

## FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of a General Council Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2012 at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

#### **Present:**

Cllr Connolly – Chairman

Cllrs Adams, Anstey, Lewendon, Paton, Perkins, Price, & (G) Wilson

#### **In attendance:**

Ms K Mason, Town Clerk

NFDC Cllr Bellows

Sgt. M Freeman

Prior to the meeting a minutes silence was held in memory of former Councillor Martin Westlake who died last week. The Mayor paid tribute to his service and loyalty to Fordingbridge Town Council and the parish of Fordingbridge.

#### **1. Apologies**

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Fulford, Hale, Shering & (A) Wilson, NFDC Cllr Sevier and HCC Cllr Heron.

#### **2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **3. To receive a report on any matters under Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act**

Sgt Freeman advised that Fordingbridge Police Station will close on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013 and the building to be vacated by March 2013. Following the closure, Fordingbridge Police will be based in the offices currently used by NFDC in Provost Street.

A major incident occurred outside Butlers Bar on Saturday night (29<sup>th</sup> September) with disturbance and assaults taking place. The investigation is being dealt with by Lyndhurst CID.

Sgt. Freeman explained the crime figures to date, 12 months and 24 months ago. There has been a drop in violent crime but a rise in sexual offences. All other crimes have dropped in numbers but criminal damage is up and non dwelling burglaries are up. There is a message to get across to the public to keep outbuildings and sheds secure. Joint Operations with Dorset and Wiltshire forces and other agencies are continuing to take place.

Staff numbers in Fordingbridge are to be kept at current levels.

The Mayor thanked Sgt Freeman for attending the meeting.

#### **4. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2012 and report on any matters arising**

It was proposed by Cllr Price and seconded by Cllr (G) Wilson that the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2012 be signed as a true record. All in favour, Carried.

#### Matters arising

Green Lane road closure – residents have expressed concern about the proposed road closure so that work can be carried out on the pavements. They did not consider they had been properly informed about the works or the closure and are worried about the size of HGVs serving the industrial units.

#### **5. To receive any matters raised by members of the public**

No public were present.

**6. To receive a report from the Town Mayor.**

16<sup>th</sup> September – I attended the Battle of Britain memorial Service in Ringwood.

20<sup>th</sup> September – I attended the official opening by HCC of the bridge and footpath between Burgate Cross and South Charford

30<sup>th</sup> September – Together with other members of the Town Council, I attended the opening of the new Pharmacy in Fordingbridge where the Town Council was presented with a glass ornament to mark the occasion.

**7. To receive a report from the County Councillor.**

Cllr Heron was absent.

**8. To receive a report from the District Councillors**

Cllr Bellows reported that the feasibility survey of the upgrade of the footpath between Godshill and Fordingbridge had been awarded funding so would be taking place.

**9. To receive the following Committee meeting minutes and any recommendations contained therein:**

- Planning Committee held on the 11th September 2012
- Amenities Meeting held on the 18th September 2012
- General Purposes Committee held on the 25th September 2012
- Finance & Policy Committee held on the 25th September 2012

No recommendations were contained in the minutes and all minutes were received without comment.

**10. To report on any Health & Safety Issues.**

No issues were reported.

**11. To receive reports from representatives on outside bodies**

Cllr (G) Wilson attended the Patient Programme Group of Fordingbridge Surgery meeting on 27th September in the Town Hall. Approx. 80 people attended. Fordingbridge surgery is now part of the West Hampshire group of 54 amalgamated surgeries and a total of 650,000 patients.

Victoria Rooms – attended the AGM. Their upgrade and alterations to the interior are impressive.

Cllr Anstey – together with the Clerk, attended a Sports Club Steering Group meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> September to further discuss the Sports Club/Pavilion rebuild. A brief was agreed to go to the architect, Michael Weakley.

**11. To note any items of correspondence**

No correspondence.

**12. To receive a report from the Clerk or any other relevant business**

The Mayor reminded members that there were budget meetings planned for November to discuss the budget for 2013/14.

**13. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.