

**FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 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 and Wilson

**In Attendance:** Mr Paul Goddard, Town Clerk  
Mrs Rachel Edwards, Asst Town Clerk  
Mrs Kathy Downie, Information Officer  
PCSO Stephen May  
Ruth Croker, Ringwood and Fordingbridge Footpath Society  
Katy Griffin, Salisbury Journal

**1. To elect the Town Mayor for the forthcoming year**

Cllr Lewendon proposed Cllr Hale as Town Mayor and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore **RESOLVED:** to elect Cllr Hale as Town Mayor for the forthcoming year. All in favour.

Cllr Hale accepted the office of Mayor and took the Chair.

**2. To elect the Deputy Mayor for the forthcoming year**

Cllr Adams proposed Cllr Wilson as Deputy Mayor and it was seconded by Cllr Earth and therefore **RESOLVED:** to elect Cllr Wilson as Deputy Mayor for the forthcoming year. All in favour.

Cllr Wilson accepted the office of Deputy Mayor.

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

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

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

No declarations of interest.

**5. To confirm the minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and to report on any matters arising**

Cllr Perkins proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the General Council meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021 are signed as a true record. All in favour.

**Matters Arising**

Agenda item 3 – Cllr Lewendon reported that some work has been done on the footpath outside the new Augustus Park development cutting back the edges but that last time it rained, the footpath flooded again.

**Action: Clerk to report footpath outside the new Augustus Park development to Highways**

Agenda item 9 – Cllr Bellows could not locate the vandalism and asked Cllr Perkins to send photos of the displaced blocks from the paving behind the chemist in the car park area.

**Action: Cllr Perkins to email photos of vandalism to Cllr Bellows**

Agenda item 18 – The Clerk reported that current *Government COVID-19: Guidance for managing playgrounds* places emphasis on playground owners assessing the risk. Potential measures to facilitate social distancing include limiting the available number of seats on equipment or numbers of swings available to promote social distancing, including for parents, carers or guardians who might push children on swings for example. Members agreed that the Covid risk to people queuing for the swings would be the same or less than actually using the swings. Cllr Anstey proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore **RESOLVED**: that all swings be put back into use again. All in favour. The Clerk reported that the reopening of the paddling pool (normally on the late May Bank Holiday weekend) could be problematic with regards to social distancing. Members agreed to monitor the situation and make a decision on the paddling pool nearer the time.

**Action: Clerk to arrange for swings to be put back into use again**

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

No matters raised.

#### **7. To agree a change in the Terms of Reference for the Amenities and General Purposes Committees**

Members had previously discussed changing the Terms of Reference of the Amenities and General Purposes Committees to remove the limit of five members plus the Chairman and Vice Chairman sitting on these committees. In this way members would not be prevented from sitting on a committee in which they have an interest.

Cllr Wilson asked that the Highways be removed from the General Purposes agenda and that Highways and Footways be added the General Council agenda instead. Councillors agreed to discuss this under agenda point 16.

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Wilson and therefore **RESOLVED**: to change item number 1 of the Terms of Reference of the Amenities Committee to state that:

The Amenities Committee is constituted as a Standing Committee of Fordingbridge Town Council. The Committee composition shall comprise of **at least five\*** Councillors as voting members with at least one-third of the whole number of members of the committee (and in no case less than three members of the committee) constituting a quorum.

\* Please note the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Full council are ex-officio members of all committees and entitled to vote.

All in favour.

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Wilson and therefore **RESOLVED**: to change item number 1 of the Terms of Reference of the General Purposes Committee to state that:

The General Purposes Committee is constituted as a Standing Committee of Fordingbridge Town Council. The Committee composition shall comprise of **at least five\*** Councillors as voting members with at least one-third of the whole number of members of

the committee (and in no case less than three members of the committee) constituting a quorum.

\* Please note the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Full council are ex-officio members of all committees and entitled to vote.

All in favour.

**8. To elect membership of the following Committees**

- Amenities Committee (at least 5 + Chairman & Vice Chairman)
- Finance & Policy Committee FULL COUNCIL
- General Purposes Committee (at least 5 + Chairman & Vice Chairman)
- Planning Committee FULL COUNCIL
- Staff & Remuneration Committee (4 + Chairman & Vice Chairman)
- Transport Committee (5)

See Appendix for Committee Membership for the year 2021-22.

**9. To confirm representatives of the following outside bodies and agree arrangements for reporting back:**

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| • Burgate School Community Management      | Cllr D. Paton & Cllr Mike Jackson |
| • Fairtrade                                | Cllr D Paton                      |
| • Footpath Officer                         | Ruth Croker                       |
| • Fordingbridge Greener Living             | Cllr A Wilson                     |
| • Fordingbridge Hospital Stakeholder Group | Cllr Lewendon                     |
| • Fordingbridge Sports Club                | Cllr J. Mouland & Cllr P. White   |
| • FCG                                      | Cllr E. Hale                      |
| • HALC                                     | Cllr P. Anstey & Vacancy          |
| • NFALC                                    | Cllr P. Anstey & Vacancy          |
| • N F Consultative Panel                   | Cllr P. Anstey                    |
| • NPA Quadrant meetings                    | Cllr P. Anstey                    |
| • Passenger Transport                      | Cllr A. Lewendon                  |
| • Rural Market Towns Group                 | Cllr P. Anstey                    |
| • Twinning Association                     | Cllr D. Paton                     |
| • Victoria Rooms Committee                 | Cllr E. Hale                      |
| • Western Escarpment Steering Group        | Cllr P Anstey                     |
| • Youth Action Group                       | Cllr D. Paton & Cllr P. White     |

See Appendix for representatives of outside bodies for the year 2021-22.

Cllr Anstey noted that several groups have not invited the Council to any meetings recently.

**10. Review of Council's membership of other bodies.**

- Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC)
- Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC)
- New Forest Association of Local Councils (NFALC)
- Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM)
- Hampshire Playing Fields Association
- Community First New Forest
- Go New Forest
- Rural Market Towns Group

The Clerk reported that membership is paid either for the calendar year or the financial year.

Cllr Adams proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore **RESOLVED**: to review the Council's membership of other bodies in December. All in favour.

Cllr Anstey reported that the Rural Market Town's free trial lasts until September and would need to be reviewed before then.

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

The following reports were received.

**Fordingbridge 12 month comparison**

	May 20-21	May 19-20	Difference
<b>1b Violence with Injury</b>	47	34	13
<b>1c Violence without Injury</b>	86	58	28
<b>2a Rape</b>	4	5	-1
<b>2b Other Sexual Offences</b>	7	9	-2
<b>3b Robbery of Personal Property</b>	2	2	0
<b>4a1 Burglary Residential</b>	27	17	10
<b>4a2 Burglary Business and Community</b>	13	21	-8
<b>4b Vehicle Offences</b>	27	36	-9
<b>4c Theft from the Person</b>	3	0	3
<b>4d Bicycle Theft</b>	3	2	1
<b>4e Shoplifting</b>	20	7	13
<b>4f All Other Theft Offences</b>	34	25	9
<b>5a Criminal Damage</b>	50	47	3
<b>5b Arson</b>	0	1	-1
<b>6a Trafficking of Drugs</b>	6	1	5
<b>6b Possession of Drugs</b>	14	8	6
<b>7 Possession of Weapons Offences</b>	3	3	0
<b>8 Public Order Offences</b>	35	38	-3
<b>9 Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society</b>	5	4	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>68</b>

**Fordingbridge April 2021 Beat report**  
**86 reported incidents, with 31 recordable as crimes**

**Anti-Social Behaviour** (10) 1 report of a person believing there were being followed, 1 of youths shouting in an alleyway, 1 incident of a group on the library roof, 1 of drunk people outside of a local pub, 1 report of street drinking, 1 of a group on a school site without permission, 3 relating to ongoing neighbour issues and one of a personal nature.

**Violence against the Person** (10) 1 incident relating to an assault between 2 residents at a care home, 1 of a dog bite incident, 2 in connection with a neighbour dispute and 6 were domestic related

**Dwelling Burglary** (1) owner had been away for a couple of days and upon return has noted the home has been entered and money taken from a bedside table after a messy search

**Burglary Other Than Dwelling** (1) Garden building entered and ride on mower and tools have been stolen.

**Business Burglary** (0)

**Damage** (9) 1 report of damage to a washing line, 1 relating to a neighbour dispute, 1 incident of a vehicle windscreen being smashed, 2 reports of graffiti, 1 occurrence of a shop window being smashed, 1 incident of damage to a changing room window, 1 of a car being keyed and 1 of a car being jumped on.

**Theft** (4) 1 Report of a phone and bike being taken from the rec ground, 1 incident of a magazine stand being removed from outside a local shop, 1 of an old water cylinder being removed from a front garden and 1 report of firewood also being removed from a front garden.

**Theft from motor vehicles** (3) 1 report of chrome trim being removed from the external of a vehicle and 2 of the catalytic convertor being taken.

**Theft of vehicle** (0)

Cllr Hale raised concern about the increase in crime in Fordingbridge in 2020/21 compared to the previous year, in particular the increase in violence, and asked how this compared to other towns. PCSO May hadn't had the opportunity to compare areas but reported that there is an increase overall.

**Action: Clerk to write to the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner to express concern about crime in the area and to invite to a General Council meeting**

Cllr Hale reported that the crime tree provided evidence that more support is needed in the town. Cllr Anstey said that too much can be read into statistics without necessarily comparing like with like. Due to the pandemic, he thought the 2020-21 year shouldn't be compared with 2019-2020, but with similar sized towns in the same time period instead.

Cllr Perkins was concerned that due to the requirement to wear face masks, shop-lifters could not be recognised so easily by retailers. PCSO May reported that the increase in shop-lifting incidents was due in part to a rise in reporting. PCSO May has been working closely with the new manager at the Co-op to report incidents, sharing information and asking for ID. The Co-op is the shop most affected in Fordingbridge and PCSO May has asked other shops to report thefts too.

With regards to violence (without and with injury), PCSO May reported that work is being done both locally and nationwide to address this. There have been more domestic incidents in the past year due to lockdown stress, but Fordingbridge no more so than other areas.

Cllr Adams was concerned about the amount of crime at the Recreation Ground recently. PCSO May reported that work is going on around that but that he couldn't share details. He emphasised that it was important that incidents are reported to the police.

Cllr Perkins asked about the new Shop Watch scheme. PCSO May reported that the initial uptake has been very low and although he would like to progress it further, he hasn't had the time to commit due to other work commitments. Cllr Perkins offered his assistance with the programme and agreed to meet up with PCSO May.

PCSO May said he was happy to receive any further questions after the meeting via the Clerk.

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

The Mayor reported that the Council has good opportunities to move forward with the action plan from NFDC and to work with both NFDC and HCC. He hoped the Council could move forward with the Town Hall refurbishment this coming year.

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

No report received.

Cllr Wilson spoke about the recent graffiti in the town and reported that while NFDC had cleaned it off their property, Hampshire County Council has yet to do the same. Cllr Perkins reported that HCC have been cleaning road signs.

**14. To receive a report from the District Councillors**

No report received.

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

- Planning Committee – 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – received Cllr Paton
- Extraordinary Amenities Committee – 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – received Cllr Mouland
- Finance and Policy Committee – 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – received Cllr Adams

**16. To consider footways in Fordingbridge**

Cllr Hale asked how transport fits within the NFDC action plan document. Cllr Paton reported that the NFDC planning document will consider the longer-term overall picture, whereas General Council should consider the day-to-day issues which need addressing immediately.

Ruth Croker (RFFS) asked which footways would be discussed under this agenda item and whether rural footpaths would be included. Cllr Wilson confirmed that highways and pavements within the town would be discussed by General Council but not the rural footpaths which would remain under the General Purposes committee.

Cllr Wilson reported that other areas have had a lot of work done by Hampshire Highways and cited New Milton as an example. She said that Fordingbridge has not had the same input from the County Council. Cllr Wilson expressed a wish to get the town tidied up, starting with the basics of removing the weeds growing on the pavements and clearing the litter.

### **17. To decide how to progress the NFDC planning document**

Councillors discussed where the NFDC action plan would sit within FTC's committee structure. Cllr Jackson thought it should sit under the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, which is recognised by NFDC as a formal body, and the NPSG should report back to the Planning Committee. Cllr Jackson said that the main aim is to achieve the NFDC action plan.

Cllr Wilson thought it would be confusing to have it under the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and Cllr Adams was concerned that to place it here would lead to delays. Cllrs Wilson and Adams wanted reports to be given directly to the Planning Committee. Cllr Paton agreed it should sit under the Planning Committee but that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group should still be in action as different people in this group have different expertise. She said that nothing would go forward without everyone on the Council knowing what is happening.

Cllr Paton asked that all Members let the Clerk know which areas of the action plan they wish to take responsibility for.

**Action: Clerk to compile list and update members**

Cllr Wilson reported that she had written a review of the Town Design Document.

**Action: Clerk to email members Cllr Wilson's review of the Town Design Statement**

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

The Clerk reported that the lifebuoys are inspected weekly and the inspections recorded.

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

Cllr Paton reported that the Twinning Association have arranged for a bin at the Recreation Ground to be twinned with one in the Democratic Republic of Congo. A sticker will be placed on the bin to show this.

Cllr Moulard reported that he has met with Cllr Bellows (NFDC) and Ruth Croker (RFFS) to discuss footways and cycleways. He said that various booklets have been produced over the years.

Cllr Jackson attended a meeting about the Wessex Trailway on the morning of 5<sup>th</sup> May.

Cllr Wilson reported that the Fordingbridge Greener Living Group's composter would be delivered to the allotments on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May. I.N.Newman Funeral Directors have cleared the ground on which it is to be sited.

Cllr Anstey attended the North West Quadrant meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> April where a presentation was given on pop-up campsites. Ruth Croker (RFFS) commented that more information needs to be given to people staying at pop-up campsites, directing them into Fordingbridge and to the local shops. The next meeting of the North West Quadrant will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> July at Fordingbridge Town Hall.

Cllr Goldsmith reported that on the 15<sup>th</sup> May at 11am, the Royal British Legion will lay a wreath at the Memorial Gates to commemorate its centenary.

### **20. To note any items of correspondence**

A letter was received from Godshill and Bramshaw Parish Councils raising concerns about the continuing high number of animal deaths on the B3078 (which passes through both parishes from Cadnam to Fordingbridge). They are asking local Councils to support a Feasibility Study and installation of Average Speed Cameras by writing to the Chief Constable of Hampshire Police and the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner to encourage them to support the project to reduce animal deaths and casualties on this road.

Cllr Wilson thought that an absolute speed camera would be better than an average speed camera as drivers slow for ponies and this brings their average speed down to within the limit. Cllr Jackson thought that drivers who drive above the speed limit wouldn't slow sufficiently for ponies and supported an average speed camera, which he said would be cheaper to monitor.

***Action: Clerk to write to the Chief Constable of Hampshire Police and the new Police and Crime Commissioner to express concern and encourage support for the project***

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

The Clerk reminded members that Council meetings would resume in the Town Hall from next week as the temporary Government legislation allowing Councils to meet remotely, expires on 6<sup>th</sup> May. Cllr Wilson asked how the public would be affected by this. The Clerk reported that the number of members of public allowed to attend a meeting would be limited due to social distancing requirements, however the guidance from NALC said that meetings could be live streamed if necessary.

**22. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall**

The meeting closed at 8:45p.m.



**APPENDIX**

**2021-22**

**Members of the Council may be contacted via the Town Council Office on 01425 654134 or [town.clerk@fordingbridge.gov.uk](mailto:town.clerk@fordingbridge.gov.uk)**

**Members of the Town Council**

Cllr Edward Hale – Town Mayor  
Cllr Anna Wilson – Deputy Mayor  
Cllr Malcolm Adams  
Cllr Paul Anstey  
Cllr Patricia Earth  
Cllr Leonard (Nobby) Goldsmith  
Cllr Mike Jackson  
Cllr Alan Lewendon  
Cllr John Moulard  
Cllr Diane Paton  
Cllr Brian Perkins  
Cllr Pete White

**AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

Cllr P. Anstey  
Cllr L. Goldsmith  
Cllr M. Jackson  
Cllr J. Moulard  
Cllr. D. Paton  
Cllr. P. White  
Cllr. E. Hale ) ex-  
Cllr. A. Wilson ) officio

**GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Cllr. M. Adams  
Cllr P. Earth  
Cllr L. Goldsmith  
Cllr. A. Lewendon  
Cllr B. Perkins  
Cllr. E. Hale ) ex-  
Cllr. A. Wilson ) officio

**FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE**

All members of the Council

**PLANNING COMMITTEE**

All members of the Council

**STAFF & REMUNERATION COMMITTEE**

Cllr M. Adams

Cllr P. Earth

Cllr A. Lewendon

Cllr. B. Perkins

Cllr. E. Hale ) ex-

Cllr. A. Wilson ) officio

**TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Cllr P. Earth

Cllr L. Goldsmith

Cllr A. Lewendon

Cllr. A. Wilson

Up to 1 other member of the Council

**REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| • Avon Valley Shed                         | Cllr M Adams & Cllr P Earth    |
| • Burgate School Community Management      | Cllr D. Paton & Cllr M Jackson |
| • Fair Trade                               | Cllr D Paton                   |
| • Footpath Officer                         | Ruth Croker                    |
| • Fordingbridge Greener Living             | Cllr A. Wilson                 |
| • Fordingbridge Hospital Stakeholder Group | Cllr Lewendon                  |
| • Fordingbridge Sports Club                | Cllr J. Mouland & Cllr P White |
| • Fordingbridge Conservation Group         | Cllr E. Hale                   |
| • HALC                                     | Cllr P. Anstey                 |
| • NFALC                                    | Cllr P. Anstey                 |
| • N F Consultative Panel                   | Cllr P. Anstey                 |
| • NPA Quadrant meetings                    | Cllr P. Anstey                 |
| • Passenger Transport                      | Cllr A. Lewendon               |
| • Rural Market Towns Group                 | Cllr P. Anstey                 |
| • Twinning Association                     | Cllr D. Paton                  |
| • Victoria Rooms Committee                 | Cllr E. Hale                   |
| • Western Escarpment Steering Group        | Cllr P. Anstey                 |
| • Youth Action Group                       | Cllr D. Paton & Cllr P. White  |