

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 4th July 2018 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall

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

Present: Cllr P Anstey – Chairman
Cllrs Adams, Earth, Hale, Lewendon, Paton, Perkins and White

In Attendance: Mrs H Richards, Town Clerk
Mrs R Edwards, Asst Town Clerk
Cllr Matcham (NFDC)
Mr Peter Cheal, Applicant for Co-option
Mr John Mouland, Applicant for Co-option
A Representative from The Salisbury Journal

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Connolly, Fulford and Wilson and Cllr Sevier (NFDC).

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To consider applications for co-option as a member of the Town Council

There were two applications for co-option onto Fordingbridge Town Council. Mr John Mouland presented first, followed by Mr Peter Cheal.

Cllr Brian Perkins entered the room during Mr Mouland's presentation.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to both candidates and remarked how in all the time he's been a member of the Council, there have never been two stronger candidates.

Equal votes were cast for the two candidates with the Chairman having the casting vote. Mr Mouland was co-opted as a member of the Town Council.

4. To confirm the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on Wednesday 6th June 2018 and to report on any matters arising.

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hale and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 6th June 2018 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

Matters Arising

Minute No. 5 - the query as to how many incidents are attended by police was answered by PCSO May in the General Council meeting held on 7th February 2018.

"Cllr Adams asked how many incidents were attended by Police. PCSO May said that this information wasn't available without a lot of time consuming work and possibly a FOI request too. However, a dwelling burglary would always be attended, even if it was just a garage leading to a house. A non-dwelling burglary without CCTV or fingerprints wouldn't be worth pursuing but the police would look for patterns instead. Assault or violence would always be attended and dog bites were always dealt with, with the lowest possible outcome being a community resolution."

Minute No. 7 – The “Local residents’ help group”, which Cllr Perkins had received a card about, was actually from an American marketing company.

Minute No. 13 – The Avon Valley Path from St Mary’s to Bickton and also to Midgham is on the priority cutting list. The path from Burgate to Breamore is mostly in the Parish of Breamore.

Action – Clerk to notify Breamore of overgrown path

Appendix A – Cllr White is not listed as a Council Member. Clerk to change.

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

No matters raised.

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

No crime report received for June.

7. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

Cllr Anstey reported that he is now two months into the role of Chair and Mayor and has a lot to thank the previous Mayor for. He’s noticed that the public expect a new Mayor to bring a lot of change to the town. However, changes come from within the council, with the Mayor being no greater than the other members. Mayor Anstey then quoted extracts from The Good Councillor’s Guide:

Remember, you have a duty to attend (meetings) but sometimes things crop up and you are unable to make it. You must contact the clerk with an apology and explanation.

It is, of course, the chairman’s job to manage the meeting by introducing agenda items, inviting members to speak, focusing discussion and clarifying matters for decision. Councillors, having engaged in discussion, vote for or against the proposal by a show of hands. Matters to be decided are called proposals or motions.

You should keep contributions short and to the point; you probably don’t enjoy listening to others who speak for too long. Always work through the chairman and try not to score points off fellow councillors. Never engage in personal attacks on others – however tempting. If you can add a dash of humour and common sense to the proceedings then you will be a pleasure to work with.

Mayor Anstey concluded by saying this is a formal meeting and the Council needed to raise the standard on how to conduct itself.

8. To receive a report from the County Councillor

Cllr Heron was not able to attend.

9. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Matcham gave the following report.

The Skate park meeting with Maverick was well received. The meeting relocated from the Salvation Army hall to the skate park where lots of people approached the designer and discussed plans with him. The funding is expected to be less than originally thought. There will be a follow-up consultation meeting in due course and this will be held in the evening or at the weekend.

The fence at the car park is finally finished. The wires left by BT have now been removed.

Unfortunately Cllr Matcham was not able to attend the Car Park redevelopment meeting at Fordingbridge Town Hall on 21st June, however the suggestion to move the recycling containers was good as it frees up space.

Cllr Hale asked if Fordingbridge Town Council would make a formal comment.

Action: Clerk to add as agenda item on the Planning or General Purposes committee meeting.

Cllr Adams asked if a car park site visit could be organised.

Action: Asst Clerk to organise car park site visit.

Cllr Matcham reported an issue with illegally parked cars on Provost Street. The traffic warden issues tickets which are then paid but the problem still continues. Cllr Matcham said there's been a call to have more out of hours traffic wardens working in the evenings or at weekends.

Cllr Matcham left the room

10. To co-opt a member to the Council

Agenda item already covered in agenda item 3 above.

11. To receive a presentation from the Rugby Club regarding proposed changes to the Pavilion

The Rugby Club have postponed their presentation to the Council following a recent board meeting.

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

- Planning Committee 13th June 2018 – received Cllr Hale
- Finance & Policy Committee 27th June 2018 – received Cllr Adams

Cllr Adams commented that as the minutes hadn't yet been approved then they shouldn't be received at this meeting.

13. To report on any Health & Safety issues

All councillors have now seen the safety policy and all councillors present have signed it.

The fallen tree has now been removed from the river in the Recreation Ground and the Clerk has written to the Environment Agency to thank them. The Groundsman has done good work to repair the river embankment.

The risk assessment has now been received for the summer festival and is very comprehensive.

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

Cllr Adams – attended Burgate Creative Arts evening on 3rd July, outstanding work and talent by students.

Cllr Lewendon – attended Passenger Transport meeting on 7th June in Lyndhurst. All Councillors have received the follow-up questionnaire. Cllr Lewendon recommended watching 'Mind the Gap' on BBC iPlayer.

Cllr Paton – attended skate park meeting on 25th May

Cllr White – attended new Councillor training on 4th July. Cllr White also thanked Fordingbridge Town Council for their support for Party in the Park on 30th June.

Cllr Perkins – attended skate park meeting on 25th May

Cllr Hale reported on the attendance at the following meetings:

14 June – Victoria rooms meeting – have been asked if they'll have grotto (and leave there for a few weeks) – problem with prior bookings clashing. Can't cancel other bookings, happy to have grotto for one night only

Cllr Earth no twinning meeting this month, flood on 12 June – 30 people homeless, it will take nine months to sort out. Fund all in hand. The Clerk has sent a message of support from Fordingbridge Town Council.

15. To note any items of correspondence

Forres Sandle Manor has written with details of their summer holiday activities

- **End of Term:** 5 July
- **Spanish Pupils Language School:** 9-29 July.
- **Activity Holiday** (UK led and UK pupils): 29 July to 11 August.
- **Music School** (UK): 11 - 26 August.

The Clerk read an anonymous letter to the Council, signed from an angry pensioner, regarding the people at Round Hill. The letter has been passed onto NFDC and PCSO May.

Peter Cheal left mtg

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

Councillors will be meeting David Hughes at 11am Thursday 5th July to thank him for painting all the town welcome signs.

Travellers have moved into the NFDC long stay car park opposite the Recreation Ground.

Plan-ET will be giving a presentation to the Council about Neighbourhood Planning at 6pm Wednesday 11th July at Town Hall.

Cllr Paton reported weeds in the gutters and verges and long grass by Burgate School which has now been cut by Hampshire County Council. Cllr Paton has been in touch with Cllr Edward Heron who told her there are discussions in hand to achieve parish partnership working – one place to report to HCC, NFDC and FTC issues such as these.

17. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as Wednesday 1st August 2018

The meeting closed at 8.28pm