

FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 26th June 2013.

Present: Councillors Patrick Heren (chair), Andrea Russo, June Hardcastle. Guy Foster (clerk).
In attendance: Alan Marsh (KCC) and four members of the public.

72/13. Apologies

None received.

73/13 Minutes of the previous meeting

The May minutes were approved subject to an amendment to item 60/13.

74/13 Matters arising

Code of Conduct version: the matter was raised by Cllr Hardcastle. It was agreed to have it as a future agenda item.

75/13 Declarations of interest

Cllr Heren declared his position as a trustee of Fordwich United Charities.
Cllr Hardcastle declared her position as a trustee of Fordwich United Charities.

At this juncture the meeting was adjourned to allow comments from members of the public. No comments were forthcoming.

76/13 To consider the Canterbury District Plan.

Documents received from CCC relating to the Canterbury Plan were passed to Cllr Russo, the intention being to circulate them to other members. It was agreed to consider this matter again at the next meeting, once members had had a chance to review the Plan. In the meantime, Cllr Heren had drafted a proposed response to CCC which was circulated to members. The main points for consideration were:

1. That FTC should in principle support the proposed Sturry relief road as improving traffic and quality of life in Fordwich.
2. That FTC should oppose the closure of the level crossing at Sturry unless it were replaced by a new road bridge (thus entailing two new bridges over the railway line altogether).
3. That FTC support development of the Eastern relief road (A28-A257-A2) in conjunction with redevelopment of the Howe Barracks, expected to allow the reopening of the existing road through the Barracks from the A257 to the A28.

4. That FTC should oppose possible housing development at Hersden south of the A28 due to encroachment on the fragile beauty of the undeveloped Stour Valley.

Further discussion and a council resolution were deferred for a month to allow all councillors time to consider the Canterbury Plan in detail.

77/13 To receive reports from KCC and CCC representatives.

For KCC, Mr Marsh commented that it was very uncertain as to how much of the Canterbury Plan would actually be implemented, not least because of highways issues which were the responsibility of KCC. There were issues of infrastructure and affordability.

Mr Marsh reported that he was to become deputy chairman of the Joint Transportation Board.

Mr Marsh asked to be kept fully briefed on the matter of the proposed Town Hall lift.

No CCC representative was present.

78/13 To consider reports from police representatives.

No police representatives were present.

79/13 To consider the Chairman's and Councillors' reports.

Cllr Heren reported that he had attended the recent Cinque Ports function at Brightlingsea where he had proposed a toast. Cllr Hardcastle and her husband had also attended. Cllr Heren would be attending the Confirmation of Mayor Deputies at Sandwich.

Cllr Hardcastle noted the planning applications at Polo Farm and the BT site on Littlebourne Road. She was concerned about traffic implications for Fordwich. As these items were not on the agenda, members were left to make their own enquiries and representations to CCC on a personal basis, if they so wished.

80/13 Finance

The Clerk reported the cash book and bank balances as:

Current account: £10,207.87
Bonus saver account: £3,895.71

The following items were approved for payment:

- Clerk's salary (net of tax) and expenses for June £283.49

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|----------------------------------|---------|
| • HMRC (PAYE for April-June) | £187.08 |
| • KiKK (web-site content update) | £60.00 |

The Clerk reported that he had heard that the application to the CCC Area Member Panel for a grant in respect of the proposed Town Hall lift had been successful to the tune of around £1,470. However, a remittance had been received from CCC for £800 and the Clerk would investigate this apparent discrepancy.

The VAT reclaim for £1,034.94 had been received.

81/13 Clerk's report and correspondence

All matters to be considered had been dealt with under other agenda items.

82/13 Planning

Application CA//13/00991/LB: no objections.

Tree works at Tancrey: no objections.

National Grid Richborough Connection Project: Cllr Heren had attended the consultation event at Chislet and he outlined the option preferred by National Grid. Cllr Heren circulated a proposed response, the main points being:

1. That FTC should oppose outright the South Corridor via Wickhambreaux and Fordwich, which would route pylons across untouched countryside of rare beauty, and then march close to the western edge of Fordwich.
2. That FTC should ask that National Grid re-examine the case for an offshore connection via the Thames Estuary from Richborough to Kemsley near Sittingbourne.
3. In the event that the offshore option is rejected on cost grounds, that FTC should support the North Corridor along the line of the existing UK Power Networks transmission system to the north of the A28, with the following provisos:
 - a. That the existing line be replaced with the new line so that there remains only one transmission line in the North Corridor
 - b. That as much of the route as possible be underground
 - c. Where undergrounding is not possible, that the new T-type pylons be used on the grounds that they would be only 35 metres high rather than the 50 metres of the Lattice steel pylons

It was agreed to wait until the next meeting to finalise this.

83/13 Highways and footpaths

Cllr Hardcastle reported seeing people trying to move the grit bin at the bottom of Well Lane. The implications were unclear and no one else could shed any light on the matter.

84/13 Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for July 31st at 7.30 pm in the town hall.

The meeting concluded at 8.57 p.m.

Guy Foster

Clerk to Fordwich Town Council

July 3rd 2013.

Signed as a true record _____ Date: _____

Position _____