

# FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

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

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### 1/14. Apologies

Alan Marsh of KCC had indicated he would be late. Heather Taylor of CCC would be absent due to illness.  
Cllr Hardcastle had sent apologies.

### 2/14 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on November 29<sup>th</sup> were approved as tabled.

### 3/14 Matters arising

None.

### 4/14 Declarations of interest

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

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

- Was there any news on the History Society? Cllr Heren, who chairs this society, admitted things had been quiet recently. A speaker would be addressing a future meeting but no date had been fixed as yet.
- Street lighting: the lamp post at the top of the High Street has been cut down. Cllr Clark had contacted the authorities about this and the clerk undertook to follow this up with CCC or KCC as appropriate.
- Moate Farm: there was discussion as to potential breaches of planning permission but it was pointed out that representatives of CCC's enforcement division visited the property fairly recently and appeared to be happy with arrangements there.

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**5/14 To receive reports from KCC and CCC representatives.**

No one from KCC or CCC was present at this juncture but Mr Marsh attended later in the meeting.

**6/14 To consider reports from police representatives.**

No police representatives were present.

**7/14 To elect a deputy mayor.**

Having indicated his willingness to stand, Cllr Lewis was proposed by Cllr Heren, seconded by Cllr Clark and unanimously elected to this position.

**8/14 To review FTC's role in the twinning association**

Cllr Lewis reported that the Twinning Association now had a new committee and was becoming more active. An event was planned for 17<sup>th</sup> May when FTC's involvement would be welcome. A donation from FTC would also be welcome. It was agreed to consider this at the next meeting.

**9/14 To consider arrangements for future civic services**

It was agreed to endorse Cllr Heren's paper as previously circulated, accepting that it would no doubt evolve over time.

**10/14 To consider the matter of an FTC newsletter**

Cllr Clark had recently prepared and, with the help of others, printed and circulated a brief document. The intention in future is to produce something more substantial.

**11/14 To receive the chairman and councillors' reports.**

Cllr Heren reported that he had received an estimate of £145 to improve the website. This would be formally considered at the next meeting. He also reported that he had spoken to the George and Dragon but they had no intention of replacing their recently felled trees. Cllr Heren had attended the "Choosing Day" ceremony at Brightlingsea, where the guest of honour had been the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, Admiral Lord Boyce.

Cllr Lewis welcomed the recent sweeping of gutters and pavements.

Cllr Clark noted the issue of pot holes, notably in Moat Lane. Similarly, she noted the poor state of the road outside the town hall, which was a matter for Fordwich United Charities. She also noted the problem of dogs fouling the pavement in Fordwich Road.

Cllr Heren reported that English Heritage did not like the "internal" option for a town hall lift, preferring a new external access via the western elevation of the building.

Cllr Heren and nevertheless still felt that an internal lift which did not compromise the external structure was the best option and would continue to pursue it. This is formally a matter for FUC, which is chaired by Cllr Green, who proposed to seek public comment on the available options before making a formal application for planning consent.

### **12/14 Finance**

The Clerk reported the cash book and bank balances as:

Current account: £6,221.25  
Bonus saver account: £3,926.94

The following items were approved for payment:

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| • Clerk's salary (net of tax) and expenses for January | £297.68 |
| • Ewart Clough (Christmas tree)                        | £204.00 |

The Christmas tree cost was unanimously approved by the Council, noting that it had unavoidably exceeded the budget set in November.

The Clerk noted that he had formally applied for a grant of £5,000 from KCC towards the cost of a town hall lift, KCC having advised him of its availability. Thanks were due to Mr Alan Marsh in this respect.

### **13/14 Clerk's report and correspondence**

The clerk noted that items of correspondence on the following subjects had been received and forwarded to FTC members:

- Water meters installation
- Street lighting saving
- Barton Court relocation
- Kent Minerals and Waste Plan
- A draft parish charter

In respect of these it was noted that the installation of water meters was some months away; the local effect of street light saving was still unclear; the draft parish charter contained nothing of significance.

### **14/13 Planning**

There were no objections to the proposed works to trees at the church and at Spring Cottage.

**15/14 To consider recent flooding and other disruption and to consider future plans**

Clr Heren reported on the help received from the Internal Drainage Board. The intention is for the IDB to arrange a meeting with interested parties for some time next week.

Clr Lewis reported that a location in the churchyard had been identified as an ideal place for storing sandbags. This needed to be publicised and ideally, residents should move the bags there themselves but help with this may be available from CCC.

**5/14 To receive a report from a representative of KCC and  
16/14 Highways and Footpaths**

Mr Alan Marsh of KCC now having arrived, these two items were taken together.

It was noted that, following the recent damage caused by an HGV, a site meeting had been held with an officer from KCC. The outcome was that KCC would put in replacement and additional wooden bollards but that no money was available for extra traffic calming works. However, FTC were being encouraged to come up with proposals; if these were considered feasible then the funding issue would be addressed. Funds may well be available from sources other than KCC.

Mr Marsh reported on the huge number of storm-damaged trees which KCC had had to remove from roads in the recent past. This represented a further pressure on resources. Mr Marsh noted that his member’s budget would be cut by half in the next financial year.

**17/14 Date of the next meeting**

This was confirmed as 26<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 pm. Clr Heren apologised in advance for his absence, as he would be abroad on this date.

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The meeting concluded at 9.15 p.m.

**Guy Foster**

*Clerk to Fordwich Town Council*

February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014.

Signed as a true record \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_