

FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 28th July 2021.

Present: Councillors Adrian McCarthy (chair), Philip Lewis, Roger Green, Sue Thompson, Geoff Connolly. In attendance: Guy Foster (clerk), Alan Marsh (KCC), Georgina Glover (CCC) and four members of the public.

92/21 Apologies

Louise Harvey-Quirke (CCC) had sent apologies.

93/21 Minutes of the previous meeting

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

94/21 Matters arising

Cllr Thompson noted that monitoring of power supply interruptions will continue.

95/21 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.

The meeting was adjourned to take representations from members of the public. The following matter was raised:

There had been some confusion about the arrangements for the “town picnic”. The chairman apologised but explained that this was largely because it was privately hosted.

96/21 To receive reports from KCC and CCC representatives.

Alan Marsh (KCC) reported that he has resigned from the Joint Transportation Board. He also spoke about the Sturry Relief Road which will be once again on the KCC planning agenda soon.

Georgina Glover (CCC) acknowledged recent waste collection problems. These are being addressed by CCC. She also noted that the parking enforcement function is to be strengthened and there is some reorganisation taking place within CCC at present.

97/21 To receive a report from the neighbourhood plan steering group

The expression of interest for a grant has been submitted.

It was unanimously resolved to accept the grant application details as tabled by Cllr Thompson and to delegate spending authority to the steering group up to the budget levels included therein. Monthly finance reports would be required as part of the steering group reporting routine.

98/21 Parking issues

The chairman reported that he would circulate Brooklands Close residents on the topic of parking permits. He has approached Bretts about use of land as a car park and they have asked for a proposal.

It was proposed that Cllrs McCarthy, Connolly and Lewis form a group to work on parking issues.

99/21 Planning

Application CA/21/01607 (Eastfields): it was unanimously resolved to object to this application on the grounds of it being inappropriately large for the setting.

Application CA/21/01636 (11 Brooklands Close): no objections.

It was noted that CCC have issued an enforcement notice to Moate Farm. This follows the appeal by the site's owners which is pending. Friends of Fordwich have applied for "Rule 6" status for this appeal and may incur legal costs. The matter of a contribution to these costs by FTC will be on the next agenda.

CCC have still not replied to our Freedom of Information request. It is unclear how this can be enforced. Cllr Connolly is to look into referring CCC to the local government ombudsman in a private capacity. The clerk was asked to write again to CCC including the statement that: 'FTC is aware that a Fordwich towns person is on the point of referring CCC to the Local Government Ombudsman for CCC's breach of this obligation, and he intends to do this if a full response to the FoI request is not received by 31st August.'

100/21 To receive the Chairman's and Councillors' Reports

Cllr Thompson reported on George and Dragon delivery lorries crossing over the bridge which they should not do. We should speak to the pub manager but it is acknowledged that this is not a new problem and resolution is tricky.

Cllr Thompson will look into the CCC Local Plan consultation process to see if it is feasible for FTC to submit its views.

Cllr Connolly noted that there were even more than the reported 57 caravans at Moate Farm. He also reported on a perceived drop in water pressure and said this is to be tested.

Cllr Lewis reported on the recent 4 adult river baptisms of Romany Green Acres residents. Cllr Lewis has been approached to help organise a covid vaccine facility at the site.

Cllr McCarthy reported on the waste bin request to CCC. Response awaited. He noted that the proposed new PSPO was out for consultation. Cllr McCarthy will be representing FTC at events in Sandwich and Brightlingsea in the near future.

101/21 Finance

The clerk reported that the cash book balance at 30th June was £16,521.16. This has been reconciled to the bank statement figure of £17,401.87.

The following payments were unanimously approved:

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 1. Guy Foster – July salary and expenses, net | £377.01 |
| 2. Ditto for August – post dated | £376.81 |
| 3. The Loxley Group –printing | £50.00 |

The invoice received from emagine create Ltd some time ago remained unapproved pending advice as to its validity.

Fordwich Town News printing costs: it was unanimously resolved to delegate authority to Cllr Thompson to commit to a maximum of £50 per month with the expectation that costs will normally be £25 per month.

Civic service: it was unanimously resolved to approve the costs for this which should be in the order of £400 plus a further £250 for gazebos.

Mayoral chains of office: Cllr McCarthy reported that updating the engraving of names will cost £560. This was unanimously approved but it was suggested that this costs might be partially mitigated by asking individual former mayors to contribute.

102/21 To receive the clerk's report and correspondence

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

103/21 Highways and footpaths

It was noted that a good deal of cutting back of undergrowth was needed. Cllr McCarthy is to undertake some this. One footpath is particularly bad and Cllr McCarthy will report this (again) to KCC.

104/21 Date of next meeting

This was confirmed as Wednesday September 29th at 7.30 pm in **the town hall**.

Guy Foster

Clerk to Fordwich Town Council

August 2nd 2021.

Signed as a true record _____ Date: _____

Position _____