

FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on 25th May 2022.

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

56/22 Apologies

Cllr Green had sent apologies.

57/22 Minutes of the previous meeting

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

58/22 Matters arising

Cllr Lewis reported that he has found volunteers to look after the planters.
Cllr Thompson reported that a representative of Sustrans would attend the Friends of Fordwich meeting on June 27th.

59/22 Declarations of interests

Members declared interests as follows:

- Cllr Lewis declared his position as a custodian of Fordwich church

60/22 To receive reports from representatives of CCC and KCC

Georgina Glover (CCC) spoke of the change to a cabinet system at CCC. She outlined her committee involvement which included the chair of the audit committee, *inter alia*.

Louise Harvey-Quirke (CCC) reported that she was honoured to have been elected as Sherriff of Canterbury. She said there was to be a new effort to get drivers to turn off their engines while stopped at level crossings, etc. This would include a potential £20 fine for miscreants.

Alan Marsh (KCC) spoke of the cancellation of the No. 7 (and other) bus routes. He said that alternative arrangements had been made for those buses which served Spires Academy and he was working on something similar to replace the axed No. 7. He reported that Kent has accommodated more Ukrainian refuges than any other county.

The meeting was adjourned for questions and comments from members of the public. The following points were raised:

- Moate Farm and Romany Green Acres: it was reported that FTC has written to CCC about the planning breach at Romany Green Acres. No reply has been received. There will be a planning appeal relating to Moate Farm but no date has yet been set.
- Did FTC submit a Highways Improvement Plan: we did not, partly because it is quite hard to think of improvements that could be effected under such a plan and partly because any such improvements would almost certainly not be funded by KCC and would be unaffordable to FTC. The other issue is the lack of KCC resources to visit Fordwich and discuss such an HIP.

61/22 To receive a report from the neighbourhood plan steering group

Cllr Thompson reported that two pieces of technical support had been commissioned: a Site Assessment and a Design Codes report. A draft report from the former had been circulated. The proposed response from the NP steering group would be brought to the next FTC meeting for consideration. The Design Codes report is yet to be completed.

62/22 Planning

Application CA/22/01023: no comments. The grant of CA/22/00674 (1 Westfield Cottages) was noted.

63/22 To consider arrangements to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Cllr Lewis has prepared a programme which includes a comprehensive list of events over the weekend.

64/22 To consider arrangements for the civic service.

The clerk has circulated last year's guest list for comment and amendment. He asked for any changes to be advised by the date of the next FTC meeting.

65/22 To receive the Chairman's and Councillors' Reports

Cllr Lewis said there would be a "clean for the Queen" day this Saturday. He also reported that some capstones had been knocked off the top of the wall in the High St. We should perhaps get someone to fix these. At the same site, we need to remove the Christmas tree.

Cllr Connolly noted that Bretts have given notice to the HGV learner operation which should help enormously with traffic. He also noted the damage to the roadway outside the Fordwich Arms which is FUC land. This is being looked into. FUC need to put pressure on the Fordwich Arms.

Cllr Thompson has met with Canoe Wild and the George and Dragon to talk about parking. She will also be talking to Bretts on the same subject. There is also the issue of the unofficial footpath on Bretts land but there is a very long wait at KCC to get changes made to footpath maps. There are one or two issues with street lights. It was agreed these were probably best reported on the KCC web-site. Alan Marsh might also be able to help.

Cllr McCarthy said we need to approach Bretts in conjunction with Sturry and Westbere PCs to talk about the future of their site.

66/22 Finance

The clerk reported that the cash book balance at 30th April was £17,488.73. This has been reconciled to the bank statement figure of £19,417.63. Both figures reflect the receipt of the 2022/23 precept.

The following payments were unanimously approved:

1. Guy Foster – May salary and expenses, net	£423.09
2. Loxley Group Ltd (printing)	£229.00
3. Dynamic Stretch Tents Ltd	£2,184.00
4. N.D.Ogilvie (internal audit)	£140.00

It was noted that a promised donation would fund the net cost of the tent. The clerk will not send the cheque until this donation has been confirmed.

Annual return 2021/22: after discussion it was unanimously resolved to approve the financial statement and the annual governance statement which were duly signed by the chairman. The financial statement reported a small deficit for the year, of £29.00.

Covid and jubilee grants: it appears that the likely outcome is that we will not receive the jubilee grant of £800 but we will be allowed to spend the remainder of the covid grant on the jubilee expenses.

67/22 To receive the clerk's report and correspondence

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

68/22 Highways and footpaths

There is some undergrowth blocking footpaths that could do with clearing.

69/22 Date of next meeting

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

Guy Foster

Clerk to Fordwich Town Council

May 30th 2022.

Signed as a true record _____ Date: _____

Position _____