

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a General Council held on Wednesday 6th January 2016 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall

(Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Committee)

Present: Cllr Connolly - Chairman

Cllrs Adams, Price, Lewendon, Anstey, Hale, Earth, (A) Wilson, Fulford, Perkins & Paton

In attendance: Mrs H Richards, Town Clerk
Cllr A Sevier, New Forest DC
Cllr PCSO Daisy Towers

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr (G) Wilson

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest

No declarations made.

The Chairman requested that Members agree a change to the running order of the Agenda to allow Item 5 to be presented before items 3 & 4 – this would allow PCSO Towers to leave the meeting & return to duty following her report.

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

PCSO Towers advised that she will be attending the General Council meetings on a quarterly basis from this point in time. She then reported a comparison of the crime rates over 2015 compared to 2014 as follows:

	2015
Anti-social Behaviour	-45%
Violence against the Person Injury	This has doubled but not true reflection as recording methods have changed
Dwelling Burglary	-50%
Burglary other than Dwelling	Slight increase, offender recently sentenced
Damage	Down from 34 to 27
Theft	This has doubled but not true reflection as recording methods have changed
Theft from Motor Vehicle	Down slightly

Cllr Sevier & Cllr Paton entered the meeting during this item

PCSO reported that crime rates had been low over the festive period, with only 1 incident reported on New Year's Eve. The following figures were given for December.

	December
Anti-social Behaviour	2
Violence against the Person Injury	11
Dwelling Burglary	0
Burglary other than Dwelling	3
Damage	2
Theft	8
Theft from Motor Vehicle	0
Suspicious Incidents	3

Cllr Heron entered the meeting during this Item.

PCSO Towers left the meeting.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2015 and report any matters arising

Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd December 2015 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

Matters Arising

Minute No. 3 – Draft Library Strategy Consultation – The Clerk reported that following the Council's submission a response had been received from Hampshire CC confirming that there would be no immediate closures of any libraries which are currently Tier 2.

4. To receive any matters raised by Members Of the Public

No members of the public present.

6. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

The Mayor reported the following activities during December:

- 2nd Judging of Christmas Window Competition Ringwood
- 4th Service at Damerham Church
- 4th Christmas in Fordingbridge
- 16th Council Christmas Meal
- 23rd Ford Ward Hospital visit

7. To receive a report from the County Councillor

Cllr Heron reported that following the Autumn Spending Review, Government Funding details until 2020 were less than expected and that further savings would be needed.

In relation to the Library consultation, Cllr Heron highlighted how the service has and will change with fewer books being borrowed but other services being accessed or required. The service would look at how to provide essential use, which may not be the preferred use of all customers.

Cllr Heron advised of the consultation regarding Household Waste Recycling Centres, with Somerley being the nearest to Fordingbridge. With regard to the Boundary Review, current proposals will result in a larger area being covered by Cllr Heron and a reduction in attendance at Town & Parish meetings.

The recent storms had resulted in no major incidents (in relation to Highways) – the Chairman raised concern that drains and gullies have not been cleared – Cllr Heron advised that any damage and required repairs should be reported to the Highways section.

Cllr Perkins raised concern that Stuckton Road had recently been inaccessible to pedestrians due to flooding with no access to the Cemetery and concern over animals in the locality. The risk of flooding at Redbrook Cottages was also raised but is not considered (by Hampshire CC) as high priority.

8. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Sevier advised that she had no items to report.

Members then discussed the application to list the Augustus John Public House as an Asset of Community Value – Cllr Sevier confirmed that New Forest DC funds should not be put into the purchase of the site to protect it. Members agreed that the site is a viable and profitable business and that the application had been confusing due to the submission of a planning application at the same time. The Town Council supported the listing application as it would encourage Tourism in the area.

The Chairman stated that partnership working with the District Council (& Town Council) was needed with long term plans for the town – Cllr Heron advised that the Town Council's role is to influence not control. Further discussions and consultations will follow later in the year.

Cllr Lewendon raised the condition of hedges at Whitsbury Road/Tinkers Cross – Town Clerk to raise with Highways.

Cllrs Sevier & Heron left the meeting

9. To receive the following Committee meeting Minutes and any recommendations to General Council contained therein:

- Planning Committee – 9th December. The Chairman of Planning requested that the minutes were returned to General Council in February due to late distribution. Members Agreed.

10. To receive a recommendation from the Finance & Policy Committee on the precept for 2016/17

Members considered the recommendation for the budgets and associated precept of **£183,197.00** for the financial year 2016/17.

Cllr (A) Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the Precept request for 2016/17 be in the sum of **£183,197.00**. All in favour.

11. Setting the dates, times and place of ordinary meetings of the Council for the year ahead

Members agreed the calendar of meetings previously distributed and discussed potential speakers for the Annual Town Assembly in April.

12. To report on any Health & Safety issues

No items to report.

13. To receive reports from representatives on Outside Bodies and meetings attended

Cllr Earth reported that there had been no meeting held at Avonway Community Centre during December; however the centre manager, Sara Winteridge has requested regular attendance at the Council's General meetings. Chairman to discuss.

Cllr Hale 18th December meeting of the Victoria Room Trustees – Bookings good at present.

Cllr Perkins Emergency Planning – Flood Plan needs to be finalised, draft produced by Fire Service.

Cllr Anstey – 3rd December – Burgate School GCSE presentation evening

6th December – Verwood Mayor's Christmas event

12th December – Rugby Club Lunch

Cllr Adams – ongoing discussions regarding provision of new Visit Fordingbridge website

Cllr Connolly – Ongoing discussion with Moto Guzzi Club regarding future plans

14. To discuss the Review of the Community Infrastructure Levy

The Clerk reported on a consultation received from NALC regarding CIL, however considered that this was directed towards District Council and therefore no response was required.

15. To note any items of correspondence

The Clerk reported on the following correspondence received

- C Mackay regarding the siting of Post boxes in the town, in particular the box located in Salisbury Street and whether this could be relocated in Roundhills – Town Clerk to forward to Royal Mail.

- New Forest DC – Clean for the Queen campaign 4-6th March – Town Clerk to contact schools and other local groups and ascertain potential areas.
- Hampshire Constabulary Police & Crime Commissioners precept survey – Members to respond individually
- Quadrant Alms house Trust – request received for new trustees – positions filled

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

The Clerk reported that a letter of resignation from the Council had been received from Cllr G Wilson – Clerk to advise District Council and advertise the vacancy. Cllr Connolly agreed to replace Cllr Wilson as representative at the Twinning Association.

17. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 3rd February 2016

The meeting closed at 8.57pm