

FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 24th May 2021.

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

67/21 Apologies

Louise Harvey-Quirke (CCC) had sent apologies.

68/21 Minutes of the previous meeting

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

69/21 Matters arising

The tree overhanging the footpath off Fordwich Road: Cllr Green reported that recent attempts to deal with this were thwarted by the weather.

Cllr Green reported that the Old School Room has now been thoroughly cleaned. He will obtain a quote for doing the same for the church and the town hall.

Following the advertising shoot for Ford, we now have an electric car charging point at the Fordwich Arms.

Cllr Lewis reported that the Environment Agency has no obligation to clear the river. This is the responsibility of the riparian owners which in effect means that no one has a duty to do this in Fordwich. He will persist in trying to resolve this issue.

70/21 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.

77/21 Highways and footpaths

Some residents would like to see double yellow lines extended the length of Fordwich Road. We will need to raise this with Sturry PC.

The state of the pavement opposite the George and Dragon remains an issue.

71/21 To receive reports from KCC and CCC representatives.

Alan Marsh reported that he has chaired two recent meetings of the Joint Transportation Board.

KCC has a very large deficit to deal with. Options are being reviewed. One consequence is a large reduction in individual members' grant allocations. Following the recent election, there are 21 new members of KCC. There are also three new cabinet members. Mr Marsh will continue as chair of the KCC planning committee.

The meeting was adjourned to take representations from members of the public. No matters were raised.

72/21 To receive a report from the neighbourhood plan steering group

The first "in the flesh" meeting has been held. Agendas and minutes are on the Google drive page. Karen Britton of CCC is attending the July 1st meeting. A grant application is being worked on. The Denton Homes public exhibition is coming soon; Cllr Thompson suggested we have flyers printed to alert the public to this. The cost for a 100 would be £25. This was unanimously approved.

73/21 Planning

Application CA/21/00919 (Friendly Hall): no objections.

Application CA/21/010129 (Moate Farm): it was unanimously resolved to object. Cllr McCarthy will draft a submission and circulate for approval. The clerk was asked to contact CCC members to request this application be "called in".

The second "call for sites" process as part the Canterbury Local Plan review was discussed. It was unanimously resolved to submit the area to the west of Fordwich Road and north of Littlebourne Road (which has already been submitted for development under reference SLAA144) for undeveloped open space, as it currently is.

The approval of application CA/21/00389 (town hall) was noted.

74/21 To receive the Chairman's and Councillors' Reports

Cllr Green reported that people are complaining about the consequences of the lack of toilets at Canoe Wild. Cllr Thompson undertook to speak to them.

Cllr Thompson suggested we maintain an (anonymous) log of contacts from members of the public. It was agreed this would be a good idea. She also suggested we use the covid grant to buy a gazebo for use at the civic service. This was also agreed to be a good idea.

Cllr Lewis reported on his attempts to improve police engagement with criminality in the area. It was proving to be very difficult.

Cllr McCarthy spoke about the riverside notice boards. A final quote and a decision should be on next month's agenda. He also spoke of the "Community Payback" project whereby those on Community Service undertake various works. This may be useful in Fordwich and we should give it some thought.

75/21 Finance

The clerk reported that the cash book balance at 30th April was £8,945.07. This has been reconciled to the bank statement figure of £9,865.97.

The following payment was unanimously approved:

1. Guy Foster – May salary and expenses, net £431.20

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

76/21 To receive the clerk's report and correspondence

The clerk raised the matter of the civic service. It was confirmed that this would be on September 19th. The clerk was asked to circulate the latest version of the guest list for review.

The clerk had been contacted by a resident who raised the issue of repeated power cuts in Stodmarsh Road. Cllr Lewis has reported this several times to UK Power Networks but has yet to receive a satisfactory response.

78/21 Date of next meeting

This was confirmed as Wednesday June 30th at 7.30 pm. The intention is that this meeting will be held in **the town hall**.

Guy Foster

Clerk to Fordwich Town Council

June 4th 2021.

Signed as a true record _____ Date: _____

Position _____