

FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 30th June 2021.

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

79/21 Apologies

Alan Marsh (KCC) and Louise Harvey-Quirke and Georgina Glover (both CCC) had sent apologies.

80/21 Minutes of the previous meeting

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

81/21 Matters arising

Cllr Lewis has obtained quotes for gazebos for the civic service. The cost is around £200 for a 3m x 6m size. This will be on the next agenda.

Cllr Green reported that dealing with the overhanging tree will be left until the autumn.

Cllr Thompson will chase UK Power Networks for clearer news on the Stodmarsh Road power cuts.

82/21 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.

83/21 To receive reports from KCC and CCC representatives.

No representatives from KCC or CCC were present.

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

1. Could changes to meeting times be better communicated?
2. What action is being taken about parking issues? Cllr McCarthy said he has spoken to Canoe Wild. They are getting more parking spaces on Bretts' land

which should help. He is asking Bretts if land could be made available for a town car park. The allotments land cannot be used for this as all plots are taken. FTC continues to pursue the objective of designated residents' parking spaces. Cllr Lewis noted that the key issue when considering parking matters is that of enforcement.

84/21 To receive a report from the neighbourhood plan steering group

The grant application is nearly ready. The first public engagement is likely in the autumn with a draft questionnaire being tabled for FTC consideration before that.

85/21 Parking issues

This had been fully dealt with during "public time".

86/21 Planning

Application CA/21/01454 (Byway House): there was some confusion as to which elements of this were retrospective and which were new but, save for some concerns about a particular tree, there were no objections.

Sturry relief road: after discussion it was resolved to object to this on the same grounds as the previous planning application for this road.

Denton Homes proposal: it was resolved to write to Denton Homes saying we could not support their proposal as firstly, they had not replied to our queries and secondly, being in the middle of a neighbourhood plan process, we could not do anything which might prejudice the outcome of this.

Moate Farm appeal: it was resolved to object on the same grounds as our objection to the original application. Cllr Green said that the Friends of Fordwich would seek to be granted the status as a party to the appeal.

The "not lawful" decision relating to application CA/21/02566 (Padma House) was noted.

87/21 To receive the Chairman's and Councillors' Reports

Cllr Connolly raised the matter of our Freedom of Information request to CCC to which a response is now overdue. The clerk will chase.

Cllr Green said there is a web-site called Compass which is very useful for researching traveller site appeal decisions. It's not free but subscribing might be worthwhile.

Cllr Green also noted a resident complaint about the state of a footpath to Westbere. Cllr McCarthy said he has already reported this to the Public Rights of Way department at KCC,

Cllr Thompson said she continues her dialogue with Sturry and Westbere PCs and is maintaining an anonymous log of public communication with FTC.

Cllr Lewis reported as follows:

- He is working with the Stour River Group to resolve river maintenance issues but it is proving very difficult.
- There will be a performance by Redbook in the church on September 13th.
- On 21st July there are to be four adult baptisms in the river. All concerned are from Romany Green Acres.
- On 25th July there will be a town picnic.
- The civic service will be at 2.30 pm on September 19th with refreshments afterwards in the churchyard.
- Should we make a further grant to the twinning association? This will need to be on a future agenda.
- We should respond to the rural crime survey and in particular mention the dog-bite incidents.

Cllr McCarthy reported as follows:

- CCC is not offering any more litter bins. He will press them.
- He has been chasing the long-promised cul de sac sign. Alan Marsh of KCC is now helping to resolve this.
- Fordwich River Tours have stopped trading.
- We need more traffic enforcement. We should write to CCC.
- He has attended a ceremony with Brightlingsea Council via Zoom.
- The edges of Stodmarsh Road are in a terrible condition. He has reported this to KCC.
- Jubilee Tree: this seems like a good idea but we need to decide on a site. Cllr Lewis suggested the river bank opposite the George and Dragon.

88/21 Finance

The clerk reported that the cash book balance at 31st May was £17,380.87. This has been reconciled to the bank statement figure of £17,430.87. These figures have been boosted by receipt of the 2021/22 precept.

The following payments were unanimously approved:

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| 1. Guy Foster – June salary and expenses, net | £377.01 |
| 2. HMRC – PAYE for April-June | £254.00 |
| 3. The Loxley Group –printing | £170.00 |
| 4. Mrs Valerie Clark – FTN postage | £29.70 |

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

89/21 To receive the clerk's report and correspondence

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

90/21 Highways and footpaths

Similarly, all such matters had been dealt with elsewhere in the meeting.

91/21 Date of next meeting

This was confirmed as Wednesday July 28th at 7.30 pm. The intention is that this meeting will be held in **the town hall**.

Guy Foster

Clerk to Fordwich Town Council

July 5th 2021.

Signed as a true record _____ Date: _____

Position _____