

FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2017.

Present: Councillors Philip Lewis (chair), Patrick Heren (part), Val Clark, Roger Green (part), Adrian McCarthy. In attendance: Guy Foster (clerk), Heather Taylor (CCC) and two members of the public.

1/17 Apologies

Cllr Heren had indicated he would be late arriving. Alan Marsh (KCC), Georgina Glover (CCC) and PCSO Nathan Mullins had sent apologies.

2/17 Minutes of the previous meeting

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

3/17 Matters arising

The chairman advised that:

- The civic service guest list has been updated.
- Lottery.com: cheques will be sent to winners.
- A meeting with Lorrywatch took place recently. We await new signs and new proposals from KCC.
- The Footpath Warden has reported a successful initial walk.

4/17 Declarations of interests

Members declared interests as follows:

- Cllr Heren declared his position as a trustee of Fordwich United Charities
- Cllr Lewis declared his position as a custodian of Fordwich church
- Cllr Clark declared her position as a custodian of the town hall
- 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.

A query was raised regarding the planning application at The Old Rectory. The chairman was able to give an update on the owners' intentions, having spoken to them.

5/17 To receive reports from CCC and KCC representatives

Heather Taylor (CCC) reported on proposals to merge four district authorities in East Kent. This had only just been made public. A consultation process would happen to due course.

6/17 To receive reports from police representatives

PCSO Nathan Mullins was not present.

7/17 To consider the KCC Volunteer Support Warden scheme.

The clerk noted that Westbere PC were not interested in sharing a warden with Fordwich. The clerk awaited further news on the project from KCC before any further actions could be considered.

8/17 To consider the waste land in the High Street

After discussion it was agreed to approach the owner, primarily to discuss tidying up the site.

9/17 Parking: to consider approaching Bretts and the plantation owner.

After discussion it was agreed to approach both parties with a view to securing parking permission for specific purposes.

[Cllr Heren arrived at this juncture]

10/17 To receive reports from members

The chairman reported as follows:

- “Champing” at the church is proving very popular.
- There is waste (tree trunks, etc) in the dyke between Brooklands Close and the boat house land. It is unclear who is responsible for clearing this but the chairman undertook to contact Bretts in the first instance.
- There were still some blocked drains but these have been reported to KCC.
- The chairman attended the Blessing of the Seas ceremony at Margate.
- The chairman has written to KCC about the problems caused by the traffic islands outside the new Co-operative shop.

Cllr Heren reported that the Town Hall lift planning application will be on the agenda for the next CCC planning meeting on February 3rd.

Cllr McCarthy referred to the recent email from Ricochet Ltd concerning a TV series called "The Repair Shop". It was agreed that the ducking stool crane might be of interest to them. Cllr Green would contact the production company.

Cllr McCarthy spoke about the repairs to the Drove. He was hopeful of some action once the weather improved.

Cllr Green referred to agenda item 13/17. He proposed a public meeting and undertook to prepare the "statement of case" for the planning inspectorate.

14/17 FUC trustees: to consider the renewal of FTC appointees.

A notice soliciting applications needs to be displayed and placed in the newsletter. Cllrs Heren and Lewis to liaise and to send a draft notice to the clerk.

[At this point, Cllrs Heren and Green made their apologies and left the meeting]

11/17 Finance

The clerk reported that the cash book balance at end-December was £19,650.58. This had been reconciled to the bank balance of £20,038.62. Bank statements were produced and signed by the chairman.

The following payments were approved:

1. Clerk January: £294.14
2. HMRC: PAYE (Oct/Nov/Dec): £195.00
3. Cllr Lewis – newsletter printing: £30.00
4. Cllr Clark – newsletter postage and Lorrywatch meeting expenses: £39.05

The clerk referred to the allocation by CCC to FTC of £248.40 of s.106 money for which an appropriate use needed to be identified. After discussion it was agreed to suggest a bench of Christmas lights. Clerk to contact CCC accordingly.

12/17 To receive the clerk's report and correspondence

The clerk tabled his report. All matters had been dealt with under other agenda items.

13/17 Planning

Appeal in respect of the refusal of application CA/16/00446/FUL: "Rule 6" status has been granted to FTC and the Friends of Fordwich. The first action is to prepare a "statement of case" for submission to the Planning Inspectorate by February 9th. Cllr Green having indicated his willingness, it was agreed to delegate this responsibility to him. He will circulate a draft for review by members prior to submission. Cllr Green's comments above under item 10/17 refer.

15/17 Highways and footpaths

There was nothing further to consider at this juncture.

16/17 Date of next meeting

The next FTC meeting was confirmed as Wednesday February 22nd 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

Guy Foster

Clerk to Fordwich Town Council

Signed as a true record _____ Date: _____

Position _____