

FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 2022.

Present: Councillors Adrian McCarthy (chair), Philip Lewis, Roger Green, Sue Thompson, Geoff Connolly. In attendance: Peta Boucher (presenting), Guy Foster (clerk), Georgina Glover (CCC), Louise Harvey-Quirke (CCC), Alan Marsh (KCC) and three member of the public.

The meeting commenced with a presentation by Peta Boucher as a representative of the CPRE and the Old Park and Chequer's Wood committee. She was promoting the campaign to protect this area from development particularly, but not exclusively, in light of the possible routing of a Canterbury eastern bypass. She drew attention to the Facebook page of the Friends of Old Park and Chequer's Wood. She was thanked for her interesting talk and the meeting was supportive of this campaign.

1/22 Apologies

None.

2/22 Minutes of the previous meeting

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

3/22 Matters arising

Cllr Lewis reported on the very poor state of the gulley and surface of Well Lane. The blocked drainage is a risk to flooding in the Town. He has reported this to KCC but there's been no action to date.

He also reported that the church authorities are still to take action to deal with the trees in the churchyard.

The matter of the listed wall in the High St was raised. This has previously been reported to CCC but the clerk was asked to report it again and also contact the owner.

Cllr Lewis noted that the new location of the Christmas tree had not met with universal approval.

4/22 Declarations of interests

Members declared interests as follows:

- Cllr Lewis declared his position as a custodian of Fordwich church
- Cllr Green declared his role with Friends of Fordwich and District and also

declared his position as a trustee of Fordwich United Charities.

5/22 To receive reports from representatives of CCC and KCC

Georgina Glover (CCC) noted that the CCC Residents' Survey was open.

Louise Harvey-Quirke (CCC) reported that the annual parking review was now live. Waste collection dates are now back to normal. Omicron grants are available for the hospitality sector. She is looking for a site for a "reflection bench" and would welcome suggestions.

Alan Marsh (KCC) thought that the cost of an eastern bypass for Canterbury would be prohibitive. He noted that unfortunately the waste site booking system was still in force. He is concerned for residents' welfare given current circumstances and would be receptive to any particular problems.

The meeting was adjourned to take representations from members of the public.

The only subject raised was that of pot-holes in Spring Lane. This sort of problem can of course be reported on-line to KCC.

6/22 To receive a report from the neighbourhood plan steering group

Cllr Thompson reported that there had been a very good response to the residents' survey and the draft results have been circulated to FTC members. An "open surgery" was planned for February, probably the 14th in the Old School building. The NP team's "vision and objectives" will be written up soon and presented to FTC.

7/22 Planning

Application CA/21/02482 (The Old Woodyard): Cllr McCarthy will speak at the planning committee in support of this.

Application CA/21/02512 (Padma): the "was lawful" decision was noted.

It was noted that the number of mobile homes at Romany Green Acres is far in excess of planning permission. This has been reported but the clerk was asked to report it again.

8/22 To consider arrangements to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

It was agreed that all local organisations should work together on this. Cllr McCarthy will try and arrange this.

The Friends of Fordwich have already arranged an event on February 6th at the Old School to mark the anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne.

9/22 To consider items for a Highways Improvement Plan

The clerk outlined the purpose of an HIP. It can be useful but without funding for agreed works, its use can be limited. Cllr Connolly spoke of some local residents who wanted a professional traffic survey to be undertaken. The clerk was asked to write to Alan Marsh to see how KCC might help. It was also suggested that the Friends of Fordwich could undertake a “crowd funding” campaign to finance it. But this also might fall within the remit and funding of the Neighbourhood Plan exercise.

10/23 To receive the Chairman’s and Councillors’ Reports

Cllr Thompson reported that she had met with Sturry and Westbere PCs, Bretts and Canoe Wild. Bretts were reluctant to say much about the future of their site. Another meeting will be arranged.

Cllr Green asked how we might fund our representation at the Moate Farm planning appeal as we would need a barrister. Enquiries will need to be made by those with contacts.

Cllr Connolly said he had been helping the NP team with data analysis.

Cllr Lewis said the civic service will be on October 2nd. The preacher will be Nigel Genders who is the Church of England’s chief education officer.

Cllr McCarthy is chasing up the river signs and mayoral chains. He thanked all those who helped with the Christmas tree.

He suggested we write to Cannenco and Bretts about the lorries accessing the Bretts site.

He reported that the chair of FUC had lodged a complaint against him which had been thrown out by CCC but he felt that FTC and FUC needed to work more closely together and perhaps a protocol for appointing FUC trustees should be agreed. It would also be helpful if FTC could receive some feedback from FUC deliberations. Cllr Green said the FUC minutes could be made available to FTC.

Cllr McCarthy raised the subject of a pontoon which he felt was needed to prevent further damage to the riverbank. The problem was one of cost and of precise location. This was discussed but there was no clear consensus and further consideration is needed.

11/22 Finance

The clerk reported that the cash book balance at 30th December was £14,923.36. This has been reconciled to the bank statement figure of £15,073.36.

The following payments were unanimously approved:

1. Guy Foster – January salary and expenses, net	£377.01
2. HMRC (PAYE Oct-Dec)	£254.20
3. Friends of Fordwich and District (NP hall hire)	£203.00
4. Canterbury Web-site design (NP)	£228.00
5. Philip Lewis (Christmas tree)	£180.00
6. A.C. Molin (domain fee up to 27/3/2022)	£38.64
7. Loxley Group Ltd (printing – two months)	£45.00

Ms Molin has advised that she can shed no light on the invoice received from emagine create Ltd some time. The clerk will need to contact emagine.

12/22 To receive the clerk’s report and correspondence

The clerk reported that he had contacted various people at the Environment Agency about dredging the river but had had no meaningful response. Cllr McCarthy thought he had an alternative contact which he would pass on.

All other issues in the clerk’s report had been dealt with elsewhere in the meeting.

13/22 Highways and footpaths

No further discussion.

14/22 Date of next meeting

This was confirmed as Wednesday February 23rd 2022 at 7.30 pm in the town hall.

Guy Foster

Clerk to Fordwich Town Council

January 31st 2022.

Signed as a true record _____ Date: _____

Position _____