

FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Fordwich Town Council
held on Wednesday 30 November 2011 at Fordwich Town Hall, Fordwich

The meeting commenced at 7.38pm

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Patrick Heren

123/11 Confirmation of Summons: It was confirmed that all Councillors had received their summons to attend this meeting and that the public notice had been served correctly.

124/11 Attendance and Apologies: Present Cllrs Patrick Heren, Andrea Russo, Roger Green and Philip Lewis. Apologies received from Cllr. June Hardcastle and also County Cllr. Alan Marsh. No apology received from City Cllr. Heather Taylor.

125/11 Declaration of Interests:

Cllr Heren declared a personal interest in relation to parking in King Street (item 135 on the Agenda) and to matters regarding the notice board at Brooklands Close (item 139 on the Agenda) and also declared his position as a trustee of Fordwich United Charities.

Cllr. Russo declared a prejudicial interest in relation to matters regarding the notice board at Brooklands Close (item 139 on the Agenda)

Cllr. Green declared his role with Friends of Fordwich and District in matters relating to the Old School Room (item 131 on the agenda) and Moate Farm (item 133 on the Agenda) and also declared his position as a trustee of Fordwich United Charities.

Cllr. Lewis declared his position as a member of the JCC

126/11 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 19 October were considered. It was agreed to defer these to the next meeting in order to enable comments on the same to be considered.

127/11 Matters arising

Cllr. Heren reported that in relation to the Civic Service the Bishop of Dover had absolved the Rector from responsibility to conduct the Civic Service as the Rector had intimated that he did not want to conduct it and the Bishop of Dover, in discussion with the Chairman, had suggested that Canon Rosemary Walters should both conduct the Civic Service and preach at the same.

The Chairman suggested that a small gift as a token of appreciation should be made to Canon Rosemary Walters for conducting and preaching at the Civic Service. It was noted that the small gifts had been given in connection with the Civic Service in 2009 and the cost met out of the chairman's allowance – Councillors were of the opinion that a £25 book token would be appropriate with the cost being met out of the Chairman's Allowance.

128/11 Police

PC Robin Macalpine-Downie and PCSO Christian Ward-Davies did not attend the meeting. The Clerk reported that the email which he had sent to PC Robin Macalpine-Downie advising him of the meeting had bounced back and that he did not appear as having responsibility for Fordwich on the Police website (which showed PC Ives and PC Lorimer). However, he had spoken to the PCSO supervisor, Dave Garland, who had advised that there had been an

internal Police re-organisation but PC Robin Macalpine-Downie still had responsibility for Fordwich and that PCSO Ward-Davies was currently on sick leave. He had promised to email the Clerk with confirmation of the position. The PCSO Supervisor, Dave Garland, had informed the Clerk that there was no intention on the part of the Police to revive the Parish Forum meetings. Cllr. Lewis reported that the Police had recently been called because youths had been drinking and fishing on the Folly (the land opposite Tancrey and adjacent to Fordwich bridge) and had arrived within 3/4 minutes.

129/11 City and County Councillors reports

In the absence of both the County and City Councillors there were no reports.

130/11 Chairman's and Councillors reports

There were no reports from the Chairman and Councillors which were not dealt with under other items on the agenda.

The meeting was not adjourned for public participation as there were no members of the public present.

131/11 Finance

1) The following items were presented for payment :-

- a. the Clerk's salary for the November (less tax): £212.90
- b. Clerk's Invoice no. 6 : £24.12
- c. Ewart J. Clough (Christmas tree): £114.00
- d. Margate Charter Trustees (Blessing of the Seas) : £37.00
- e. R. Green (extension lead – Christmas tree lights) : £21.98
- f. Fordwich Arms (Civic Service teas): £300.00
- g. Churches Conservation Trust (50% of Civic Service collection) :
£101.26
- h. JCC (50% of Civic Service collection) : £101.26
- i. A. Russo (notice board keys) : £11.00
- j. G. Bounds (repairs to Town Hall notice board) : £180.00

Cllr. Heren proposed and Cllr. Russo seconded a motion that all the above payments be authorised and paid. Motion carried

2) The Clerk reported the balances on the current, reserve and bonus saver accounts and provided reconciliations in respect of the same. The balances were £1.96 on the reserve account, £245.66 on the current account and £8,985.65 on the bonus saver account. Bank statements in respect of all bank accounts were sent to Cllr. Russo (and then passed to the Clerk) and he had not reported anything adverse.

3) In view of the expenditure which had been authorised and forthcoming expenditure Cllr. Heren proposed and Cllr. Russo seconded a motion that £1500 be transferred from the bonus saver account to the current account and £1500 be transferred from the bonus saver account to the reserve account. Motion carried.

4) Cllr. Green reported that he had consulted an electrician regarding PAT testing of the Christmas tree lights and been advised that this was not necessary as they were not connected direct to the mains (as there was a transformer serving the lights). He had bought a new extension lead for the Christmas tree lights which would require PAT testing after a year. He suggested that the extension lead should be given to Friends of Fordwich and District after it had been used on the understanding that they would arrange

for it to be PAT tested each year and allow the Town Council to use it for the purpose of the Christmas tree lights each year. This proposal was accepted by Councillors. .

5) Cllr. Green in his capacity as chairman of Friends of Fordwich & District, put forward the suggestion that the application for a capital grant could be for insulation to the roof in the main hall of the Old School Room and for secondary glazing to the old sash windows in the Old School Room - the likely cost was in the region of £1380 and he was considering approaching County Councillor Alan Marsh to see if a KCC grant would be available but if not match funding could be met out of Friends of Fordwich & District's own resources. Such an application was agreed to in principle by Councillors and Cllr. Green agreed to obtain quotations for these works which would be carried out by volunteers so that the application for a capital grant could be considered and, if approved by the Town Council, submitted to the City Council before the deadline of 14th December.

132/11 Clerk's Report & Correspondence

The Clerk reported on the following matters:

- the tree adjacent to the sub station at the end of Brooklands Close: the application by UK Power for works to the tree had been considered by the City Council and they had decided not to issue a tree preservation order. It was agreed that the Clerk would approach UK Power to ascertain when they would be carrying out works to the tree and to advise that a local resident was worried about the state of tree.
- beacon: he had been in touch with a company which might have been able to assist in relation to the renovation of beacon but they were unable to do so. However, they were contacting two companies who might be able to help.
- E-mail from Mr Birt regarding Stodmarsh Road: councillors considered the matter and decided that it was one to be dealt with by Wickhambreaux Parish Council and should be referred to them

133/11 Planning

1) There were no planning applications to consider. Councillors considered an application to fell one eucalyptus tree on the left boundary of the rear garden at Spring Cottage, Spring Lane. Cllr. Heren Proposed and Cllr. Russo seconded a motion that no objection be raised to the same.

2) The Clerk reported that a reply from the enforcement team at the City Council in relation to Sandpit Wood, Well Lane had been promised at the end of August but had still not materialised.

134/11 Highways and Footpaths

Cllr. Green presented proposals for the installation of rising bollards in order to prevent vehicles exceeding the permitted width from using Fordwich bridge. He said that there were existing rising bollards which were not being used in Cotton Road, Wincheap, Canterbury and with the agreement of Kent Highways proposed that they be removed and installed on the north side of Fordwich bridge. He said that they could be operated by the same remote system as was in use for existing rising bollards in Canterbury and so would not cause any difficulty to emergency vehicles wishing to use Fordwich bridge. It was agreed to approach County Councillor Alan Marsh and if the agreement of Kent Highways was forthcoming then it would be a matter to be considered further, possibly extending the consultation on parking which was being considered to include traffic.

135/11 Parking

This matter was deferred to the next meeting

136/11 Website

Cllr. Heren had circulated papers on the website and agreed to e-mail the link to the draft website.

137/11 Boundary Commission Proposals

Councillors considered the Boundary Commission proposals (which would have the effect of taking Fordwich out of the Canterbury constituency and including it in a new constituency of Herne Bay) and decided, on balance, not to object to the same.

138/11 Sturry Fire Station

Cllr. Russo reported that he had been to a presentation on the proposed closure of Sturry fire station at which the Fire and Rescue Service had made it clear that they would only consider new evidence as a reason for reversing their proposal to close Sturry fire station. Councillors considered the position and in the light of this information decided that whilst a letter of objection would be sent there seemed little prospect of being able to reverse the decision to close Sturry fire station.

139/11 Brooklands Close notice board

Cllr. Heren circulated a proposed planting plan for the area beside the notice board at Brooklands Close and disclosed a personal interest in the same as it had been prepared by his wife but added that she would not gain any pecuniary advantage as she was not making a charge for preparing the plan nor would she supply any of the plants or receive a commission for arranging for any plants to be supplied. Cllr. Russo disclose a prejudicial interest and withdrew from discussion on the matter.

Councillors considered the proposals – the approximate cost was said to be £380. Cllr. Green proposed and Cllr. Lewis seconded a motion to accept the planting plan so long as the cost incurred did not exceed £400 but to defer implementing the same until the appropriate planting time in 2012

140/11 Badges, chains & Ceremonial

This matter was deferred to the next meeting

141/11 Newsletter

Councillors agreed to the proposal to send out a newsletter before Christmas and to include in it reference to the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, the format of the letter to be settled at the next Town Council meeting.

142/11 Civic Service & Ceremonial

Councillors considered the position with regard to the collection for the recent Civic Service and decided that, in accordance with previous practice and arrangements, it should be split equally between the Churches Conservation Trust and the JCC. Councillors noted the comments of the Churches Conservation Trust - no objection had been raised in other parishes to all the collection being passed to the Churches Conservation Trust - and agreed to consider again the position for future years when a response of been received from the JCC with their comments on the proposal that all of the collection should be passed to the Churches Conservation Trust.

143/11 Diamond Jubilee

Cllr. Russo presented proposals in relation to the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 2012, including a firework display on 2 June, a big lunch and

street party on 3 June, barbecue and beacon lighting on 4 June and a thanksgiving service and concert in the church on 5 June. It was appreciated that events such as the fireworks display would be costly and sponsorship should be sought for this and other events. Cllr. Russo had been in touch with Sturry Parish Council and consideration could be given to joint events. Cllr. Russo had approached Bretts for use of their grounds for possible events and they had intimated that the grounds would be available.

144/11 Notice Boards and History Board

This matter was deferred to the next meeting

145/11 Date of forthcoming meeting

It was agreed that the next ordinary Town Council meeting would be held on Thursday 8 December in the Undercroft (of the Town Hall) commencing at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 10.05 pm