

FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 27th October 2021.

Present: Councillors Adrian McCarthy (chair), Philip Lewis, Roger Green, Geoff Connolly. In attendance: Guy Foster (clerk), Georgina Glover (CCC) and two members of the public.

The meeting was preceded by a presentation by Anne Dekker, chair of the CCC Standards Committee, who spoke about the Code of Conduct and related matters. This was a very helpful talk.

119/21 Apologies

Cllr Thompson had sent apologies as had Alan Marsh of KCC and Louise Harvey-Quirke of CCC.

120/21 Minutes of the previous meeting

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

121/21 Matters arising

- KCC was thanked for the recent work on footpaths.
- Cllr McCarthy will chase up the issue of the riverside notice boards,
- The clerk reported no reply to his email about the trees in the church yard. He will make a phone call.
- Green bins had not been emptied in Spring Lane.

122/21 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.

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

123/21 To receive reports from KCC and CCC representatives.

Mrs Glover (CCC) reported that CCC is focused on saving money and to this end is reviewing any non-statutory activities which could be cut.

124/21 To receive a report from the neighbourhood plan steering group

Cllr Thompson had provided a written report. The residents' questionnaire was to be distributed imminently. The Housing Needs report had been distributed to members. The grant has been received.

125/21 Parking issues

Cllr McCarthy had circulated a report following the public consultation exercise. In summary, there was not enough public support to introduce residents' parking zones. After discussion, it was unanimously resolved as follows:

1. To request signs in Brooklands Close and Marlowe Meadows to encourage considerate parking and to forbid parking on the kerb.
2. To request double yellow lines along the west side of Fordwich Rd right along to the Water Lane junction.
3. Fordwich Rd east side: to put up signs forbidding parking on the kerb up to the footpath next to Vale House.
4. High St west side: to request "heritage" double yellow lines the full length of the road.
5. Stodmarsh Rd: to request the 30 mph limit be extended to the Christ Church site. To request new 30 mph repeater signs along the length of the 30 mph stretch.
6. Moate Lane: to request a 20 mph limit from the High St junction to the last property and then a 30 mph limit for the rest of the road.

Cllr Lewis suggested some horticultural enhancement of the chicane on Moate Lane might be appropriate to celebrate the Queen's 70th anniversary.

Cllr McCarthy said he and Cllr Thompson are meeting Sturry and Westbere PCs and will raise the subject of a car park on the Brett's site.

126/21 Planning

The grant of CA/21/01857 (14 Water Meadows) was noted.

127/21 To receive the Chairman's and Councillors' Reports

Cllr Connolly had attended the Parish Police Forum: crime was down, apparently; there had been some success with rogue motorcyclists; a number of illegal e-scooters had been confiscated; the police are making serious efforts in respect of the "SWAN" initiative (the protection of single women when out and about).

Cllr Lewis reported as follows:

- There is to be a wedding in the church on October 30th with 130 guests.
- There are a number of blocked gulleys. It was suggested that all members report these things via the KCC web-site.

- Roads needed sweeping. This will soon be a direct CCC service so complaints should be directed at them in future.
- We need to arrange a date for the carol service. After discussion, the date of 19th December was agreed, the venue being the church which Cllr Lewis would arrange.
- Kinn McIntosh has published a new book.
- There was recently a 19.5 hour power cut for Stodmarsh Rd due to the Christ Church sub-station shutting down.

Cllr McCarthy referred to his forthcoming meeting with neighbouring parish councils. He is also planning to attend the next neighbourhood plan meeting.

128/21 Finance

The clerk reported that the cash book balance at 1st October was £18,457.33. This has been reconciled to the bank statement figure of £19,081.73. These figures include the recent receipt of the neighbourhood plan grant of some £3,700.

The following payments were unanimously approved:

1. Guy Foster – October salary and expenses, net	£395.01
2. Sue Thompson (NP expenses)	£1,192.40
3. Loxley Group Ltd (printing)	£50.00
4. Twinning Association	£100.00

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

CCC capital grant application: the preferred project is for a pontoon but quotes are still awaited and with the deadline imminent, it was decided to defer this until next year.

Christmas tree: it was unanimously resolved to buy a tree and decorations as long as the cost was similar to the previous year.

129/21 To receive the clerk’s report and correspondence

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

130/21 Highways and footpaths

No further discussion.

131/21 Date of next meeting

This was confirmed as Wednesday November 24th at 7.30 pm in the town hall.

Guy Foster

Clerk to Fordwich Town Council

November 1st 2021.

Signed as a true record _____ Date: _____

Position _____