

FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2019.

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

The chairman opened the meeting by welcoming Cllr Connolly as the newly elected member. This welcome was heartily endorsed by the meeting.

92/19 Apologies

Cllr Green had sent apologies. Mr Marsh (KCC) had said he would be late arriving.

93/19 Minutes of the previous meeting

It was unanimously resolved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as tabled. They were duly signed by the chairman.

94/19 Matters arising

Cllr Lewis noted that the pavement opposite the George and Dragon was now in a dangerous state of repair. The clerk was asked to chase this up with KCC via Alan Marsh.

95/19 Declarations of interests

Members declared interests as follows:

- Cllr Lewis declared his position as a custodian of Fordwich church
- Cllr Heren declared his position as chair of Fordwich United Charities.

The meeting was adjourned for members of the public to speak.

Footpaths: a local resident has made extensive enquiries into local footpath routes, including walking the paths and checking official records at Maidstone. Her recommendations included improved signage, path clearance and adopting certain paths as official public rights of way. This piece of work was warmly welcomed and it was agreed to establish a working group to progress this work.

Parking and traffic: this issue was raised again, with reference in particular to the cul de sac opposite the George and Dragon. The public were reassured that FTC is doing everything possible to address this issue but whatever steps are taken, enforcement is likely to be the main problem. Via Alan Marsh, KCC to be chased for the “dead end” sign which was promised some time ago.

Defibrillator and phone box adoption: these matters, previously rejected, are the subject of renewed interest from the public and will be kept under review.

96/19 To receive reports from CCC and KCC representatives

For KCC, Alan Marsh said he is lobbying for more community wardens and for them to be given enforcement powers over parking. He also reported that Paul Carter is standing down as leader of KCC.

For CCC, Mrs Glover reported that the judicial review of the Hoplands development was unsuccessful. She spoke of the efforts in Westbere to tackle the removal of trees at the "two fields" site.

Mrs Harvey-Quirke added a report of a discussion of proposals at the recent JTB meeting re the ring road in Canterbury. She spoke of efforts to provide dog waste bag dispensers and discussion followed about the extra waste bins that FTC had requested long ago but had yet to appear.

97/19 To receive reports from police representatives

No police representatives were present but it was noted that PCSO Chris Healey had provided a written report a little while ago.

102/19 Planning

There were no objections to applications CA//19/01671/FUL (Eastfields, High St.) and CA//19/01549/FUL (Rose Cottage).

It was noted that works continued at Marleybrook, despite the refusal of the recent application there and we should keep a watching brief.

Appleyard: there appears to have been a clear breach of planning permission here. This was reported by FTC some time ago but we have had no further news. Mrs Glover will raise this with the appropriate CCC officer.

98/19 To receive reports from members

Cllr Heren said there were to be two new FUC trustees. One was Barrie Beeching and the other was yet to be appointed as the replacement for Andre Russo who had stood down.

It was agreed to invite the newly appointed Conservative candidate for Canterbury to the civic service.

Cllr Connolly said he was honoured to be elected to FTC and paid tribute to his fellow candidates in the recent election.

Cllr McCarthy said he has prepared a draft resident's parking form. A new meeting re the Drove is likely soon.

Cllr Lewis reported as follows:

- Stodmarsh Road will be closed for a prolonged period from October 7th.
- The David Reekie litter poster campaign has started and has shown signs of success.
- The opening hours of Sturry Library have been reduced.
- Joyce Armstrong has volunteered to be our new tree warden.
- There will be several theatre performances in the church over the coming months.

99/19 To consider matters in connection with the civic service and May 8th street party

The Fordwich Arms are asking for £15 a head, plus crockery hire costs, for providing civic service teas. It was agreed that this is unaffordable and the clerk was asked to contact them. In the meantime, Cllr McCarthy will approach the George and Dragon. Other alternatives were discussed.

It was agreed to seek to involve other local organisations in respect of the May 8th street party.

100/19 Finance

The cash book balance at end-August was £12,492.94. This has been reconciled to the bank balance of £12,839.55.

The following Items for payment were approved:

1. Clerk September net	£375.81
2. Loxley Group Ltd. (newsletter)	£30.00
3. Cllr Lewis (reimbursement re grass cutting)	£35.00
4. HMRC (PAYE for July/Aug/Sept)	£247.40

Given the change in FTC membership, it was unanimously resolved to update the bank mandate to remove Mrs Clark and include Cllr Connolly.

101/19 To receive the clerk's report and correspondence

The clerk noted that we have lost our voluntary KCC warden but only because he has taken on a full-time community warden position with KCC and has said he will keep an eye on matters in Fordwich.

Other items in the clerk's report had been dealt with elsewhere in the meeting.

103/19 Highways and footpaths

No further discussion.

104/18 Date of next meeting

The next FTC meeting was confirmed as Wednesday October 30th 2019 at 7.30 pm. There was a request to move the November meeting to December 4th. It was agreed to confirm this at the next meeting.

Guy Foster

Clerk to Fordwich Town Council

September 27th 2019.

Signed as a true record _____ Date: _____

Position _____