

FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 2023.

Present: Councillors Adrian McCarthy (chair), Roger Green, Sue Thompson, Philip Lewis. In attendance: Guy Foster (clerk), Georgina Glover (CCC: part) and two members of the public.

12/23. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Connolly and Louise Harvey-Quirke of CCC. Georgina Glover of CCC had apologised for her expected late arrival.

13/23 Minutes of the last meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on January 9th were unanimously approved as tabled and signed by the chairman.

14/23 Matters arising

None.

15/23. 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

16/23 To receive reports from representatives of KCC and CCC

None was present. Both CCC members had sent written reports which were noted.

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

The lack of police: this is a constant frustration. We have yet another new PCSO and we will make some attempts to get them to attend an FTC meeting.

Can we hear what was in the CCC members' reports. The chairman read these. Notable items included a request for more lidded waste bins and the approval of a grant for an FTC shed.

17/23 Planning

CA/23/0008 (cycle path): this was supported by the meeting but there were concerns regarding motorcycle access, a lack of waste bins on the route and safety issues when the river floods. The clerk was asked to lodge these concerns with CCC.

The grant of CA/22/02510 (Eastfields) was noted.

18/23 Local Plan: to consider the Council's response to the draft CCC Local Plan to 2045. And to consider **paying for excavation** in connection with archaeological surveys.

After discussion it was unanimously resolved to approve the documents prepared by FTC members in conjunction with a residents' group. Thanks were offered all those involved and to Mr Greg Jones in particular for his expert help.

It was unanimously resolved to approve a quote of £700 (plus VAT) for a digger to aid archaeological surveying.

19/23 To consider matters relating to the **civic service**.

It was agreed to invite Rev Gillean Craig to lead the service. The clerk was asked to contact him and suggest 24th September or 1st October as suitable dates.

20/23 To receive the Chairman's and Councillors' Reports

Cllr Green has a team ready to help with the archaeological survey. Speaking for FUC, he said roof maintenance was underway at the town hall; FUC is happy to display a portrait of the king in the town hall, in a location of their choosing; a date for the unveiling of the new curtains in the town hall was not yet fixed.

Cllr Thompson said the neighbourhood plan team were aiming to circulate a current draft by the end of the month.

Cllr Lewis reported:

- Yet more mobile homes had been delivered to Romany Green Acres, causing damage in the process. A new fence had been erected and trees removed; there was much fly-tipping but generally on private land and therefore beyond the remit of the local authorities.
- The town's streets had been swept at last. Inevitably, some bits had been missed.
- The Film Night was starting again in the Old School Room.
- The Twinning Association was hosting a quiz night on March 4th in Broad Oak village hall.
- Defibrillator: perhaps we should have one. The clerk was asked to look into what grants may be available.

- Should we have lifebelts by the river? The clerk was asked to look into who is responsible for this and Cllr Lewis would contact the Assistant Harbour Master.

Cllr McCarthy said that the Brightlingsea Blessing of the Water ceremony was on June 4th. He is looking for someone to attend rather than him.

21/23 Finance

The clerk reported that the cash book balance at 1st February was £14,055.74. This had been reconciled to the bank figure of £14,070.74.

The clerk has successfully submitted a VAT reclaim which has boosted funds by £951.97.

The following payment was unanimously approved:

- | | |
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| 1. Guy Foster – January pay and expenses | £408.69 |
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22/23 To receive the clerk’s report and correspondence

The clerk has written to CDAA about the state of the Drove but no significant reply has yet been received.

We have applied for a grant towards the cost of a shed and a decision on this should be taken at the next meeting.

All other matters in the clerk’s report had been dealt with already.

23/23 Highways and footpaths

The “Fordwich Trail” footpath will be on the next agenda.

24/22 Date of next meeting

This was confirmed as Wednesday February 22nd in the town hall at 7.30 pm.

Guy Foster

Clerk to Fordwich Town Council
February 13th 2023.

Signed as a true record _____ Date: _____

Position _____