

FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on 19th April 2023.

Present: Councillors Adrian McCarthy (chair), Roger Green, Sue Thompson, Philip Lewis, Geoff Connolly. In attendance: Guy Foster (clerk) and one member of the public.

55/23 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Louise Harvey-Quirke and Georgina Glover of CCC and Alan Marsh of KCC.

56/23 Minutes of the last meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on March 29th were unanimously approved as tabled and signed by the chairman.

57/23 Matters arising

None.

58/23. Declarations of interests

- 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 custodian of Fordwich church

59/23 To receive reports from representatives of KCC and CCC

None was present.

The meeting was adjourned for comments and questions from members of the public. The following matters were raised:

- Pot-holes: some work had been done in Stodmarsh Rd but it wasn't good enough. It was agreed that everyone should report these on-line (again) to Kent Highways.
- A large amount of "muck" had been deposited in the field at the top of Moat Lane. There was concern about the effects of run-off and the clerk was asked to write to the Environment Agency.
- Old Park and Chequers Wood SSSI "common position": FTC has deferred this but should it not reach a decision now? The chairman suggested we take this agenda item now.

63/23 To consider the “common position” in respect of the Old Park and Chequers Wood SSSI

The chairman suggested that FTC defer its decision on this. The composition of the council post-elections will be quite different and FTC should not adversely compromise the options over the bypass route.

60/23 Planning

Applications CA/23/00524 and CA/23/00649: no objections.

George and Dragon licensing variation application: there was concern that this variation would allow drinking in an area of the garden that was out of sight. The clerk was asked to write to the licensing authority about this.

There was also concern about the state of the building and that of the “boat house” and the clerk was asked to write to the owners and to CCC Planning about this.

CCC Local Plan: clearly this issue is becalmed pending the elections.

61/23 To receive a report on Neighbourhood Plan progress

Cllr Thompson reported good progress this week. The current draft was going to the CCC consultants for comment and it was hoped to report back to FTC and residents in due course.

The meeting offered its sincere thanks to Cllr Thompson for her hard work on this project.

62/23 To consider the celebration of the King’s Coronation

The chairman had suggested a format for this and said that arrangements were in place for entertainment, commemorative bookmarks, bunting and an artwork prize. Tombola prizes were to be purchased. The estimated cost of all this was c. £500 and this was unanimously approved.

(Cllr Connolly left the meeting at this point).

64/23 To consider a resolution to abolish any limit on numbers or other restrictions in respect of the creation of Freemen of Fordwich

After discussion it was unanimously resolved to abolish any limitations as to the numbers of Freemen of Fordwich that can be created by FTC.

65/23 To receive the Chairman's and Councillors' Reports

Cllr Green noted that the Friends of Fordwich coronation event would be on May 6th.

Cllr Thompson reported on work on the Heritage Trail which will be trialled at the Coronation weekend. The trail has been marked and will be publicised. She thought it might be a good idea to remove part of the hedge by the notice board on Fordwich Road so as to improve access.

Cllr McCarthy has emailed Bretts and the police about speeding traffic going to the Bretts site but has had no response. He referred to the CCC "call for sites" for tree planting. All thought this was something we should pursue.

At the next meeting we should consider the issues of notice boards by the river and the planting of fruit trees.

The chairman offered his warmest thanks to the retiring FTC members, namely Cllrs Thompson, Lewis and Connolly, for all their hard work and support

66/23 Finance

The clerk reported that the cash book balance at 31st March was £12,162.87. This has been reconciled to the bank balance of £12,800.87.

It was unanimously resolved to renew the subscription to KALC.

The following payments were unanimously approved:

1. Guy Foster – April pay and expenses	£408.69
2. N.D.Ogilvie – internal audit	£140.00
3. Groundwork UK – Unspent neighbourhood plan grant	£2,505.00
4. KALC sub	£236.76
5. Loxley Group – printing	£25.00
6. Val Clark – FTN postage	£48.96
7. Dean and Chapter – archive storage	£30.00

Annual return: the clerk reported that this has been completed and has been internally audited. The figures are per those reported last month. This will be on next month's agenda.

It was unanimously resolved to declare as an exempt authority within the definition contained in the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015.

67/23 To receive the clerk's report and correspondence

Following the previous meeting, the clerk has written again to the CDAA but has had no response.

The clerk has written to CCC about the numbers of mobile homes at Romany Green Acres. He has received the standard acknowledgement.

68/23 Highways and footpaths

The issue of cars parking on the pavement in Fordwich Road was raised and the clerk was asked to write to CCC asking for this to be banned.

69/22 Date of next meeting

This was confirmed as **Wednesday May 24th at 7 pm** which is a change from the scheduled date and time.

Guy Foster

Clerk to Fordwich Town Council

April 24th 2023.

Signed as a true record _____ Date: _____

Position _____