

**FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 at 7.35pm**  
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 P Goddard, Town Clerk  
Mrs R Edwards, Asst Town Clerk  
Cllr Heron (HCC)  
Cllr Bellows (NFDC)  
A reporter from the Salisbury Journal

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

Apologies were received from Cllr Sevier.

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

No declarations of interest.

**3. To confirm the minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and to report on any matters arising**

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Goldsmith and therefore RESOLVED: that the minutes of the General Council meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021 are signed as a true record. All in favour.

**Matters Arising**

Agenda item 12 – The Clerk is awaiting a response from NFDC regarding the rationale of FTC taking on title to land at Stuckton Road Cemetery.

Agenda item 14 – The ownership of the tree is uncertain. The Clerk will check the land registry.

Agenda item 15 – Tree planting has been delayed due to the pandemic and will take place in November instead.

Agenda item 17 – Vaccination centre road signs have been replaced.

Agenda item 17 – LCWIP briefings will be arranged shortly for District Councillors. FTC will be briefed after this.

Agenda item 17 – The Clerk is amalgamating a response to the Dorset Local Plan

Agenda item 17 – The Information Office has partially reopened

**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**

PCSO May sent the following report and drew Councillors' attention to the proposed new electoral arrangements for New Forest District Council (see map below). PCSO May confirmed that policing is unaffected as the outer boundary for the three wards remains the same, however the crime reports may cover a larger area in future.

**Fordingbridge Beat Report – January 2021**

**Total occurrences reported: 42, 23 of which were recordable as crimes**

**Anti-Social Behaviour** (1) Dispute between neighbours

**Violence against the Person** (2) Both relate to 1 incident during a shop lifting occurrence, no persons were injured.

**Dwelling Burglary** (2) 1 incident relating to the owner believing someone had been in his flat and moved item within but nothing taken and 1 of a house being entered by a smash front window and only keys taken.

**Burglary Other Than Dwelling** (0)

**Business Burglary** (1) Shipping container entered and a number of tools taken.

**Damage** (3) Garden fence broken, Window smash at local school and damage caused to lift fitting at vaccination marquee.

**Shoplifting** (3) All relating to local supermarket and items taken

**Theft** (0)

**Theft from motor vehicles** (1) Catalytic convertor removed from 2 vehicles belonging to the same business.

**Theft of vehicle** (0)

The  
Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
for England



Figure 1 New electoral arrangements for New Forest District Council, Final Recommendations, January 2021

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

The Mayor gave the following report.

*I have been contacted by two residents about items which concern them:*

### Crime

*A resident has written they are very concerned about groups of children meeting up around the town. This is a breach of lockdown so the resident has asked why the Police are not stopping this. The Clerk contacted our local police officer who has said they will try to patrol areas where there are reports of gatherings, but their resources are stretched.*

*On this subject I want to say how frustrated I am and so are many Councillors are about the two break-ins at the Changing Rooms refurbishment project. This work is to provide better facilities for the many people who use this building and is being put at risk by these criminals. The Town Council has a special meeting on Friday to discuss security of the site and it is likely there will be extra costs for our residents to pay. This money could have been spent in far better ways to benefit our town.*

### Highways

*A resident has emailed me to say how difficult it is to cross the A338 at Burgate. This affects children being dropped off or collected from the schools, and also walkers using the footpaths from there. The resident has asked for a pedestrian crossing to be included when the junction is altered for the Metis Homes work. Another option would be traffic islands to protect pedestrians when crossing.*

*I have forwarded this request to Cllr Heron along with two other concerns:*

- To follow up on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group request for a meeting with a representative from Hampshire Highways. This would be similar to the briefings the Town Council already receives from NFDC Planning.*
- An update on what can be done to improve our footpaths in response to the concerns raised by the recent consultation process.*

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

Cllr Heron reported that call centres have not been good at contacting contacts of those who have tested positive for Coronavirus and this is a function HCC will now be taking on for Hampshire. Cllr Heron reported that there is a lot of information regarding coronavirus on the Hampshire County Council webpage and asked that this be shared.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/coronavirus>

Cllr Heron reported that Graham Wright, HCC Team Leader - Economy, Transport & Environment, and Claire Upton Brown, NFDC Head of Planning, will meet with FTC's Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Graham Wright is also a senior officer on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).

Cllr Heron reported that County officers have been inspecting the pavements in Fordingbridge. There will be patching work on Whitsbury Road which will be done as soon as possible. Also on Salisbury Road. Salisbury Street has been scheduled into the Operational Resilience program for the next financial year. Cllr Heron encouraged residents to report road and pavement defects online and said that the NFDC app also reports to HCC.

Cllr Heron thought a pedestrian crossing on the A338 a sensible idea and could be done as part of the LCWIP program.

Cllr Perkins asked about Redbrook Lodges. Cllr Heron reported that they had been inspected and a gully sucker used.

Cllr Earth asked whether any progress had been made with the issue of the shortage of long stay car parking spaces. Cllr Heron reported that a NFDC car park strategy review had taken place. No significant changes would be made during lockdown as parking patterns are different. There would be no additional long stay spaces.

Cllr Wilson showed a photo (Figure 2) depicting the muddy and flooded pavement outside the new Augustus Park development. Cllr Heron said the pavements there aren't of standard width and recommended that the lengthsman be tasked to shovel the grass to increase the width of the pavement. Cllr Lewendon reported that the level of the road is higher than the pavement since being resurfaced, causing run off from the road resulting in waterlogged and muddy pavements.

**Action: Clerk to email details to Cllr Heron.**

Cllr Lewendon reported that there is frequently a large puddle on the opposite side of this road. Cllr Heron reported that developer contributions can be spent on upgrading.

Cllr Perkins reported that he was pleased to see traffic wardens in the town. Cllr Heron said that inconsiderate parking can be reported on the website.

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

Cllr Bellows reported that Fordingbridge would occasionally have a pop-up drive-in and walk-in Covid test centre in the NFDC car park on Ringwood Road opposite the Rec.

Cllr Wilson reported that residents have raised concerns about the development at Hurley Farm, in particular the converting of agricultural land into a large car parking area. Access to the farm is via a bridleway which is not suitable for an increase in the volume of traffic, which a commercial venture would bring.

**Action: Cllr Wilson to forward photo to Cllr Bellows**



*Figure 2 Muddy and flooded pavement outside Augustus Park*



*Figure 3 Aerial photograph of Hurley Farm showing large car parking area*

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

- Planning Committee – 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – received Cllr Paton
- Amenities Committee – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – received Cllr Moulard
- General Purposes Committee – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – received Cllr Wilson
- Finance and Policy Committee – 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – received Cllr Adams

*[Cllr Paton left the meeting.]*

Cllr Jackson said he'd like the opportunity for Councillors not on a particular committee to discuss the associated minutes.

**10. To consider the implementation of the Council's consultation policy**

Cllr Wilson reported that FTC is not following the Consultation Policy approved in June 2020. She asked that the results of the Open Spaces survey be published on the website, in line with Council policy.

**Action: Clerk to publish results on website**

**11. To consider the Council's approach to tourism in the town**

Cllr Jackson recommended that the Recreation Ground car park be resurfaced to provide additional parking spaces for visitors to the Recreation Ground this summer. He suggested using CIL money to fund the work and charging for parking once resurfaced. Councillors discussed the CIL allocated to NFDC and whether it would be possible to apply for some for this work. Cllrs Anstey and Moulard thought that once resurfaced, approximately 80-120 spaces would be available for parking.

Cllr Wilson asked if Sandy Balls Holiday Village could run a minibus from their site to the town, for holiday makers who want to visit the Rec or the local pubs. She reported that a taxi between the two locations can cost as much as £40.

Cllr Perkins wanted the main town centre car park to be properly signposted. Cllr Wilson recommended that an audit of the street signs in Fordingbridge be conducted by NFDC.

*[Cllr Heron left the meeting during this item.]*

**12. To receive the internal and external audit reports for 2019/20**

Members received and noted the internal and external audit reports for 2019/20.

**13. To consider a response to the HCC Local Transport Plan Consultation**

Members agreed to consider a response to the HCC Local Transport Plan Consultation at the next meeting of the Planning Committee on Wednesday 10th February.

**14. To report on any Health & Safety issues**

Nothing to report.

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

Cllr Wilson attended a Fordingbridge Greener Living meeting. She reported that the group would be getting one large composter, which will be sited at the allotments. This will reduce the amount

of food waste sent for general waste incineration and reduce the amount of compost bought in plastic bags.

Cllr Wilson attended a meeting of the Fordingbridge Museum. She reported that the museum currently uses the garage belonging to the Information Office building for storage free of charge. However, when the Information Office relocates to the Town Hall and the Council no longer rents the building, the garage will no longer be available. A local business owner has offered the Old Dairy (next to the florist) for use by the museum for storage when needed.

Cllr Jackson and the Clerk attended a meeting of the Alderholt Neighbourhood Plan committee and will be liaising with regards to Highways issues between Alderholt and Fordingbridge as a result of increased development in both towns.

Cllr Anstey attended a North East Quadrant meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021. He reported that a copy of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP) has been emailed to Councillors.

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

No items of correspondence.

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

The Dog Warden has reported that there are no lampposts on which to erect dog fouling signs at The Barton's and Green Lane and signs could not be erected on telegraph poles as these are privately owned. However, she would send some smaller signs to the office suitable for residents to attach to their fences.

Cllr Perkins reported that the NFDC Operative could not access the Recreation Ground with his truck to empty the dog bins. Cllr Perkins asked that he be given the code for the gate.

Cllr Perkins reported that shop lifting is often viewed by the police as petty crime but in many cases is actually organised crime, targeting many shops. He asked that a police presence in the High Street be requested. Cllr Hale reported that the police response to the two break ins at the Recreation Ground has been poor. The Clerk reported that builders have now spoken to PCSO May who said the main issue is that the site is accessible, isolated and unlit. Cllr Perkins raised concerns about drugs in the town. Cllr Jackson suggested the installation of CCTV in the town to identify and diffuse the problem.

#### **18. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 4.30pm**

The meeting closed at 8:41p.m.