

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the General Council on Wednesday 6th December 2017 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall

Present: Cllr Connolly – Chairman

Cllrs Adams, Anstey, Earth, Fulford, Hale, Lewendon, Paton, Price, White, Wilson

In Attendance: Mrs H Richards, Town Clerk
Mrs R Edwards, Asst Town Clerk
Cllr Matcham, NFDC
2 Members of the Public

1. To receive any apologies for attendance

Apologies were received from Cllr Perkins, Cllr Sevier NFDC, Cllr Heron HCC. Apologies were also received from Cllr White who needed to leave the meeting early.

2. To receive any declarations of interest

No declarations made.

3. To confirm the minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 1st November 2017 and to report on any matters arising

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Anstey and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 1st November be signed as a true record. All in favour.

Matters Arising

Cllr Lewendon reported that the hedge on Whitsbury Road had still not been cut.

Action: Asst Town Clerk to report to Hampshire Highways

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

Mr and Mrs Manston presented their new business venture www.TakeaTukTuk.co.uk. Running from April to October, 9am to 10pm and starting in 2018, these 6 seater vehicles will cater for Forest tours, weddings, proms, corporate events and photo shoots.

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

No crime report received this month.

6. To receive a report from the Mayor

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

- Our Town meeting
- Judge the Guy Competition at Fordingbridge Infant and Junior Schools
- Christmas meeting
- Toilet Twinning at Fordingbridge Infant and Junior Schools

7. To receive a report from the County Councillor

No report received.

8. To receive a report from District Councillors

Cllr Matcham reported that Cllrs Heron and Sevier couldn't make this evening's General Council meeting because they were attending a workshop about the Local Plan. There was an area meeting about Fordingbridge which is due to go out for consultation next year. The assessment was that there would be 584 new dwellings built each year across the New Forest. This is a decrease from the previous figure.

Cllr Matcham also gave details of changes to New Forest District Council Cabinet (please see Appendix 1)

Cllr Lewendon asked Cllr Matcham to clarify the difference between a starter home and a private home on the new Whitsbury Road development. Cllr Matcham will find out and get back to FTC about that.

Cllr Matcham left the meeting

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

- Planning Committee – 8th November 2017 Received Cllr Fulford
- Amenities Budget Meeting - 15th November 2017 Received Cllr Anstey
- General Purposes Budget Meeting - 15th November 2017 Received Cllr Earth
- Finance & Policy Committee – 29th November 2017 Received Cllr Connolly

10. To report on any Health & Safety issues

Cllr Lewendon reported that the hedge at Whitsbury Road had still not been cut.

Action: Asst Town Clerk to report to Hampshire Highways

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

Cllr Fulford is concerned that there have been no community meetings at Burgate for a year and wonders when there will be a meeting at which the Town Council is represented.

Cllr Hale reported that the New Forest Journal article about the work at Bishops Pond has provoked unexpected reactions. One of the residents doesn't want water in the pond. An expert has advised that lining the pond is not the correct approach and as a result the Conservation group is having to rethink its plans.

Cllr Anstey attended the following meetings and courses: 2 Nov – The Council as an Employer course, 2 Nov – Our Town meeting, 7 Nov – Skatepark meeting at the Salvation Army Hall, 28 Nov – H&S Christmas Lights Switch On Review Meeting, 29 Nov – Meeting with the Turks 1 Dec – Risk Assessment of Fire Breathers and Robot (Christmas lights switch on event).

Cllr White and the Members of the Public left the meeting

12. To set the dates, times and place of ordinary meetings of the Council for 2018

It was noted that the Finance and Policy meeting due to be held in the Council Chamber on 30 May, may need to be moved subject to building works.

Cllr Lewendon proposed and Cllr Fulford seconded and it was therefore resolved to accept the proposed Meeting Dates for 2018.

13. To note any items of correspondence

The Asst Clerk read out correspondence regarding the lack of free car parking in Fordingbridge. This led to much discussion about parking charges both in Fordingbridge and surrounding areas. It was agreed that the number of parking clocks sold locally should be researched.

Action: Asst Clerk to ask VIC if they have data on the number of parking clocks sold.

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

Cllr Connolly thanked the ladies who organised the afternoon tea for the older people on Friday 1st December. Approximately 50 people attended and it was very much appreciated by all.

Cllr Fulford suggested that holding the event in the morning next year might better suit older people who often do their shopping in the morning.

Cllr Connolly thanked the local NFDC road cleaner for picking up the litter immediately following the Christmas Lights Switch on evening. Thanks was also given to the Fordingbridge – Our Town group for organising a litter pick-up the following morning. Cllr Connolly thanked Sylvia Smith for all her effort and also the Town Clerk and Cllr Anstey.

Action: Clerk to write letters of thanks to NFDC cleaner and Sylvia Smith.

The Clerk advised that the Town Hall Office would be closed from 12.30pm Friday 21st December until 8.30am Tuesday 2nd January. The Visitor Information Centre will be open on Thursday 28th and Friday 29th December.

The Clerk advised that a lot of work is needed to prepare for the changes in Data Protection laws (GDPR) which will be implemented in May 2018.

Cllr Anstey raised the issue of children misbehaving by the kiosk in the Rec. This has been reported to the police. The Clerk queried who is responsible for deleting video evidence if it's not needed. Cllr Anstey recommended it was included in the lease conditions. Cllr Connolly suggested seeking advice from HALC or NALC.

Cllr Wilson raised the issue of freelance photographers taking unsolicited photographs of children at the Christmas Lights Switch on evening. She was concerned that parents were not asked for permission.

15. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as Wednesday 3rd January 2018

The meeting closed at 8.36pm

Appendix 1: Changes to New Forest District Council Cabinet

The Cabinet will be made up as follows:

Leader and Corporate Affairs - Cllr Barry Rickman

*Political Structures
Employee Engagement
Corporate Plan
Emergency Planning
Staff Matters
Organisational Strategy
Town and Parish Council matters*

Planning and Infrastructure - Cllr Edward Heron

*Local Plan
Development Control
Building Control
Listed Buildings and Conservation
Open Space Infrastructure
Car Parking and Traffic Management matters*

Finance, Corporate Services and Improvement - Cllr Jeremy Heron

*Medium Term Financial Plan
Financial Services
Information and Communication Technology Legal Services Democratic Services Human Resources
Performance and Risk Management*

Housing Services - Cllr Jill Cleary

*Housing Strategy (Local Housing Need)
Council House Management (inc Building Works) Improvement Grants Housing Benefits
Homelessness*

Leisure and Wellbeing - Cllr James Binns

*Health and Leisure Centres
Local Leisure, Arts and Heritage
Health and Wellbeing Board
Older Person's Affairs
Children and Youth Affairs*

Community Affairs - Cllr Diane Andrews

*Community Engagement
Community Grants and Support
Customer Services
Elections and Electoral Registration*

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Community Safety Partnership (Safer New Forest) CCTV Careline Communications

Environment & Regulatory Services - Cllr Alison Hoare

Refuse Collection and Recycling

Street Cleaning

Abandoned Vehicles

Environmental Health Services

Coastal Protection and Drainage Issues

Grounds Maintenance Services

Cemeteries

Public toilets

Sustainability

Local Economic Development, Property and Innovation - Cllr Michael Harris

Economic Development Strategy

Business Engagement and Growth

New Forest Business Partnership

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Asset Management/Property Matters

Smarter Working

Collaboration and Innovation

The first meeting of the new Cabinet will be on 6 December 2017. The changes to the portfolios take effect immediately.