

## FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting of the General Council on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017 at 7.35pm in the Town Hall

**Present:** Cllr Connolly – Chairman  
Cllrs Adams, Price, Lewendon, Anstey Fulford, Wilson, White, Perkins, Hale & Paton

**In Attendance:** Mrs H Richards, Town Clerk  
Cllrs Matcham & Sevier, NFDC  
Cllr Heron, Hampshire CC  
PCSO Stephen May

**1. To receive any apologies for attendance**

Apologies were received from Cllr Earth.

**2. To receive any declarations of interest**

No declarations made.

The Chairman requested that Members agree a change to the order of the Agenda to bring forward Item No. 5, to allow PCSO May to leave and return to duty – all in agreement.

*Cllr Paton entered the meeting.*

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

PCSO May informed of the following crime reported during October and advised members that all incidents that are reported are logged on the system.

	<b>October</b>
Anti-Social Behaviour	5
Violence against person	5
Dwelling Burglary	0
Other Burglary	3
Damage	5
Theft	1
Theft from Vehicles	0
Suspicious Incidents	10

Cllr Anstey enquired what the policy is for policing during busy times such as August Bank Holiday and crowds are usually present at the Recreation Ground -

*PCSO May left the meeting.*

**3. To confirm the minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and to report on any matters arising**

Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Wilson and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> October be signed as a true record. All in favour.

Matters Arising

Minute No:3 - Cllr Lewendon reported that the hedge on Whitsbury Road had still not been cut.

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

No members of the public present.

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

The Mayor reported on the following events and duties undertaken during October:

- Ringwood Royal British Legion Concert (Hampshire Police Band)
- Concert at United Reformed Church

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

Cllr Heron reported on the latest budget reported to cabinet (at HCC) for savings of £140M – the report asks for areas where savings could be made including:

- Waste Recycling Centres closure of up to half of them (not Somerley)
- Withdraw funding for school crossing patrols – consider future sustainability & potential for using community volunteers
- No Bus subsidies
- Less pressure on capital savings with £500,000 to improve Town & Parish Council partnerships

Cllr Connolly enquired about whether cutbacks would include library closures – Cllr Heron responded that this wouldn't mean closures but providing services by different means, using volunteers, access to library services depends on usage, it is vital communities are aware of the range of services available.

Cllr Fulford added that availability and opening hours are important and community run services could provide more flexibility.

A suggestion of a community information event was made. Cllr Adams commented that it is difficult to recruit volunteers.

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

Cllr Matcham reported on her recent involvement with the new Skate park project – the group is now working with the community and engaging with users – would like joint meeting the following week.

A query was raised over ownership of the fence between the Car Park, footpath and Salvation Army Hall.

Cllr Perkins raised a query over the working hours of the Parking Enforcement Team and whether these could be amended. Cllr Heron responded that these had been varied and included weekends and outside of normal working hours. He added that Hampshire County Council may take back responsibility for on-street parking.

A further query was raised regarding inadequate directional signs for the car park – car parking would be discussed at the forthcoming Traffic Management meeting.

Cllr Sevier reported on recent activity of the WW1 Committee and distributed a draft proposal of events planned for 2018. It was reported that the Royal British Legion standard required replacement (prior to next year's commemoration).

Following a query regarding funding for the Town's Christmas Event, Cllr Heron advised that an application could be made online (to HCC) which should include a list of activities for which funding contribution is sought.

**Action: Clerk to apply for grant from HCC.**

*Cllrs Heron, Sevier & Matcham left the meeting*

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

- Planning Committee – 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017 Received Cllr Fulford
- Finance & Policy Committee – 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017 Received Cllr Connolly

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

Cllr Anstey reported on recent complaints following injuries to players regarding grass length on the football pitch – members discussed the condition of the pitches and money that is spent on maintenance.

Concern was raised regarding the risk from the rot in the Council Chamber and also that fire regulations were not adhered to at a recent event held at the Town Hall.

**Action: Clerk to remind organisers of events of safety regulations.**

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

Cllr Wilson reported on attendance at a recent meeting regarding the Christmas Event on 1<sup>st</sup> December and asked that Members distribute invitations to older residents to a tea party during the afternoon of the 1<sup>st</sup>.

Cllr Hale reported that the Conservation group would be meeting with the Forest Journal the following week regarding an article about the work at Bishops Pond.

Cllr Lewendon reported on attendance at a meeting at Alderholt regarding the community transport bus (route 97) which runs between Verwood, Cranborne, Alderholt and Fordingbridge and the lack of funding to continue the service (Dorset County Council no longer providing subsidy).

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

No items of correspondence to report.

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

The Clerk had nothing further to report.

The Chairman reported that following a further, well attended meeting with the local business community, donations had been pledged towards the provision of more Christmas lights and tremendous effort was being made to achieve road closure of Salisbury Street. The Chairman reminded members of the Remembrance Parade on the 12<sup>th</sup> November together with the Armistice Day service on the 11<sup>th</sup> at Stuckton Road Cemetery.

Cllr Connolly also reminded members of the promise of making donations for the foodbank.

**15. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

The meeting closed at 8.43pm