and three members of the public.

68/15 Apologies

Cllr Lewis and Heather Taylor (CCC) had sent apologies.

69/15 Minutes of the previous meeting

It was unanimously resolved to agree the minutes of the previous meeting as tabled, without amendment. They were duly signed by the chairman.

70/15 Matters arising

No matters were raised.

71/15 Declarations of interest

Members declared interests as follows:

- Cllr Heren declared his position as a trustee of Fordwich United Charities
- Cllr Clark declared her position as a custodian of the town hall.
- Cllr Lewis declared his position as a custodian of Fordwich church.
- Cllr Green declared his role with Friends of Fordwich and District and also declared his position as a trustee of Fordwich United Charities

At this point the meeting was adjourned to hear comments from members of the public. The following matters were raised:

- The issue of the proposed KCC ward boundary changes was raised. A member of the public who was an expert in this area had undertaken extensive research and tabled a map and written analysis. There was unanimous agreement that the proposal that Fordwich should be split into a separate ward from Sturry was seriously flawed for several reasons.
- The beacon: were we any further in making a decision over its future? Sturry PC had indicated an interest in acquiring the beacon and Cllr Heren undertook to pursue this.

72/15 To receive reports from KCC and CCC representatives

No CCC representatives were present.

Alan Marsh of KCC reported as follows:

- The various highways issues around Well Lane had been delayed by pressures on KCC resources but those which remained outstanding would be addressed soon, along with associated matters. Cllr Green noted the matter of the “missing” pavement in Moat Lane. Mr Marsh said the KCC engineer would take a look when he attended the other matters. Cllr Green undertook to check the Land Registry details of title to the land in question; he believed there had been a relatively recent transfer.
- There was a proposal for a wind farm at land in Chislet parish. Recent government actions meant this seemed unlikely to go ahead. There is strong local opposition.
- Town Hall lift: Mr Marsh was keen for this project to proceed. Cllr Heren reported on next stages which involved landscaping work on the Town Hall garden.

73/15 To consider reports from police representatives

PCSO Jo White was unable to attend the meeting.

74/15 To receive chairman’s and councillors’ reports

Cllr Heren reported:

- That he had written to Julian Brazier MP on the subject of sites for gypsies and travellers. A full reply was promised by Mr Brazier following the current government review of the matter.
- He had visited the Canterbury Sea Cadets. One of them has been chosen to be escort to the Mayor of Fordwich.
- Cllr Heren, accompanied by Cllr Clark, had attended the Mayor of Sandwich’s annual visit to Brightlingsea where he made a speech of thanks and proposed a toast.

Cllr Lewis had provided a written report (circulated to members) which was referred to by Cllr Heren. Cllr Lewis had been chasing KCC to complete outstanding highways works. This correspondence had been circulated to members. There had been two

recent events in the church (Waterloo survivor commemoration and Canterbury Singers concert). "Champing" in the church was starting to prove popular.

Cllr Clark noted that some Lorrywatch signs had either disappeared or been damaged. She had been in touch with Lorrywatch to obtain replacements.

Cllr McCarthy noted that the recent "open gardens" day had caused parking problems in the Drove. This is really a matter for FUC and it was thought some appropriate "no parking" signs could be erected.

Cllr Green noted the success of the Open Gardens event which raised £500.

75/15 Finance

The clerk reported the cash book and bank balances at today's date as:

Current account: £15,736.86
Bonus saver account: £3,959.16

The bank statements were signed by the chairman.

The following were approved for payment:

- Clerk's salary (net of tax) and expenses for June £303.22
- Dean and Chapter (archive storage) £25.00 (inc VAT)

It was agreed to add Cllr McCarthy to the bank mandate. Clerk to progress.

76/15 Clerk's report and correspondence

Web-site: the clerk reported that he had made enquiries as to whether he would be able to update the web-site directly. This was not straightforward. After discussion it was agreed that at some point it might be sensible for FTC to assume direct control of the web-site.

KCC ward boundary changes: following the earlier discussion, the meeting confirmed its unanimous and strong view that Fordwich should not be separated from Sturry. The clerk to draft a letter to the Boundary Commission setting out these views and the justification for them. They would also be communicated to Alan Marsh (KCC) who had said he was meeting with the Boundary Commission on June 26th.

A letter had been received from CCC giving details of the next stages of the District Plan process.

77/15 To consider the proposed pilot Local Warden Support Officer scheme

It was agreed to hold this matter over to the next meeting.

78/15 Planning

There were no specific items to be considered. A potential enforcement issue was noted but it was decided not to report this to CCC for the time being, it being not entirely clear whether the work being undertaken actually required planning permission.

79/15 Highways and footpaths

No further discussion at this juncture.

80/15 Date of next meeting

This was confirmed as July 29th.

Guy Foster

Clerk to Fordwich Town Council

June 24th 2015.

Signed as a true record _____ Date: _____

Position _____