

FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on 26th April 2017.

Present: Councillors Philip Lewis (chair), Val Clark, Adrian McCarthy, Patrick Heren, Roger Green. In attendance: Guy Foster (clerk), Alan Marsh (KCC), Georgina Glover (CCC) and one member of the public.

43/17 Apologies

None.

44/17 Minutes of the previous meeting

With one change to item 36/17 to clarify the position re FUC trustees, it was unanimously resolved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. They were duly signed by the chairman.

45/17 Matters arising

The chairman noted that:

- Bretts were happy to allow parking on their land with permits.
- The same is true in respect of the owners of the land at the bottom of Well Lane.
- SERCO had been due to clear Moat Lane of litter last Sunday but this hadn't happened.
- Some fly-tipping has been quickly cleared but some remains.
- The chairman has sought permission from the land-owner to site a bench by the river but as yet has received no reply.

46/17 Declarations of interests

Members declared interests as follows:

- Cllr Lewis declared his position as a custodian of Fordwich church
- Cllr Clark declared her position as a custodian of the town hall
- Cllr Heren declared his position as a trustee, and now chair, of Fordwich United Charities
- 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 to hear comments from members of the public:

No points were raised.

47/17 To receive reports from CCC and KCC representatives

Alan Marsh (KCC) had nothing he could report due to the “purdah” rules in respect of the forthcoming election.

Georgina Glover (CCC) reported that the Hoplands Farm development near Westbere had been passed by the CCC planning committee.

48/17 To receive reports from police representatives

PCSO Nathan Mullins was not present.

49/17 To receive reports from members

The chairman reported that a pair of antique gates had been stolen from a house in the High Street.

Cllr Heren reported that he had taken over from Roger Green as chair of FUC. His immediate priority would be the town hall lift.

Cllr Clark said she has spoken to someone about installing the bench. The clerk said that we would need a written quote for these costs if they were to be funded by the s.106 money from CCC. He intended to present the council with a selection of benches to choose from.

Cllr Clark was expecting positive news on new Lorrywatch signage.

Cllr Green said that the rules relating to the appointment of FUC trustees would benefit from amendment. The garden at the Old School House had received an award and work on it continued.

Cllr McCarthy said he had been talking to local residents about various traffic and parking measures. In respect of parking, it was agreed that it was necessary to devise a scheme for presentation to CCC.

50/17 Finance

The clerk reported that the cash book balance at end-March was £17,832.52. This had been reconciled to the bank balance of £19,036.45. The bank statement was produced and was signed by the chairman.

The insurance renewal quotation from Came & Co was considered and it was unanimously resolved to accept it.

The following payments were approved:

1. Clerk April: £305.64
2. Eric Fewkes (internal audit): £150.00

3. Came & Co (insurance 2017/18): £298.46

Annual report 2016/17

The accounts and annual report for 2016/17 were tabled and considered. They had already been signed off by the internal auditor. The accounts showed a surplus of £3,466 which was largely due to the unspent grant from KCC towards the lift. The governance statement included the usual declarations in respect of internal controls, liabilities, etc. After due consideration, it was unanimously resolved to approve the annual return which was duly signed by the chairman and clerk.

51/17 To receive the clerk's report and correspondence

The clerk tabled his report. He noted that recruitment was still underway for a volunteer warden and asked for this to receive as much publicity as possible. He had posted a notice about this on the web-site.

The clerk noted that the requirements of the new pensions' rules had been complied with. FTC was not obliged to contribute to his pension and he did not intend to initiate one.

52/17 Planning

Cllr Green is working on the Moate Farm appeal.

53/17 Britain's best kept village

It was resolved not to enter this.

54/17 Highways and footpaths

The clerk reported he had emailed SERCO about clearing Moat Lane and obtaining a new dog poo bin but had had no reply. He would chase.

55/17 Date of next meeting

The next FTC meeting was confirmed as **Wednesday June 7th**. The annual town meeting will be on May 11th. After discussion, it was agreed to have the annual civic service on Saturday November 4th, subject to the chairman checking with one or two people.

Guy Foster

Clerk to Fordwich Town Council

Signed as a true record _____ Date: _____

Position _____