

FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on 24th May 2023.

Present: Councillors Adrian McCarthy (chair), Roger Green, Barnaby Riggs, Richard Miller. In attendance: Guy Foster (clerk) and three members of the public.

70/23 Apologies

Cllr Pretorius had sent apologies as had Alan Marsh (KCC), Harry McKenzie and Keji Moses (CCC) and Mrs June Hardcastle.

71/23 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on April 19th were unanimously approved as tabled and signed by the chairman.

72/23 Matters arising

None.

73/23. 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.

Following the recent elections, all members are in the process of filing their statements of disclosable pecuniary interests with the Monitoring Officer at CCC.

74/23 To receive reports from representatives of KCC and CCC

None was present.

The meeting was adjourned for comments and questions from members of the public. No matters were raised other than a member of the public reading a poem and stating that some local residents needed on-going assistance.

75/23 Planning

Application CA/23/00724 (Timbers): no objections.

There was a discussion on the subject of having land designated such that it could not be developed. Cllr Green will look into this.

There was a discussion of the travellers' sites. The clerk was asked to send the recently-seen advertisement for a "mobile home for sale as an investment property" to CCC planning enforcement.

76/23 To receive the Chairman's and Councillors' Reports

Cllr Green reported continuing speeding in Marlowe Meadows; almost certainly Canenco drivers are to blame. Cllr McCarthy will email Canenco again.

There was a successful historical talk recently in the Old School Room and there will be another one soon.

Cllr Miller expressed a wish for more residents to attend FTC meetings. He will post reminders on Facebook. He asked about the "common position" on Chequer's Wood, etc. Cllr McCarthy gave an update and said there would be a presentation at the July meeting. He asked for the topic to be on the June agenda so that FTC could discuss in advance.

Cllr McCarthy was happy for ex-member Sue Thompson to continue to chair the Neighbourhood Plan steering group. He was also happy for a representation from Chislet PC at the June meeting on the topic of forming a parish council alliance. He asked the clerk to progress the obtaining of a portrait of the King. He thought the Heritage Trail was very good and David Reekie should be congratulated. Cllr Miller will put a note on Facebook publicising the trail.

Cllr McCarthy offered his thanks to Mandy McCarthy for organising the coronation event and to Greg Jones and Cllr Pretorius for the use of their land. Thanks were due to CCC ex-members Glover and Harvey-Quirke for all their hard work over the years.

It seems that the land behind the bungalows in Fordwich Road could well be suitable for allotments. The first step will be to speak to the residents there.

Cllr Miller reported that there was a Neighbourhood Plan meeting tomorrow (May 25th). CCC have a new consultant who is very knowledgeable on this subject. In terms of FTC representation on the steering group, Cllr Green is happy to step down if another FTC member is happy to take his place.

77/23 Finance

Annual return for 2022/23:

The clerk had circulated the relevant pages. After discussion, it was unanimously resolved to approve the Governance Statement and the Financial Statement. The clerk repeated his comment that although we were reporting a cash surplus for the year, this was misleading and the underlying result was a significant deficit.

Cash and banking

The clerk reported the cash book balance at 30th April was £8,739.46. This has been reconciled to the bank balance of £11,841.22.

The clerk noted the need to revise the bank mandate, post election. After discussion it was unanimously resolved to remove the former FTC members and to add all the new members and the clerk, this latter because it was likely to be necessary if we were to progress to on-line banking.

Insurance renewal

The clerk had circulated details of Gallagher's proposal. This was unanimously accepted as was the proposal for a 3 year fixed agreement.

The following Items for payment were unanimously approved:

1. Guy Foster – May pay and expenses	£417.36
2. Loxley Group – printing	£45.00
3. David Reekie – heritage trail expenses	£75.60
4. Adrian McCarthy – coronation expenses	£490.07
5. Information commissioner – Data Protection Act registration	£40.00
6. Gallagher – insurance	£455.45
7. Philip Lewis – keys	£85.50
8. Canterbury web-site design - NP	£12.00

78/23 To receive the clerk's report and correspondence

The clerk has contacted the Environment Agency about the "muck" in the field at the top of Moat Lane.

He has written to the George and Dragon (and to CCC) about the state of repair of their premises. The landlady has replied saying these matters are in hand.

He has had no further word from CDAA about the Drove but Cllr McCarthy has spoken to them.

He has lodged our request for a ban on pavement parking in Fordwich Road with CCC.

79/23 Highways and footpaths

It was agreed that as many people as possible need to continue to report the shocking state of the pot-holes along Stodmarsh Rd to KCC.

80/23 Date of next meeting

This was confirmed as **Wednesday June 28th at 7.30 pm.**

Guy Foster

Clerk to Fordwich Town Council

May 30th 2023.

Signed as a true record _____ Date: _____

Position _____