

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the General Council held on Wednesday 2nd August 2017 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall

Present: Cllr Connolly

Cllrs, Lewendon, Anstey, Earth, Fulford, Paton, Perkins & Adams

In Attendance: Mrs H Richards, Town Clerk
Mrs R Edwards, Admin Assistant
Cllrs Sevier & Bellows, New Forest DC
Carolyn Rylance, The George PH
Katy Griffin, Forest Journal

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Price, Wilson & Hale

2. To receive declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were made.

3. To confirm the Minutes of the General Council meeting held on 5th July 2017 and report any matters arising

Cllr Anstey proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 5th July 2017 signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

The Mayor gave thanks to Katy Griffin, Salisbury Journal for press coverage of the meeting.

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

Carolyn Rylance from the George Public House advised the meeting that a letter had been sent to business owners in the town regarding forming a new Business Forum, however as only 5 replies had been received a follow up would be sent. The Clerk asked if contact had been made with the existing Business Forum and how this should be a co-ordinated approach – no response had been received from Chairman of Business Forum.

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

The Clerk read out the following report submitted by PCSO May:

	July
Anti-Social Behaviour	8
Violence against person	2
Dwelling Burglary	1

Other Burglary	2
Damage	1
Theft	0
Theft from Vehicles	0
Suspicious Incidents	5

6. To receive a report from the Mayor

Nothing to report during July due to other commitments.

7. To receive a report from the County Councillor

No report received.

8. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Bellows reported that in response to numerous complaints regarding an overgrown hedge at Whitsbury Road, the hedge is to be removed and replaced with a more suitable alternative. With regard to verge cutting adjacent to Highways, this is contracted by Hampshire Highways to New Forest DC – the Hampshire CC agreement is for 4 cuts per year, however, NFDC carry out an additional 4 cuts. Weed control is also a Hampshire CC responsibility however New Forest DC will carry out an additional spray.

Cllr Fulford queried responsibility for the surfaces of footpaths - again delegated to NFDC by HCC – in instances where land owners have caused damage this should be reported to Cllr Heron & copied to district councillors.

Cllr Sevier reported on the grant of planning permission for the Fordingbridge Club. With regard to Business Rates the District Council hope to retain the funds and not send them to Central Government, having problems in town centres have occurred due to other factors such as changing buying habits.

The Chairman stated that he had made an individual request to the Department of Communities & Local Government (DCLG) for an appointment to discuss the lack of support from New Forest District Council. He then raised his concerns and frustrations regarding the NFDC Councillors and lack of support for residents over the Whitsbury Road Development (District Councillors had not commented on the application)

Cllr Lewendon stated his frustration at lack of action from the Planning Enforcement team on a breach of condition matter at Glasshouse Studios – Cllr Bellows to investigate.

Cllr Lewendon also raised concern over the (low) level of service provided in the area for re-charging of electricity keys – service had recently been unavailable – Cllr Bellows advised that the service was transferring to smart meter provision.

Cllr Fulford backed up the chairman's views on the lack of comment regarding the Whitsbury Road Planning Application – Cllr Sevier responded by advising that as she sits on the District Council Planning Committee and would be discussing the application at the forthcoming meeting, she was unable to comment as this could be considered as pre-determination.

Cllrs Sevier & Bellows left the meeting

9. To receive the following Committee meeting minutes and any recommendations to General council contained therein.

- Planning Committee – 12th July 2017 received Cllr Fulford
- General Purposes Committee 19th July 2017 Received Cllr Earth
- Amenities Committee 19th July 2017 Received Cllr Anstey
- Finance & Policy Committee 26th July 2017 – received Cllr Connolly

10. To report on any health & safety issues

Cllr Anstey reported that Health & Safety issues at the Rec had been dealt with.

Following a complaint from a member of the public regarding weed growth on the banks of Sweatsford Water, Cllr Anstey had inspected the area to investigate if this would prevent anyone (child) from getting out of the water, he did not consider that this was the case and would act as a barrier and help prevent persons falling into the river – it was therefore not a health and safety concern. Following discussion however, members felt that it was cosmetically favourable and requested that the weeds are cut down.

The Clerk enquired whether this should apply at the recreation ground also – members agreed that weeds should be cleared from the banks here also.

11. To receive reports from representative on Outside Bodies and meetings attended

Cllr Lewendon – 19th July 2017 New Forest Passenger Transport Forum, Lyndhurst

- Bus usage in Hampshire up 20% in last 10 years (6.8% nationally)
- HCC facing £140M savings by April 2019. Further reductions in route subsidies required. Complaints that some 5 day a week service reduced to 3 days.
- 350 stops now have real time information (not Fordingbridge)
- 500 buses now equipped with audio visual next stop announcements (including X3)
- Operators within Hants invested in 60 new buses in last 18 months
- Bus Services Act received Royal Assent on 27th April allowing “Partnership schemes, franchising schemes, advance ticket sales, powers to make traffic orders”
- HCC has new look web pages for public transport including provision for renewing concessionary passes on line
- Contactless payment now available on 900 buses in Hants (inc. X3)
- Bus shelters available free of charge (2nd hand)

Rachel Edwards advised that the new buses have fewer seats and the 7.48am X3 to Salisbury had recently left children behind at Burgate as there were insufficient seats.

12. To receive any items of correspondence

The Clerk reported on correspondence received from Colin Ritchie regarding the Augustus John Statue and suggesting that it may be re-located to adjacent to the

pub of the same name – members advised that the Museum holds material relating to the artist and that is held in reasonably close proximity to the statue.

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

Nothing further to report.

14. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 6th September 2017

The meeting closed at 8.20pm