

FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 24th September 2014.

Present: Councillors Patrick Heren (chair), Philip Lewis (chair for part), Val Clark, Roger Green, June Hardcastle. Guy Foster (clerk). In attendance: Alan Marsh (KCC), Heather Taylor (CCC) and eight members of the public.

Cllr Lewis took the chair for the first few items, Cllr Heren having declared an interest in planning application CA//14/01769/FUL under item 102/14 and having therefore absented himself.

93/14 Apologies

PCSO Jo White had sent apologies.

94/14 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th July were approved and signed without amendment.

95/14 Matters arising

None.

96/14 Declarations of interest

Cllr Heren declared his interest as a trustee of Fordwich United Charities and in respect of part of item 102/14, as noted above.

Cllr Clark declared her position as a custodian of the town hall.

Cllr Hardcastle declared her position as a trustee of Fordwich United Charities and as a member of (and a member of the working group of) the Littlebourne and Stodmarsh Road Community Association. She also declared a perceived pecuniary interest in respect of certain matters dealt with under item 102/14 (viz. applications CA//14/01255/FUL and CA//14/01921/FUL relating to Moate Farm.)

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

102/14 Planning: application CA//14/01769/FUL

After discussion it was resolved by a majority of 3 to 1 not to register any comments with CCC on this application. Cllr Hardcastle was the one member to dissent from the majority view.

Cllr Heren now joined the meeting and took the chair from this point on.

At this juncture the meeting was adjourned to allow comments from members of the public. No matters were raised:

97/14 To receive reports from KCC and CCC representatives.

For KCC, Alan Marsh reported:

- There was a move at KCC to cut the numbers of PCSOs and Community Wardens. Mr Marsh was lobbying for innovative organisational and funding changes which would minimise the effects of any such cuts.
- Mr Marsh reminded the meeting that he has free pantomime tickets available once again for the Broadstairs production (16/17/20/21 December). Anyone interested should contact him directly, or Fordwich Town Council
- Mr Marsh was talking to the Environment Agency about flood risks in respect of a house in Fordwich Road.
- Mr Marsh remained hopeful of a compulsory purchase order in respect of Manston Airport which would see it continue as an airport.

For CCC, Heather Taylor reported that she had been successful in stopping the boot fair on the Sturry Road site, thus ending the tail-backs it had caused.

98/14 To consider reports from police representatives

PCSO Jo White was absent and had sent apologies.

102/14 Planning

Cllr Hardcastle, having declared an interest, left the meeting.

Application CA//14/01255/FUL

After discussion, it was unanimously resolved to object to this application. Cllr Heren had drafted some suggested comments to which some minor amendments arose in discussion. The clerk to incorporate these and circulate for final approval before submission to CCC.

Application CA//14/01921/FUL

There were no objections to this application.

99/14 Chairman and councillors' reports

Cllr Hardcastle rejoined the meeting.

Cllr Heren reported as follows:

- Representatives from CCC were visiting next week to review options for the proposed town hall lift.
- There had been fly tipping on the former boat house land. CCC enforcement officers had been commendably prompt in dealing with this.

- He noted large lorries had been delivering building supplies and thought it a shame that this couldn't be better controlled via the planning process.
- He noted a significant theft of two outboard motors valued at £10,000 from the Boat Club premises.
- Kent Life magazine will include a feature on Fordwich in the November issue
- Subject to permission from the Rector of Sturry, Father Peter Norris, RC parish priest of Hersden, had agreed to preside at the forthcoming civic service.

Cllr Lewis reported as follows:

- He had been in contact with KCC re the Lorry Watch scheme.
- Some paint had been sprayed around in various places; we should all keep our eyes peeled for the culprit(s).
- There was a churchyard tidy-up being organised in the near future.

Cllr Green reported that plastering was now underway in the Old School House and so the whole project would soon be finished.

At this point Cllr Green apologised that he had to leave the meeting.

Cllr Hardcastle reported:

- The proposed new road through the former barracks site may not be constructed in such a way as to provide much relief to Fordwich.
- The LRSRCA may be interested in the Lorry Watch scheme. They had been monitoring speeds which were very high and therefore the "speed watch" scheme may be appropriate.

Cllr Clark noted that the Well Lane road signs had been hit by a vehicle and likewise the nearby grit bin. The clerk to ask the appropriate authority to rectify the damage.

100/14 Finance

The Clerk reported the bank balances as:

Current account: £13,879.62 (cash book balance £72.00 less)
 Bonus saver account: £3,947.41

The current account and bonus saver bank statements were checked and signed by the Chairman.

The following items were unanimously approved for payment:

- Clerk's salary (net of tax) and expenses for September £297.69
- HMRC (PAYE July/Aug/Sept) £189.00

101/14 Clerk's report and correspondence

The clerk noted the following items:

- Correspondence with CCC re street light in School Lane. CCC felt they could do nothing to allow the street to be lit without light intruding into a neighbouring property. FTC members disagreed and the clerk was asked to raise this again with CCC.
- The Boundary Commission's final proposals for CCC ward boundaries were unchanged from the previous draft.
- CCC had replied in terms that were not exactly unambiguous to our queries concerning planning permission in conservation areas.

103/14 To consider the appointment of new Freeman of Fordwich

Cllr Heren reported that FTC had received legal advice that there was no reason why more Freeman could not be created. Cllr Hardcastle objected: she said the present number of freemen (four) had been chosen to align the town's practice with Sandwich, which has only three freemen, and that the small number increased the distinction of the honour. Cllr Heren responded that Fordwich was not Sandwich, and could make its own decisions about this matter. He therefore proposed that specific nominations be considered at the next meeting.

104/14 Highways and Footpaths

No further discussion at this juncture.

105/14 Date of the next meeting

This was confirmed as 29th October at 7.30 pm.

Guy Foster

Clerk to Fordwich Town Council

September 29th 2014.

Signed as a true record _____ Date:

Position _____