

**FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 at 7.30pm**  
held remotely using appropriate technology in accordance with The Local Authorities and Police and Crimes Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (“the 2020 Regulations”) which came into force on 4th April 2020.

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

**Present:** Cllr Hale – Chairman  
Cllrs Adams, Anstey, Earth, Goldsmith, Jackson, Lewendon, Mouland, Paton, Perkins, White & Wilson

**In Attendance:** Mr P Goddard, Town Clerk  
Mrs R Edwards, Asst Town Clerk  
Cllr Heron (HCC)  
Cllr Bellows (NFDC)  
A representative from the Salisbury Journal  
2 representatives from the Men’s Shed committee  
An architect for the Men’s Shed

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

No apologies were received.

**2. To receive any Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest

**3. To confirm the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 and to report on any matters arising**

Cllr Earth proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Mouland and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 are signed as a true record. All in favour.

Matters arising

Agenda item 15 – The Clerk reported that there had been no further reports of anti-social behaviour at the Recreation Ground.

**4. To receive any matters raised by members of the public**

No matters raised.

**13. To receive an update on the Men’s Shed**

This item was moved forward in the agenda.

The Clerk reported that the informal view from the NFDC planning department is that the proposed refurbishment including the proposed storage at the Pavilion would be allowed under permitted development rights. This would potentially free up the toilet block for the men’s shed.

Separately, the Clerk enquired of the NFDC planners whether permission would be required for change of use for the toilet block. The response is set out below.

“The use of a small building on Town Council land for a men’s shed operated by the Town Council themselves or through an agreement with a private group wouldn’t need permission. However, if it was a private group operating this on other non-town council owned land then technically it would need planning permission. If they would like to, they can make a pre-application enquiry before they go ahead. This would not be classed as a householder development.”

The Men’s Shed committee thanked the Council for their support. They reported that they had received lots of enquiries and offers of help following last month’s General Council meeting and the subsequent article in the Salisbury Journal. They confirmed that women would be able to join.

The Council agreed to proceed with drafting the lease agreement for the hire of the old toilet block. A discussion about electricity and water supply followed and the Men’s Shed committee confirmed that a proper assessment would be made.

*The representatives from the Men’s Shed Committee and the architect left the meeting.*

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

No report received.

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

The Mayor reported that he and seven members of the Council attended the launch of the Keep the Heart Beating campaign last Saturday to help promote local shopping in Fordingbridge. He said it was good to see the work local businesses were doing to welcome people back to the town. The Town Council funded the promotional banners.

The Mayor reported that two meetings had been held between Fordingbridge Town Council and Claire Upton Brown, Head of Planning at NFDC, to discuss development in Fordingbridge. The first meeting discussed general planning issues, the second discussed planning application 20/10228 - Land at Burgate Acres, SP6 1LX. The Mayor found the meetings informative and thought NFDC shared many of Fordingbridge Town Council’s concerns about planning application 20/10228.

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

Cllr Heron reported that a range of temporary changes are being made across the county to provide more road space for people walking and cycling – to help keep a safe social distance as people begin to go back to work and school after the Coronavirus lockdown. Locations for temporary measures can be nominated at

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/transportchemes/hantscovidtravel>

Cllr Heron reported that Hampshire County Council has today published its Local Outbreak Control Plan which sets out how, working closely with key partners including the NHS and district councils, it will work to identify and contain local outbreaks of coronavirus – vital for

protecting the public's health, and supporting Hampshire residents and businesses to return to a healthy normal. <https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/01JulyCovidOutbreakPlan>

Cllr Heron reported that people have had problems accessing the Hampshire Waste Recycling Centres and it is difficult to make bookings. Bookings can now be made up to 7 days in advance (previously just 48 hours), however as the centres are running at just 25% capacity, he expects they will be oversubscribed for as long as social distancing restrictions remain in place.

Cllr Lewendon reported that new road planings had been laid at Marl Lane. This route is a bridleway and he was concerned that this surfacing could damage horses' hooves. Cllr Heron advised him to report this on the HCC website.

Cllr Wilson asked whether the new allotments at Augustus Park will come to Fordingbridge Town Council with a sum of money for maintenance. She said that the agreement already signed by NFDC and the developers was inadequate and asked if it could be renegotiated. She mentioned the metered water supply specifically as being impractical. Cllr Heron reported that allotments are income generating and therefore have no money attached. He advised the Council to speak directly with the developers about the possibility of bore holes.

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

Cllr Bellows reported that she is currently involved in many meetings at NFDC regarding planning in the Fordingbridge area. She also reported on a meeting with the AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) at Cranborne Chase. She said they were doing brilliant work with local farmers and were carrying out lots of studies on the biodiversity in the area.

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

- Planning Committee – 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – received Cllr Paton
- Finance and Policy Committee – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – received Cllr Adams

It was recommended at the Finance and Policy Committee meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020 that new lighting be funded for the skate park. Cllr Moulard proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Goldsmith and therefore **RESOLVED**: to fund new lighting for the skate park. All in favour.

#### **10. To consider the reopening of Town Council buildings after lockdown**

The Clerk reported that the VIC would reopen on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July and the IT issues have now been resolved by NFDC. To ensure a safe opening, a risk assessment has been carried out, plastic screens put up and extra supplies of sanitiser and cleaning products bought.

The Clerk said that systems were currently being put in place for the reopening of the Town Hall and Pavilion.

#### **11. To receive an update on the Christmas lights tender**

The Clerk reported that four tenders had been received, each tender offered a different package and these need to be compared. He suggested a socially distanced meeting in the Town Hall with the RFO to go through these. Cllrs Adams, Jackson and White expressed an interest in joining this meeting.

### **12. To agree to register the Recreation Ground with land registry**

The Clerk explained that the conveyancing documents of the Recreation Ground were incomplete and although it was possible to show ownership of most of the ground, not all of the Recreation ground was included. The legal costs of this work would be £680 - £750. The land registry fees would be subject to the value of the land, which as amenity land, would be based on the income the land generates. Cllr Moulard proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Goldsmith and therefore **RESOLVED**: to register the Recreation Ground with land registry. All in favour.

### **13. To receive an update on the Men's Shed**

The item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

### **14. To consider a response to the new NALC Model Code of Conduct**

The new NALC Model Code of Conduct was discussed and different opinions given. Councillors agreed to comment individually on the consultation. Cllr Wilson thought some of the language archaic on the Code of Conduct and asked if FTC's Code of Conduct be adapted to include an explanation of terms when it is reviewed next year.

**Action: Clerk to update FTC's Code of Conduct with a glossary before it is next reviewed**

### **15. To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan**

Councillors agreed to have a two-day public consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan in the Town Hall. They thought it important that the Town Council signposts the public to other Councils (NFDC and HCC) as many people are not aware of the responsibilities of the different Councils.

### **16. To report on any Health & Safety issues**

Cllr Hale asked whether the children's play area in the Recreation Ground should be permanently fenced off from the river, as raised by Cllr Anstey at the General Council meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June. The Clerk reported that if a new play area was installed today, then it would need to be fenced off and enclosed. However, the current layout is still suitable and passed its recent RoSPA inspection. If additional fencing were to be considered then it could be installed where the temporary fencing is now, still leaving a large area next to the river for picnicing and sunbathing but separate from the play equipment. This could be funded from CIL money.

Cllr Wilson reported that the plants at the new SANG had grown so much they covered the elevated boardwalk and touched in the middle. She said it wasn't clear where the edge of the boardwalk was and she had to rescue a dog recently who had fallen over the edge. Cllr Lewendon reported that work had begun to put the new handrails up.

**Action: Clerk to report that vegetation needs cutting back from boardwalk**

Cllr Goldsmith reported that members of the public had contacted him wanting to be involved with a Speedwatch initiative in Fordingbridge, following the article in the Salisbury Journal. He said the police are not training at the moment but they will let the Council know when another course is due to begin.

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

Cllr Anstey reported that the initiative shown by the business community was outstanding in the launch of their Shop Local campaign "Keep the Heart Beating in Fordingbridge".

Cllr Wilson reported that the museum would not be reopening this year. It is too small to be able to social distance safely and becomes very crowded. Many of the volunteers are elderly.

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

Nothing to report.

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

Cllr Moulard said that it had been Nikee Hirst's funeral on Monday and there was a lovely line of people lining the streets of Fordingbridge; from the church, all through the town, past Burgate School, applauding her as she went past. He thought it was a lovely show of community spirit. The Clerk agreed, saying it was incredibly well attended and supported.

**20. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as Wednesday 5th August 2020**

The meeting closed at 8:34p.m.