

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 2nd September 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 Bellows (NFDC)
A representative from the Salisbury Journal

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Heron (HCC) and Cllr Sevier (NFDC).

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest.

3. To confirm the minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 5th August 2020 and to report on any matters arising

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Mouland and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the General Council meeting held on the 5th August 2020 are signed as a true record. All in favour.

Cllr Adams joined the meeting.

Matters arising

Agenda item 8 – No response has been received from the Highways Agency regarding pedestrian signs for the High Street.

Agenda item 12 – Planning application 20/10694 Land rear of 14 SHAFTESBURY STREET, FORDINGBRIDGE SP6 1JF, has been withdrawn by the applicant.

Agenda item 12 – A Site 16 briefing meeting with NFDC will be held on Monday 9th September

Agenda item 13 – The vegetation at the SANG has been cut back

Agenda item 13 – The post for the lifebuoy has still not been delivered.

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

No matters raised.

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

The following report was received for August 2020.

Total occurrences reported: 95, 39 of which were recordable as crimes

Anti-Social Behaviour (15) motorbike noise, young person riding a quad bike, fishing from a bridge, issue in town with visitors, people entering abandoned property, kids entering school grounds, people playing loud music, person sleeping in vehicle, person using BB gun in their own back garden, report of a planned jazz concert, people entering local water park, 2 of youths throwing bike parts in the river, people sleeping in a vehicle and 1 personal.

Violence against the Person (7) 3 domestic related, neighbour dispute, 3rd party report of 3 persons fighting, 1 in relation to person being followed and 1 connected to the bike parts incident.

Dwelling Burglary (1) Family member has taken car keys from inside the home.

Burglary Other Than Dwelling (2) Outbuildings entered and various items taken

Business Burglary (2) local wildlife centre entered and tools stolen, building and vehicles entered and tools taken.

Damage (4) 3 relating to Rear doors to vans being damaged, damage to a personal property by unknown persons.

Theft (4) historic report of theft from a care home, item left near river and not located upon return, 1 domestic related, property name sign taken from end of driveway.

Theft from motor vehicles (3) All 3 relating to tools being taken from commercial vehicles

Theft of vehicle (0)

Cllr Mouland reported that there had been a drugs raid on Riverside Place on 27th August.

6. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

The Mayor gave the following report.

On 15th August I attended the VJ Commemoration at St Mary's Church along with Cllr Anstey and Cllr Goldsmith who was representing the Royal British Legion. There was a good attendance of residents in the Churchyard to hear Revd Mike Trotman and Ian Newman give readings from the top of the church tower, and a bugler played the last post from there. Later the Royal British Legion and the Town Council laid wreaths at the memorials inside the Church. I think this was a fitting way for Fordingbridge to remember a significant day from world history.

Just a reminder to encourage all residents to complete the Town Survey which should be delivered to all households next week. This will help the Town Council to understand what is important to everyone in the town. Councillors can use this feedback in discussions with developers and in deciding how to spend the CIL funding in the future. There should be three weeks for the survey to be completed and returned by residents.

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 Hampshire County Council's Active Places Survey is now open. The survey is all about understanding what it is like to walk, scoot, cycle or use a wheelchair, mobility scooter and/or pushchair in Hampshire. This is not just about Active Travel for pleasure but as a mode of day-to-day transport e.g. getting to work, the shops or school.

The survey is to help HCC understand the good and the bad of Active Travel in Hampshire. The views of the public will help to inform new walking and cycling design principles which will shape future schemes in Hampshire.

The survey is open from Tuesday 1st September and closes at 11.59pm on Monday 21st September. <https://hampshirecc.researchfeedback.net/s.asp?k=159769569569>

Cllr Wilson reported that the Fordingbridge Greener Living Group is looking for sites to plant 450 trees. She asked Cllr Bellows if it might be possible to plant some at Sweatford Water Meadow and whether she knew of other NFDC sites which might be suitable.

Action: Cllr Bellows to look into possible sites for planting trees.

Cllr Bellows reported that a bungalow on Parsonage Park has been derelict for a considerable time and that NFDC are investigating.

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

- Planning Committee – 12th August 2020 – received Cllr Paton
- Finance and Policy Committee – 26th August 2020 – received Cllr Adams

10. To note and consider a response to the consultations regarding proposed changes to the current planning system and proposals to reform the planning system

The Clerk reported that on 6th August 2020 the Government launched two consultations on proposed changes to the planning system.

- The '**Planning for the Future**' White Paper on proposals to fundamentally reform the planning system. Closing date 29th October 2020.
- The '**Changes to the current planning system**' which is a consultation seeking views on a range of proposed changes to the current planning system. Closing date 1st October 2020.

Members agreed to submit their comments to the Clerk so that a response could be drafted for consideration at the Finance and Policy Committee meeting on 30th September.

11. To report on any Health & Safety issues

Cllr Moulard reported that an official complaint has been received from the Turks Football Club regarding the white line marking of the Football Pitch. The white line appears to have poisoned the grass causing trenches in some areas. Cllr Anstey said that if the football club feels the lines are unsafe then they mustn't use the pitch. Cllr Anstey recommended that the Groundsman remove the top 4 inches of the lines, refill with normal soil and reseed. He also recommended that the lines be brought in by 3 inches and white line the grass there.

Action: Clerk to raise matter with Groundsman.

The Clerk reported that a bicycle had been thrown into the river and since retrieved. This has been reported to the police.

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

Cllr Wilson attended a meeting of the Fordingbridge Greener Living group and reported that the group will be receiving 450 trees from the Woodland Trust. The group would like to plant some trees at Parsonage Park and Cllr Wilson thought the opposite side of the river from the children's play area would be a suitable spot. The new trees would also act as screening for the houses there. Cllr Wilson reported that the group had the use of a field at Godshill initially, which they planned to use as a nursery to grow on and help establish the saplings until they could be transplanted elsewhere. Cllr Anstey thought that was a good idea as little trees could easily be damaged in many locations. Cllr Wilson reported that the group were looking for other pieces of land to plant trees and for areas to rewild.

Action: Town Clerk to confirm with Fordingbridge Greener Living that trees can be planted at Parsonage Park

Cllr Wilson reported that Fordingbridge Greener Living have asked if they can store tools in the Town Council's shed (4 shovels and a tree planting tool). Councillors agreed they could do this.

Action: Town Clerk to discuss with Fordingbridge Greener Living the storage of tools.

Cllr Bellows asked what types of trees they are. Cllr Wilson confirmed the trees were native, she didn't have further details but could find out.

Cllr Jackson reported on a meeting with the Clerk and a retired local building surveyor regarding his proposal for a new relief road to take traffic from the new developments away from the congested High Street. He proposed that a northern link road be built from Site 16 through Sites 17 and 18 to connect the two ends of Fordingbridge, from Ashford to Fryern Court. Cllr Jackson proposed that a single issue Neighbourhood Plan be written with the purpose of creating a northern relief road.

Cllr Wilson reported that this area, in particular Marl Lane, is one of the most ecologically sensitive areas of the town and a relief road should not be allowed to cross it. Cllr Bellows cautioned that anything agreed by the Town Council needs to fit in with NFDC plans and there is no plan for a road in that area. The Clerk reported that he'd forwarded the proposal regarding the relief road to the NFDC planning case officer and it had subsequently been forwarded to Highways.

Cllr Wilson proposed putting a width or weight restriction on the High Street so that lorries couldn't use the High Street. Cllr Adams thought this wouldn't be practical and Cllr Paton asked about the impact on local industry. Cllr Wilson suggested asking the public their thoughts. Cllr Hale said that there was no ideal solution but thought that the possibility of a relief road should be explored.

13. To note any items of correspondence

Nothing to report.

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

The Clerk reported that one of the poles at Roundhill was removed by a contractor. The pole is needed for the Christmas lights and the contractor has agreed to reinstate the pole.

The Clerk reported that he would meet with Fordingbridge Events Group later this week and would report back with their plans for the future.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for circulating the guidance on CIL spending.

15. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as Wednesday 7th October 2020

The meeting closed at 8:11p.m.