

# **FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023.**

Present: Councillors Adrian McCarthy (chair), Roger Green, Barnaby Riggs, Richard Miller, Rosali Pretorius. In attendance: Guy Foster (clerk), Alan Marsh (KCC- part) and four members of the public.

\*\*\*\*\*

The meeting was preceded by a presentation by Sian Pettman and Pat Edwards from the Friends of Old Park and Chequers Wood. The discussions covered their desire to protect the eponymous area (e.g. by purchasing the land and/or by extending the boundary of the relevant SSSI) and the CCC Local Plan in general, Mrs Edwards now being chair of the CCC planning committee. She noted that CCC had set up a working group, of which she is chair, to progress the Local Plan.

The above discussions being somewhat protracted, Mr Marsh had to leave before the meeting proper commenced.

### **96/23 Apologies**

Harry McKenzie and Keji Moses (CCC) had sent apologies.

### **97/23 Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on June 28<sup>th</sup> were unanimously approved as tabled and signed by the chairman.

### **98/23 Matters arising**

Cllr McCarthy reported that work on the Drove was due to take place on July 29<sup>th</sup>. Cllr Pretorius noted reports from residents of speeding vehicles on Brett's land and Cllr McCarthy noted the continuing correspondence with CCC/Canenco on this issue.

### **99/23 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.

### **100/23 To receive reports from representatives of KCC and CCC**

Alan Marsh having departed, no representatives were present.

\*\*\*\*\*

The meeting was adjourned for comments and questions from members of the public:

There was a query about the circumstances where planning permission for change of use of land would be needed.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **101/23 Planning**

The grant of application CA//23/00724 (Timbers) was noted:

### **102/23 To consider the neighbourhood plan**

Cllr Miller reported that the CCC consultant has visited and wants to have a look at the current draft of the plan. He also reported that government funding for 2023/24 has now been confirmed.

It was noted and unanimously approved that Cllr Miller will be taking over as chair of the NP advisory group, Sue Thompson having stepped down and that Cllr Riggs will join the group, Mrs Connolly having left.

### **103/23 To consider the FTC view on Old Park and Chequers Wood**

Following the earlier presentation, the meeting was happy with the approach being taken by the "Friends" group. Cllr McCarthy will write to them with a view to a further meeting.

### **104/23 To consider issues connected to the web-site**

The clerk had reported that the FTC domain name was registered to Catherine Molin and it was unanimously resolved to ask her to transfer it to FTC and that FTC will bear the cost which appears to be only £10 plus VAT.

Cllr Miller said he would very much benefit for some training in Wordpress to help him to make changes to the web-site. The clerk will make enquiries and will also see if he (or our new support firm) can move the link to the Local Plan response to a more suitable place on the site home page.

The clerk reported that he had asked our support contractor to add a search function to the web-site and members might wish to have a look at this.

### **105/23 To consider the civic service**

It was agreed the start time would be 3 pm and that the post-service teas would be served at Watergate House.

### **106/23 To receive the Chairman and Councillors' reports**

Cllr Pretorius asked about progress on revisions to speed limits. Cllr McCarthy referred to the email on the subject from KCC which was not especially encouraging.

Cllr Riggs suggested that the owners of the Old Woodyard might be happy to make a contribution to speed limit change costs, given their development plans. He said he would look into getting better litter bins and suggested the George and Dragon might contribute to one outside their premises.

Cllr Miller spoke about the piece of vacant land on the High St. He has spoken to Fordwich Friendly Garden Society about creating a design for a community space and awaits their views. Cllr McCarthy will write to the site's owner(s).

Cllr McCarthy referred to his earlier comments about the Drove and to the email he had sent to KCC/CCC members about the leaning tree in the High St. He has also emailed KCC about the state of Well Lane and Romany Green Acres and the opportunity for them to investigate, given the proposed road works.

### **107/23 Finance**

The clerk reported that the cash book balance at 30<sup>th</sup> June was £16,675.32. This has been reconciled to the bank balance of £17,325.32. The figures are boosted by the receipt of the 2023/24 precept of £10,260. The bank statement was signed by the chairman.

The following Items for payment were unanimously approved:

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| 1. Guy Foster – July pay and expenses                | £417.36 |
| 2. Guy Foster – August pay and expenses (post-dated) | £417.36 |
| 3. Loxley Group – printing                           | £25.00  |

The cheque for £275 to Andrew Bird Jewellery as part payment for the Freeman's medallion, previously approved by email, was confirmed.

The clerk reported that he had investigated on-line banking arrangements. In order for FTC to maintain its two signatories arrangement, we would need to sign up to NatWest's "Bankline" service at a cost of £20 a month. After discussion it was unanimously resolved not to proceed with this for the time being.

### **108/23 To receive the clerk's report and correspondence.**

There is no further word from CCC in respect of Romany Green Acres.

The clerk noted the email from KCC re Highways Improvement Plans and said he would make contact with them on this matter.

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

**109/23 Highways and footpaths**

The meeting felt we should pursue the idea of using ANPR cameras to control traffic flows through the town.

**110/23 Date of next meeting**

This was confirmed as **Wednesday September 27<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Guy Foster**

*Clerk to Fordwich Town Council*

August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2023.

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

Position \_\_\_\_\_