

FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2013.

Present: Councillors Patrick Heren (chair), Andrea Russo, Roger Green, Philip Lewis. Guy Foster (clerk). In attendance: Richard Jenkins (CCC), Ollie Pendered (National Grid), Adrian Attaway (Balfour Beatty) and ten members of the public.

1/13. Apologies

Cllr Hardcastle had sent apologies. Alan Marsh of KCC had also indicated he would be unable to attend, as had PC Robin McAlpine-Downie and PCSO Jo White.

2/13 Declarations of interest

Cllr Heren declared his position as a trustee of Fordwich United Charities and in respect of items 3/13 and 12/13.

Cllr Green declared his role with Friends of Fordwich and District and also declared his position as a trustee of Fordwich United Charities.

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

At this juncture the meeting was adjourned to allow comments from members of the public.

Mr Andrew Mangnall informed the meeting of his proposals to operate a canoe hire business from the King's School boat house. Whilst the meeting was supportive in principle, various concerns of a practical nature were raised.

Concerns were raised as to the delay in the painting of yellow lines at various locations.

3/13 To consider the proposals by "Canoe Wild."

Cllr Heren, having declared an interest, withdrew from the meeting for this item. Remaining FTC members considered the correspondence received from Mr Andrew Mangnall and the discussion during public time. It was resolved to write to the King's School setting out FTC's support in principal but drawing attention to various concerns, notably traffic, parking and the potential need for a new building at the proposed site.

4/13 To consider parking issues. (Richard Jenkins of CCC in attendance.)

The various problems relating to parking in Fordwich were discussed. Mr Jenkins had been in touch with the officer in charge of parking enforcement (Mr Bob Pollard) who had explained that the out of town location and the

small number of transgressors made it difficult to justify the use of more traffic warden time in Fordwich.

Mr Jenkins noted the need for yellow lines and agreed to visit to Fordwich to get a better feel for the issues in more detail.

Mr Jenkins can be contacted by email: richard.jenkins@canterbury.gov.uk Similarly, Mr Pollard's email is: bob.pollard@canterbury.gov.uk and he would be happy to hear of particular parking violations.

5/13 To review the works being undertaken by National Grid (Ollie Pendered of National Grid and Adrian Attaway of Balfour Beatty in attendance.)

Mr Pendered outlined National Grid's work programme as it affected the local area; they were replacing cabling on the Canterbury to Sellingle overhead line. Mr Pendered stressed that there would be no impact on local power supplies while this work was in progress. Access to pylons would need to be created (one such in Moat Lane) which may mean cutting down vegetation and laying artificial trackway. The work was due to be finished before the end of 2013 and as far as possible, everything would be reinstated to its original condition, with tree planting as necessary.

Scaffolding will need to be erected where the power lines cross Stodmarsh Road, with a safety net slung over the road.

Cllr Heren thanked Mr Pendered for his very helpful presentation. Mr Pendered agreed to forward a copy of their brochure by email so that it could appear on the FTC web-site.

6/13 To receive reports from CCC and KCC representatives.

Neither CCC nor KCC was represented.

7/13 To receive reports from police representatives.

No police representatives were present.

8/13 To consider further the practicalities of a merger between FTC and FUC.

This item was deferred to a later date.

9/13 To receive the Chairman and Councillors' reports.

Cllr Heren reported:

- That he had written in a personal capacity to object to the demolition of the building in the garden of the George and Dragon.

- He has organised the new mayoral robe, subject to the finalising of one or two details.
- The mayor of Sandwich has confirmed that the Mayor Deputy will not be required to swear retrospective fealty this year.

Cllr Lewis reported on the overgrown footpath and kerb in Well Lane and Moat Lane, which still require attention. He also referred to blocked and, in one case, broken drains in the same area.

Cllr Lewis said that the Churches Conservation people were intending to clear out some rubbish from the church and were seeking a contribution from FTC towards the cost of a skip. It was agreed to put this on the next meeting's agenda.

Cllr Green reported that

- Several residents had experienced drainage problems recently. Cllr Russo said that he was in touch with Southern Water on another matter and would refer this to them.
- A street lamp in School Lane is not illuminating the correct area and this should be reported to the relevant authorities.

10/13 Finance

The following were approved for payment:

1. Clerk salary and expenses for December and January: £466.78
2. HMRC: PAYE for the 3rd quarter: £152.46
3. Came & Co, extra insurance premium for plant troughs and beacon: £25.00

The invoice from Ewart Clough for the Christmas tree was for £192.00 which was much more than the expected £95.00. Cllr Heren undertook to contact Mr Clough to query this. The cheque was signed but will not be sent, pending the outcome of Cllr Heren's query.

It was resolved to approve the pro forma invoice from Ede and Ravenscroft in respect of the new mayoral robe. This was in the sum of £1,512.50 (before VAT), the extra £12.50 over and above the previously approved amount being for delivery.

Cash book and bank balances were reported as £5,577.41 (current account) and £3,885.99 (bonus saver account).

11/13 Clerk's report and correspondence

The clerk confirmed that all his reported items had been dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

12/13 Planning

Tree works at Watergate House: Cllr Heren, having disclosed an interest withdrew from the meeting for this item. There were no objections from other councillors.

The clerk reported that he had received details of the proposed demolition of the building in the garden of the George and Dragon (CA/13/00120/LB) but that these had been received too late for the agenda. The clerk was asked to see if the closing date for comments could be pushed back. In the meantime, members were of course at liberty to lodge their own comments in a personal capacity, as Cllr Heren had already done.

13/13 Highways and footpaths

There was no further discussion of this topic.

14/13 Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed without amendment.

15/13 Matters arising

Cllr Heren reported that the company maintaining the FTC web-site had folded but the man behind the company had agreed to continue in a personal capacity, charging £62.50 p.a. for basic services. The meeting was happy with this, whilst keeping the matter under review.

16/13 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on February 27th at 7.30 pm in the town hall.

Guy Foster

Clerk to Fordwich Town Council

February 4th 2013.

Signed as a true record _____ Date: _____

Position _____