

FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Fordwich Town Council
held on Thursday 4 August 2011 at Fordwich Town Hall, Fordwich

The meeting commenced at 7.40pm

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Patrick Heren

055/11 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.

056/11 Attendance and Apologies: Present Cllrs Patrick Heren, Andrea Russo, June Hardcastle and Roger Green and County Cllr. Alan Marsh. Apologies received from Cllr. Philip Lewis and City Cllr. Heather Taylor.

057/11 Declaration of Interests:

Cllr Heren declared his position as a trustee of Fordwich United Charities. Cllr. Russo declared a personal interest in matters relating to the notice board at Brooklands Close. Cllr Hardcastle declared a personal interest in property off Well Lane (item 65 on the Agenda) and Christchurch playing fields (item 77 on the Agenda) and also declared her position as a trustee of Fordwich United Charities. Cllr. Green declared his role with Friends of Fordwich and District in matters relating to the Old School Room (items 63 and 79 on the Agenda) and Moate Farm (item 65 on the Agenda) and also declared his position as a trustee of Fordwich United Charities.

058/1 Minutes

This matter was deferred.

059/11 Matters arising

There were no matters arising

060/11 Police

PC Robin Macalpine-Downie and PCSO Kelly Greenwood had apologised for being unable to attend the meeting. PC Robin Macalpine-Downie had previously advised that he thought that members of the public could take images of vehicles crossing Fordwich bridge in contravention of the width restriction and pass them on to the Police but that the subsequent steps to be taken to bring a prosecution would be lengthy and potentially unwieldy and consequently not workable in practice.

061/11 City and County Councillors reports

County Cllr. Alan Marsh produced plans and drawings showing suggested signage in relation to the width restriction relating to Fordwich bridge with a view to ensuring that the width restriction was adhered to and said that if they were approved by the Town Council he would envisage that that they would be installed by the end of 2011 (and hopefully sooner - by the end of October).

Cllr. Hardcastle raised the question of a separate bridge being required for pedestrians in order to ensure their safety - County Cllr. Alan Marsh said that, in principle, he would support such a proposal. Cllr. Heren said that he would be agreeable to one side of a new pedestrian bridge being sited on land which he owned opposite the George & Dragon and Cllr. Hardcastle added that Junior Kings school had previously said that they would be prepared to discuss one side of a new pedestrian bridge being sited on their land.

County Cllr. Alan Marsh asked whether the Town Council had any events planned to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 and was informed that the matter was under discussion. He said that if he was to be approached for financial support then support would only be available for events which involved all the people of Fordwich.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for public participation

The Chairman reconvened the meeting

062/11 Chairman's and Councillors reports

The Chairman reported that he had attended the Confirmation of Mayor Deputies Supper at Sandwich on 6 July at which he had paid the ship money of three shillings and fourpence and given a speech.

Cllr. Russo reported that he had attended the Parish Seminar organised by Kent Highways at Ashford on 11 July and also the Community Consultation Event organised by Canterbury City Council in relation to the City Council's draft corporate plan on 18 July.

Cllr. Green reported that he had attended the consultation organised by the Government on their new draft policy in relation to gypsy and traveller sites.

Cllr. Hardcastle reported that the land on the market at the top of Well Lane was now being advertised as having been sold but the identity of the buyer was unknown and that the yellow lines in Stodmarsh Road had yet to be reinstated following the recent resurfacing..

063/11 Finance

1) The following items were presented for payment :-

- a. the Clerk's salary for July & August (less tax): £425.79
- b. Clerk's Invoice no. 3 : £130.38
- c. Friends of Fordwich & District (insurance of the Old School Room - concurrent function grant monies) : £605.83
- d. Mayors Fund (Day Out in Sandwich – 16 August) : £50.00
- e. Mayors Fund (Tea at Margate – 10 September) : £8.00

Cllr. Russo proposed and Cllr. Hardcastle seconded a motion that item c. be paid out of the concurrent function grant monies, items d. and e. be paid out of the Chairman's Allowance and that, subject thereto, 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 £1.89 on the reserve account, £408.35 on the current account and £10,959.69 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. Russo proposed and Cllr. Hardcastle seconded a motion that £2000.00 be transferred from the bonus saver account to the reserve account and that £1000 be transferred from the reserve account to the current account. Motion carried.

4) Cllr. Green (on behalf of Friends of Fordwich & District) indicated that the heads of expenditure for the concurrent function grant application for 2012/2013 in respect of the Old School Room would be insurance (£670) and

also PAT and other testing of the electrical and gas equipment and installations (£250) and also the fire alarm and fire extinguishers (provisionally £60). Cllr. Hardcastle proposed and Cllr. Russo seconded a motion that Cllr. Green (on behalf of Friends of Fordwich & District) should supply details of the anticipated costs of the inspection/maintenance of the fire alarm and fire extinguishers and that the Clerk be authorised to sign the application based upon the above amounts for insurance, electricity and gas testing and an amount for the inspection/maintenance of the fire alarm and fire extinguishers not exceeding £80 and submit the application to the City Council. Motion carried (Cllr. Green did not take part).

5) The Clerk produced a Change of Signing Authority from Natwest which was required to be completed in order to update the authorised signatories on all the Town Council's accounts so that the only authorised signatories were the current Councillors. Councillor Heren proposed and Cllr. Hardcastle seconded a motion that the authorised signatories in the current mandate to Natwest for all the Town Council's bank accounts be changed so that the only authorised signatories were the current Councillors and the mandate signed accordingly. Motion carried.

064/11 Clerk's Report & Correspondence

The Clerk reported on the following matters:

- the tree adjacent to the sub station at the end of Brooklands Close: he understood from Cllr. Russo that UK Power were due to inspect it in mid August with a view to seeing if they would undertake the pruning of it.
- KALC Finance course on 6 October: it was agreed that the Clerk should attend the same.
- the renovation of the notice board by the Town Hall: Cllr. Russo had received an estimate of £150 for this work but although the estimate obtained by Cllr. Heren was slightly higher (£180) Councillors felt that as the estimate obtained by Cllr. Heren was from someone with a very good reputation it would be prudent to proceed with the quotation obtained by Cllr. Heren.
- Community Payback: the Clerk was waiting to hear from the City Council as to whether works to the slipway and the area near to the telephone box opposite the George & Dragon could be tidied up as part of the Community Payback scheme
- planning information: enquiries of the City Council in relation to the planning history of a site would have to be routed through the local land charges department of the City Council to ensure that all planning history was obtained but this would be at a cost which was currently £14.50
- minerals and waste development framework: there were currently no sites proposed which were in or abutting Fordwich. However, new proposed sites could be added but they would be subject to consultation.
- Kent Village of the Year competition: it was decided not to enter the competition this year but to consider entering in 2012

065/11 Planning

- 1) There were no planning or other applications to consider.
- 2) The Clerk reported that he had not heard further from the enforcement team at the City Council in relation to Sandpit Wood, Well Lane.

066/11 Highways and Footpaths

Cllr. Heren proposed and Cllr. Russo seconded a motion that the plans and drawings presented to the meeting by County Cllr. Alan Marsh showing new

signage in relation to the width restriction on Fordwich bridge be approved. Motion carried; Cllr. Hardcastle abstained from voting. It was noted that City Cllr. Heather Taylor had agreed to pursue the reinstatement of the yellow lines in Stodmarsh Road near to Christchurch sports ground.

067/11 Standards Regime

The Clerk reported on the abolition of the current standards regime and it was decided to await developments in relation to the various proposals which had been put forward for consideration.

068/11 Town Plan & Design Statement

This matter was deferred for consideration at a future meeting

069/11 Newsletter

This matter was deferred for consideration at a future meeting

070/11 Civic Service & Ceremonial

This matter was deferred for consideration at a future meeting

071/11 Diamond Jubilee

This matter was deferred for consideration at a future meeting

072/11 City Council Draft Corporate plan 2011-2016

This matter was deferred for consideration at a future meeting

073/11 Notice Boards and History Board

This matter was deferred for consideration at a future meeting

074/11 Badges & Chains

This matter was deferred for consideration at a future meeting

075/11 Website

This matter was deferred for consideration at a future meeting

076/11 Community Liaison & Community Matters

This matter was deferred for consideration at a future meeting

077/11 Christchurch

This matter was deferred for consideration at a future meeting

078/11 Twinning

This matter was deferred for consideration at a future meeting

079/11 The Old School Room

This matter was deferred for consideration at a future meeting

080/11 Date of forthcoming meeting

It was agreed that the next ordinary Town Council meeting would be held on Wednesday 28 September in the Town Hall commencing at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.55 pm