

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 7th August 2019 at 7.30pm in the Victoria Rooms
(Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Council)**

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

In Attendance: Mr P Goddard, Town Clerk
Cllr Sevier (NFDC)
Katy Griffin (Salisbury Journal)

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs White, Heron (HCC) and Bellows (NFDC).

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest

3. To confirm the minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 3rd July 2019 and to report on any matters arising

Cllr Mouland proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Earth and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the General Council meeting held on the 3rd July 2019 are signed as a true record.

Matters arising:

Minute number 3 – The SANG to the west of Whitsbury Road: The NFDC had reported that the SANG had been completed. The Town Clerk advised that the concerns expressed regarding the lack of handrails and that it did not comply with the drawings had been reported to the NFDC. The NFDC are visiting the SANG this week to assess the situation and decide any remedial action that is required and will then report back.

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

No report had been received from the neighbourhood policing team.

6. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

Cllr Anstey reported that the Summer Festival in July was a credit to the Events Group. It was also the opportunity for the Town Council to engage with the public at the Town Council stand. Cllr Anstey thanked the Cllrs who attended during the day and in particular mentioned Cllr Jackson's contribution setting up and manning the stand throughout the day. Cllr Anstey suggested it was a great success with regard to engaging with the public and that the Town Council should not wait until next year's festival but should perhaps have a Town Council surgery for residents to attend once the Town Hall work was finished.

Cllr Anstey advised that, having passed a resolution supporting Fairtrade, the Town Council are required to nominate a representative to promote and support Fairtrade. Cllr Paton advised that she had already been contacted and would be the Town Council's Fairtrade representative.

Cllr Anstey referred to a meeting of the NFDC planning committee on 14th August at which a resident's planning application was to be considered. The conservation officer's report had raised issues and the resident had asked whether a member of the Town Council could attend the planning committee meeting. The Town Council supported the application at its own planning meeting and Cllr Anstey suggested that in terms of Town Council accountability there will be instances where Cllrs should not just vote in favour of an application at the Town Council's own planning meetings but may have to attend meetings of the NFDC's planning committee. Cllr Jackson advised that he was prepared to attend the planning committee meeting on 14th August 2019.

Cllr Anstey advised that on 16th July he had attended the Metis Homes presentation; on 19th July he had attended the safety meeting for the Summer festival; on 20th July he had attended the Summer Festival; on 31st July he had attended a meeting regarding a five year plan for the town and the future use of the Town Hall (Cllr Anstey thanked those who also attended) and on 6th August attended a meeting with Ellis Whittam, the Town Council's health and safety consultants.

7. To receive a report from the County Councillor

Cllr Heron sent his sincere apologies: There was no report.

8. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Sevier was pleased to report the Tetrabin was in place. The Greener Living group were looking for a site and she was able to arrange for it to be placed in the long stay car park. She advised Cllrs and will also advise the Greener Living group that the Tetrabin needs to be well used as the NFDC will monitor how cost effective and practical it is. In September the group are meeting the NFDC to look at improving recycling generally and there is a good article in the Salisbury Journal about the group. Cllr Sevier is impressed with the Greener Living group and has spoken to the portfolio manager at the NFDC to push for more assistance regarding recycling. Cllr Sevier sees Fordingbridge as an example of what can be done. The NFDC's policy is to minimise any waste, as it costs money to deal with, but if waste is generated the aim is for it to be recycled where possible. Cllr Wilson enquired when the bin would be emptied. Cllr Sevier reported it would be emptied when it was full (it is already half full) and this is monitored by the NFDC's contractor and the Greener Living group.

Regarding the NFDC's planning committee, Cllr Sevier advised that the committee is always pleased when towns and parishes come to explain their decisions. Normally the committee only have the paperwork and the applications that the committee are generally considering are those in the balance and large schemes which may change policy. It is therefore useful and appreciated when there is attendance.

Cllr Perkins raised the issue of car park signage. Cllr Sevier queried what it was the Town Council required. Cllrs advised that it was signage to the car park via the Roundhill entrance in the centre of town to assist visitors. Cllr Sevier stated that signage fell under the remit of Hampshire County Council and she undertook to contact Cllr Heron (HCC).

Cllr Sevier advised that the walkways in the car park would be painted shortly now the tarmac has settled. Cllr Wilson said that visitors to the town were experiencing confusion regarding where they could pay with a card. Cllr Sevier undertook to take this back to the NFDC and advised that new pay machines may be being installed. Cllr Perkins asked whether this could include free parking for thirty minutes to encourage people to use the shops. Cllr Sevier stated that there was resistance to this at the NFDC where the parking clocks are considered to be a big enough concession. Cllr Perkins enquired whether the resurfacing cost came from the same budget as the potential thirty minutes of free parking. Cllr Sevier confirmed this was the case and said that

where money was potentially available to be spent in Fordingbridge, as was the case with the resurfacing, then she is looking to secure it. Cllr Anstey asked whether the request for free parking could be taken back to the NFDC. Cllr Sevier advised that it would not be formally discussed until after Christmas but she will raise the issue. Cllr Sevier advised that there is free parking in place in Totton but they pay the NFDC for it.

Cllr Lewendon raised the issue of parking in Salisbury Street citing the situation he saw involving vehicles both legally and illegally parked on his way to the meeting. Cllr Sevier said that the NFDC have a service agreement with HCC to enforce parking but they only work during the day. Cllr Sevier advised that changes to street parking could only be achieved by way of a consultation through HCC. Cllr Lewendon raised the issue of enforcing vehicles illegally parked and Cllr Sevier advised there was not the resource to police it. Cllr Jackson cited an incident where the holder of a long stay clock was looking to park in the short stay car park when there were no spaces in the long stay car park and had been informed that she could not do so. Cllr Sevier confirmed that this was the correct application.

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

- Planning Committee – 10th July 2019 – received Cllr Hale
- Amenities Committee – 17th July 2019– received Cllr Mouland
- General Purposes Committee – 17th July 2019 – received Cllr Wilson
- Finance & Policy Committee – 24th July 2019 – received Cllr Adams

10. To receive a presentation from Ringwood and Fordingbridge Citizens Advice

The representative from the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Citizens Advice did not attend the meeting.

11. To agree membership of Go New Forest

Cllr Jackson provided background as to how Go New Forest came about out of the NFDC tourism service. The cost of joining Go New Forest for the rest of the year is £83 and the annual cost for the following year would be £200. Cllr Jackson suggested that the chief executive of Go New Forest knew how the district worked and his input would be useful in promoting tourism and leisure in Fordingbridge. Cllr Sevier added that membership would save the Town Council money when promoting Fordingbridge and that the chief executive has good contacts that could promote the town. Cllr Goldsmith asked who the chief executive was accountable to and Cllr Sevier advised that there is a board (not the NFDC) that he is accountable to.

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Mouland and therefore RESOLVED to become members of Go New Forest. All in favour.

12. To consider a neighbourhood plan

Cllr Jackson talked about the benefit of Community Infrastructure Levy and the potential increase available to the Town Council in the event a neighbourhood plan is agreed. The potential uplift which Cllr Jackson estimated could be as much as £1m is well worth pursuing. A neighbourhood plan is something that the Town Council has looked at in the past and Cllr Jackson would be prepared to take it on with Cllr support. Cllr Anstey agreed it was a worthwhile project and to not try and secure what could be a considerable uplift could be viewed as a failure by the Town Council. Cllr Hale suggested the neighbourhood plan had not previously progressed in part due to the cost of consultants. Cllrs discussed the potential benefit

of a neighbourhood plan, the influence that could be exerted if a neighbourhood plan was agreed and how it would tie in with the NFDC local plan. Cllr Anstey advised that the neighbourhood plan had now been considered and the Town Council wished Cllr Jackson to research the process further.

13. To report on any Health & Safety issues

Cllr Anstey advised that the ROSPA reports had been received on the 24th July and that a Health and Safety visit by Ellis Whittam had been conducted on 6th August. In March last year a Health and Safety action plan had been prepared. Cllr Anstey advised that there are a number of issues that are in hand but ongoing and there are also a number of issues that had been identified that have been dealt with because of good management in the way the Town Council is run.

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

Cllrs Jackson, Moulard, Lewendon had attended the Summer Festival. Cllr Paton had attended the Summer Festival and also visited the Playscheme. Cllr Hale had on 18th July attended the trustees meeting for the Victoria Rooms and reported a pantomime was to be put on this year. Cllr Hale had also attended the Conservation Group stand at the Damerham Fair on 27th July.

15. To note any items of correspondence

There was no correspondence to report.

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

The Clerk advised that he had looked into obtaining a bye law regarding drinking in public. The NFDC advised that there are no bye laws currently in place. It would be for the NFDC to seek a bye law but they are discouraged from doing so as they are ineffective. The Clerk is due to speak to the community safety manager at the NFDC on 8th August 2019 to discuss alternatives. Regarding removing the benches at Roundhill, the NFDC have advised that they are the Town Council's benches so we could remove them and the NFDC would contribute to the cost of replacing them. Cllrs discussed the practicalities of removing the benches and whether ownership sat with the Town Council and the merit of removing the benches.

Action: The Clerk to discuss with the groundsmen the practicalities of removing the benches.

The Clerk reported that the Town Hall work was due to complete around the end of the first week in September. Variations to the work of approximately £16,000 had been proposed to be paid from the agreed £25,000 contingency. The clock mechanism is back in and the clock faces are on. Cllrs discussed the merit of having the clock chiming.

Cllr Lewendon advised that the director of the film 'Secret Spitfire' was writing a book on the subject and was interested in talking to anyone that might be able to contribute to the book. Cllr Adams advised that Entertainment Society was going to show the film.

Cllr Wilson raised the suggestion that a water bottle re-filler should be installed in the Recreation Ground. The cost of the unit was circa £1,000. The Clerk advised that this would fall under amenities. Cllr Anstey said the principle was good and suggested having one by the kiosk and one in the Recreation Ground.

Cllr Jackson enquired when Whitsbury Road would be open.

Action: The Clerk to establish when Whitsbury Road would be open.

Cllr Perkins reported that the bridges had started to be repainted.

**17. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as Wednesday 4th September 2019
in the Town Hall**

The meeting closed at 8:21 p.m.