

# **FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022.**

Present: Councillors Adrian McCarthy (chair), Roger Green, Geoff Connolly, Philip Green. In attendance: Guy Foster (clerk), Alan Marsh (KCC), Georgina Glover (CCC), Louise Harvey-Quirke (CCC) and two members of the public.

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### **41/22 Apologies**

Cllr Thompson had sent apologies.

### **42/22 Minutes of the previous meeting**

It was unanimously resolved to accept the minutes of the March meeting as tabled.

### **43/22 Matters arising**

None.

### **44/22 Declarations of interests**

Members declared interests as follows:

- 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

### **45/22 To receive reports from representatives of CCC and KCC**

Georgina Glover (CCC) spoke of the decision to mothball the Sturry Road park and ride for two years. She also mentioned the new senior management arrangements for CCC.

Louise Harvey-Quirke (CCC) referred to the new yellow lines in Fordwich Road which may need some changes. She also noted that some residents would be receiving a council tax rebate, thanks to the central government decision. There have been a number of inspections of homes put forward to house Ukrainian refugees. There is to be a mental health exhibition at the Beaney.

Alan Marsh (KCC) spoke of the cancellation of the No. 7 bus route. He suggested that FTC write to the relevant officers and members at KCC to see if they could help, specifically by using central government funding recently announced for improving bus services. He also referred to the KCC decision to retain the need to book visits to waste centres. This is contrary to government policy and he suggested we write to Susan Cary at KCC to seek an explanation.

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The meeting was adjourned for questions and comments from members of the public. No points were raised:

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#### **46/22 To receive a report from the neighbourhood plan steering group**

Cllr Thompson had circulated a written report which was noted. The balance of unused grant to be repaid had been agreed by the clerk as £305.11 and it was unanimously resolved to repay this. It is expected to be replaced by 2022/23 grant.

#### **47/22 Planning**

Application CA/22/00674: no objections.

#### **48/22 To consider arrangements to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

Cllr Lewis has prepared a programme to be distributed to all residents with the newsletter. He proposes a town clean-up on May 28<sup>th</sup>. More help is still needed to run stalls and to set things up on the site prior to the event. He proposed, and all agreed, that the nominated charities for the day should be the Pilgrim's Hospice and Ukraine.

There was discussion on a budget for the day which was unanimously agreed to be set at £1,000. Cllr Lewis to send details of proposed expenditure to the clerk to aid in the completion of the KCC grant application.

#### **49/22 To consider involvement in Speedwatch.**

After discussion it was resolved to do nothing further at this juncture. Cllr Green commented that it might be more useful to crack down on oversize vehicles rather than speeding.

#### **50/22 To consider arrangements for the civic service.**

The clerk will circulate last year's guest list for comment and amendment. He will also write a "save the date" note to the key dignitaries. The service will be on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **51/22 To receive the Chairman's and Councillors' Reports**

Cllr Connolly had circulated aerial pictures of the Moate Farm and Romany Green Acres sites. Cllr Lewis reminded the meeting of the some of the planning conditions attached to Romany Green Acres.

Cllr Lewis said he has two plant troughs that could be placed in suitable locations; it would be very helpful if volunteers could be identified to look after these. He also reported on further instances of motor cycles on the fields. He suggested we write to Alan Marsh to seek KCC help in improving the slipway into the river opposite the George and Dragon.

Cllr Green said there will be a "Help for Ukraine" meeting in the Old School Room on May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. There is an issue with fallen trees by the Old School Room. This is in hand; he will put a note in the newsletter. The Town Hall lift is now working.

Cllr McCarthy noted the recent news about changes to Cycle Route 1 (AKA "Fordwich Way"). It was felt these changes would make it too easy for motor cycles to use it. He will draft a note to Sustrans ([tony.spearpoint@sustrans.org](mailto:tony.spearpoint@sustrans.org)) about this.

He has met with Sturry and Westbere PCs to look at the problem of footpaths on the Brett's site where Brett's appear to be attempting to block the use of paths which have become established over the years. The chair of Sturry PC is dealing with this.

Moate Farm appeal: it appears it may cost around £10k to obtain the "expert" reports that might be needed. This is unaffordable for FTC; could FUC contribute? It was felt that the terms of their trust deed may make this impossible but Cllrs Green and Connolly will look at this.

## **52/22 Finance**

The clerk reported that the cash book balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March was £9,975.72. This has been reconciled to the bank statement figure of £12,436.52.

Insurance renewal: the clerk had circulated details and it was unanimously resolved to accept the Gallagher quote.

KALC subscription: it was unanimously resolved to renew our membership.

Accordingly, the following payments were unanimously approved:

1. Guy Foster – April salary and expenses, net	£383.09
2. Loxley Group Ltd (printing)	£30.00
3. Catherine Molin (web-site hosting reimbursement)	£19.32
4. Groundwork UK R/C 291558 (NP grant underspend)	£305.11
5. KALC sub	£232.44
6. Dean and Chapter (archive storage)	£30.00
7. Arthur J Gallagher Insurance	£383.03

Annual return 2021/22: it was unanimously resolved to declare as an exempt authority within the definition contained in the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015. The clerk reported that the financial outturn for 2021/22 was almost exactly break-even. The Annual Return is now with the internal auditor and is due for review at the May meeting.

Covid grant: the clerk has had to respond to a KCC monitoring request which at the moment shows a large underspend against this grant. The clerk will try and find out

if we still have time to spend this money. It was suggested that a gazebo/marquee might be a suitable purchase. The clerk will enquire.

**53/22 To receive the clerk's report and correspondence**

The clerk referred the meeting to an email =from the chair of FUC about a town hall tidy-up. All other issues in the clerk's report had been dealt with elsewhere in the meeting.

**54/22 Highways and footpaths**

There was no further discussion.

**55/22 Date of next meeting**

This was confirmed as Wednesday May 25<sup>h</sup> 2022 at c. 7.35 pm in the town hall. It will follow immediately the annual FTC meeting which will be at 7.30 pm.

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**Guy Foster**

*Clerk to Fordwich Town Council*

May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022.

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

Position \_\_\_\_\_