

FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2023.

Present: Councillors Adrian McCarthy (chair), Roger Green, Sue Thompson, Philip Lewis, Geoff Connolly. In attendance: Guy Foster (clerk), Louise Harvey-Quirke (CCC) and two members of the public.

1/23. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Alan Marsh of KCC and Georgina Glover of CCC. Louise Harvey-Quirke of CCC had said she would be a little late arriving.

2/23 Minutes of the last meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on December 7th were unanimously approved as tabled and signed by the chairman.

3/23 Matters arising

None.

4/23. 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. He also declared an interest in respect of planning application CA/22/02510.
- Cllr Lewis declared his position as a custodian of Fordwich church

5/23 To receive reports from representatives of KCC and CCC

Louise Harvey-Quirke had circulated a report which dealt, inter alia, with the state of the Drove, Christmas tree and bin collections, the possible new reservoir at Broad Oak and the CCC Local Plan.

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

What was FTC's view on the proposed traffic "zoning" in the CCC Local Plan draft? FTC had not discussed this so did not have a formal view, but it was clear that the meeting was generally opposed to this proposal.

The conversion of the Middle of the Road pub into a restaurant was likely to cause major parking problems. This is primarily a matter for Sturry PC who no doubt will have given the matter serious consideration for some time.

6/23 Planning

Application CA//22/02510 (Eastfields: having declared an interest, Cllr Green retired from the meeting for this item.) After discussion it was resolved by the remaining four members to object on the grounds that the proposal was out of keeping with the conservation area; its size was too dominant; it involved building in front of the established building line.

The approval of application CA/22/02421 (Byway House) and applications CA/22/02132 and 2133 (both Old Rectory) was noted.

Canterbury Local Plan: a meeting with CCC was set for two days hence and this was discussed. The key issue was the route of the “eastern bypass” but a number of other issues suitable for discussion were identified, including the world heritage site, archaeology, flooding and internal inconsistencies in the plan. Cllr Green had mapped out an alternative bypass route which all agreed would be far preferable to the one in the current Local Plan draft.

7/23 To receive the Chairman’s and Councillors’ Reports

Cllr Thompson noted the local plan workshops for residents taking place in the coming days. She also noted that all residents now have until February 18th to submit responses to CCC.

Cllr Green suggested we go door-to-door to offer help to those wishing to respond to the Local Plan but unable to do so on-line. He also said there was due to be a significant archaeological dig by Stodmarsh Road soon which would almost certainly produce some interesting finds relevant to the proposed bypass route.

Cllr Connolly reported he had attended the CCC briefing on the Local Plan in the Guildhall. He had also circulated some recent aerial pictures of the traveller sites.

Cllr Lewis noted the desire by some residents to improve the surface of the Drove. It was suggested the clerk write to CDAA to ask for their help.

He has reported the problem of rubbish in Well Lane but CCC and KCC appeared to be passing the buck on this issue.

He feels we must generate support to oppose the closure of Sturry post office.

The Christmas tree is down and the decorations have been stored in the church.

Cllr McCarthy spoke about the hire of a digger to help with archaeological excavations. The meeting was minded to pay for this so Cllr McCarthy will ensure it is on the next agenda.

8/23 Finance

The clerk reported that the cash book balance at 31st December was £13,453.17. This had been reconciled to the bank figure of £13,528.17.

The following payment was unanimously approved:

- 1. HMRC – PAYE Oct - Dec £316.40

9/23 To receive the clerk’s report and correspondence

The clerk noted that because of the elections in May, we would need to bring forward the date of the May meeting(s) and he suggested Wednesday 24th.

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

10/23 Highways and footpaths

Cllr McCarthy has reported various pot-holes. It was noted that Stodmarsh Rd in particular was in a very bad state of repair.

11/22 Date of next meeting

This was confirmed as Monday January 25th in the town hall at 7.30 pm.

Guy Foster

Clerk to Fordwich Town Council

January 11th 2023.

Signed as a true record _____ Date: _____

Position _____