

FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2021.

Present: Councillors Adrian McCarthy (chair), Philip Lewis, Roger Green, Sue Thompson, Geoff Connolly. In attendance: Guy Foster (clerk), Louise Harvey-Quirke (CCC) and one member of the public.

132/21 Apologies

Alan Marsh of KCC had sent apologies.

133/21 Minutes of the previous meeting

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

134/21 Matters arising

The clerk will follow up the issue of kerb parking and signs.

135/21 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.

136/21 To receive reports from representatives of CCC and KCC

Louise Harvey-Quirke (CCC) reported that she had attended the recent Community Committee meeting where she raised issues regarding missed bins, engine idling and the lack of Fixed Penalty Notices issued in rural wards. She has also followed up on matters including the new waste bin and new parking signs.

The meeting was adjourned to take representations from members of the public.

The only subject raised was the slippery nature of the road surface on the bend by the George and Dragon. It was agreed to report this to Kent Highways.

137/21 To receive a report from the neighbourhood plan steering group

Cllr Thompson reported that the questionnaires have been delivered and so far 105 responses have been received. The results will be reported to an NP group meeting on December 9th and feedback will be given to the community on January 20th. The

NP group have responded to Locality on the housing needs survey. The meeting thanked Cllr Thompson and the NP team for their excellent work.

138/21 Parking issues

The “considerate parking” signs need chasing. We need to apply to CCC to have on-kerb parking made illegal. The clerk will follow this up.

139/21 Planning

Application CA/21/02482 (The Old Woodyard): after discussion, it was unanimously resolved to actively support this application on the grounds that it represents the best likely use of the site.

Application CA/21/02512: as a technical matter, there were no grounds for comment.

The scaffolding at the Manor House was discussed. It was felt it might not be as safe as it could be. The clerk will write to the owners.

140/21 To receive the Chairman’s and Councillors’ Reports

Cllr Connolly suggested the police contact poster be distributed with the newsletter. He is hoping to have A3 versions printed which could go on notice boards. He had heard there was a break-in at the Bretts’ site.

Cllr Thompson reported that she had met with Sturry and Westbere PCs. The future of the Bretts’ site was one topic discussed.

Cllr Green reported that a quantity of nitrous oxide canisters had been dumped by the sub-station on Stodmarsh Rd. The clerk was asked to report this to the police.

Cllr Lewis said he was actively chasing the responsible parties re the churchyard trees.

Cllr McCarthy said we should raise the matter of the listed wall in the High St with the owner and CCC planning.

He has spoken to the CDAA bailiff about the height of the river. It needs dredging and we should write to the Environment Agency about this. Cllr McCarthy to supply contact details to the clerk.

People need to be reminded to move their waste bins from the pavement.

Platinum Jubilee: should we organise a outdoor market? And other forms of celebration? Cllr Lewis suggested trying to get the Fordwich town sign in Moate Lane moved and create a space for a display/planting of some sort.

The Christmas tree is due on December 1st. It will be sited on the empty plot in the High St and powered by electricity from No. 6.

141/21 Finance

The clerk reported that the cash book balance at 1st November was £16,690.92. This has been reconciled to the bank statement figure of £18,083.32.

The following payments were unanimously approved:

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|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Guy Foster – November salary and expenses, net | £376.81 |
| 2. Guy Foster – December salary and expenses, net (post dated) | £376.81 |
| 3. Friends of Fordwich and District (cleaning) | £714.94 |
| 4. Loxley Group Ltd (printing) | £50.00 |

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

Precept 2022/23

The clerk had circulated some figures. After discussion, it was unanimously agreed to keep the precept unchanged at £8,925.

142/21 To receive the clerk's report and correspondence

A delivery of a large bag of salt had been arranged. Cllr McCarthy reported that it had in fact already arrived. All other issues in the clerk's report had been dealt with elsewhere in the meeting.

143/21 Highways and footpaths

No further discussion.

144/21 Date of next meeting

This was confirmed as Wednesday January 26th 2022 at 7.30 pm in the town hall.

Guy Foster

Clerk to Fordwich Town Council

December 2nd 2021.

Signed as a true record _____ Date: _____

Position _____