

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 6th January 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 P Goddard, Town Clerk
Mrs R Edwards, Asst Town Clerk
Mrs M Coatham, RFO
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 2nd December 2020 and to report on any matters arising

Cllr Anstey proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the General Council meeting held on the 2nd December 2020 are signed as a true record. All in favour.

Matters Arising

Agenda item 4 – no update has been received from Cllr Heron regarding the parking issue in Fordingbridge.

Agenda item 5 – PCSO May has offered to rearrange his shifts so he can attend the next General Council meeting

Agenda item 7 – Cllr Wilson emailed 40 photographs of highways defects to Cllr Heron

Agenda item 7 – No briefing on the LCWIP has yet been arranged

Agenda item 8 – Cllr Wilson reported that a site meeting with NFDC to discuss issues at the Water Meadows and Parsonage Park has had to be postponed due to lockdown.

Agenda item 13 – An extraordinary meeting of the Amenities Committee to discuss the Recreation Ground as a whole was held on 16th December 2020.

4. To confirm the minutes of the Extraordinary General Council meeting held on Monday 21st December 2020 and to report on any matters arising

Cllr Mouland proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Wilson and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the Extraordinary General Council meeting held on the 21st December 2020 are signed as a true record. All in favour.

Matters Arising

Agenda item 4 – The Clerk reported that a pre-commencement meeting for the work on the Pavilion had been held today, 6th January, with himself, Cllr Mouland (Chair of Amenities), the contractors and the architects. The intention is for the work to begin on 18th January and complete on 30th April.

Agenda item 5 – A discussion took place about the merits of meeting with developers, with the same views expressed again by Councillors as at the meeting on 21st December 2020. Cllr Hale reported that Claire Upton-Brown, Head of Planning at NFDC, had confirmed that she'd prefer the Town Council didn't liaise directly with developers as it could cause confusion in the planning process. Cllr Jackson felt that NFDC don't necessarily act in the town's best interests.

[Cllr Perkins joined the meeting during this item.]

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

No matters raised.

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

Reports for September, October, November and December 2020 were received. Please see appendix. Councillors had no questions about the reports. Cllr Paton asked that reports be given monthly in future. Cllr Anstey recommended that PCSO May be invited to General Council meetings as and when needed. Councillors agreed.

7. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

The Mayor gave the following report.

On 11th December I attended a socially distanced event to mark the installation of the new information board in St Mary's Churchyard. The board gives details about the Avon Valley Footpath which passes through there, and is the result of lots of work by Ringwood and Fordingbridge Footpath Society and by Fordingbridge Town Council. The board gives lots of information about the area and footpath, and is a great improvement on the previous board.

Cllr Jackson reported that he'd emailed the Mayor on 29th December raising concerns which he didn't feel had been addressed. It was agreed that Cllr Jackson would circulate the email to the full Council.

8. To receive a report from the County Councillor

No report received.

9. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Bellows reported that the NFDC case officer for the Strategic Sites in Fordingbridge is working solely on these developments. He is very proactive and working hard to keep the Town Council and District Councillors informed of progress. Cllr Bellows reported that there is a brilliant opportunity for the Council to work alongside NFDC.

Cllr Wilson reported that another big lorry drove to Hurley Farm today and asked that Cllr Bellows find out what is happening on this site.

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

- Extraordinary Finance and Policy Committee – 9th December 2020 – received Cllr Adams
- Planning Committee – 9th December 2020 – received Cllr Paton
- Extraordinary Amenities Committee – 16th December 2020 – received Cllr Moulard

The Amenities Committee decided that the Recreation Ground site meeting planned for Saturday 9th January 2021 should be postponed due to lockdown.

11. To receive a recommendation from the Finance & Policy Committee on the precept for 2021-2022

Councillors considered the following budget proposals for the 2021/2022 financial year

- Amenities Committee £79,350 (Income £19,150, Expenditure £98,500)
- General Purposes Committee £41,647 (Income £51,328, Expenditure £92,975)
- Finance and Policy Committee £140,900 (Income £12,600, Expenditure £153,500)

giving a total precept request of **£261,897**.

For a Band D property, this equates to an increase of 94p per annum.

Cllr Jackson asked whether extra provision should be made for the Christmas lights as the electrical points and fixings will need to be upgraded to comply with regulations. The RFO reported that a wash up meeting is yet to be held with the suppliers and she thinks this is something that can be negotiated on to remain within the budget proposed.

Cllr Adams proposed and it was seconded by Cllr White and therefore **RESOLVED**: to agree the proposed budgets of the Amenities, General Purposes and Finance and Policy Committees and agree the precept request of **£261,897**, an overall increase of 2.98%, as recommended by the Finance and Policy Committee. All in favour.

12. To consider taking title to land at the Stuckton Road Cemetery

The Clerk reported that NFDC wish to transfer title to the land comprising the extension at Stuckton Road Cemetery to Fordingbridge Town Council and have presented a TR1 land transfer form to FTC's solicitors. However, the Clerk has been able to find no evidence that that Council have agreed to take on the land.

A consequence of accepting title to the land may be that Fordingbridge Town Council would have to bear the cost of extending the cemetery which could be quite expensive, both in the purchase cost of the land and development cost of making it suitable for burial. However, the flipside is that NFDC may not want to extend the cemetery.

Cllr Lewendon reported that it is one of NFDC's duties to provide land for burial and that as the town grows with all the new housing developments, there will be more demand for burial space locally in future. Cllr Adams confirmed that FTC had never agreed to accept title to the land but to essentially manage it as an agent for the District Council.

Action: Clerk to ask NFDC the rationale of FTC taking on title to land at Stuckton Road Cemetery. Clerk to do more research about other cemeteries in NFDC area.

13. To consider taking title to land at Flaxfields End

The Clerk reported that Fordingbridge Town Council own, maintain and inspect the play equipment on this land and maintain the area itself by cutting the grass. NFDC have incurred costs to tidy up the site in terms of access and gates. The transfer of the land should be straight forward.

Cllr Paton reported that the fencing is very poor and dilapidated. She asked that it be in a good condition before the Town Council accept the transfer. Cllr Wilson reported that when the site was developed, £41k was given by the developers to NFDC to buy land for open space and asked where the rest of the money had gone.

Action: Clerk to ask for further information from NFDC on sums received and how spent

14. To report on any Health & Safety issues

Cllr Wilson raised concerns about a tree at Allenwater open space.

Action: Clerk to look at tree

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

Cllr Wilson reminded Councillors of the need to establish where in the Recreation Ground the new trees should be planted by the Fordingbridge Greener Living group. Cllr Wilson reported that NFDC have given permission for trees to be planted on their land at Parsonage Park. Cllr Wilson also proposed trees be planted on open space at Allenwater Drive.

Action: Cllr Wilson to email Councillors details of proposed tree planting areas

16. To note any items of correspondence

Lucy Stevenson and Martha Shering from the Burgate School wrote to thank Fordingbridge Town Council for the awards for Service to the Community.

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

Cllr Jackson reminded the Council of the need to agree a response to the Dorset County Council Local Plan. The Clerk said that this item is due for consideration at next week's Planning Committee meeting.

Cllr Jackson anticipated high visitor numbers to the Recreation Ground once lockdown is lifted. He proposed that NFDC might pay for improvements to the Recreation Ground car park (which is not currently open to visitors) from NFDC's share of the CIL funds, charging for car parking and sharing the revenue between FTC and NFDC.

Action: Clerk to establish in principle the Recreation Ground Car Park proposal with NFDC

Cllr Wilson reported that the NFDC CIL policy says that NFDC will consult with Parish and Town Councils on CIL spending, however FTC has not been consulted.

Action: Clerk to find out details of how NFDC proposes to spend its CIL funds

Cllr Paton reported that people are getting lost on the way to the Coronavirus Vaccination Centre due to a sign missing from the mini roundabout after crossing the bridge into town.

Action: RFO to ask volunteer co-ordinator to ensure signage put up

Cllr Wilson asked about the Local Council Walking and Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and whether this would be worked on as a Council or as part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Action: Clerk to ask Cllr Heron to arrange a LCWIP briefing for the Town Council

Cllr Adams asked that it be made more widely known that the Information Office is still answering phone calls, despite the office itself being closed.

Action: Clerk to update website

18. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as Wednesday 3rd February 2021

The meeting closed at 8:32p.m.

APPENDIX - FORDINGBRIDGE BEAT REPORTS

SEPTEMBER 2020

Total occurrences reported: 82, 41 of which were recordable as crimes

Anti-Social Behaviour (6) 2 relating to quad bikes being used on a road, 1 of persons fishing off a bridge and 3 relating to personal occurrences.

Violence against the Person (7) 2 related to the same incident of a fight between known persons, 1 of an incident outside a pub between known persons and 5 domestic related incidents.

Dwelling Burglary (1) persons known to the aggrieved have entered the property and damaged items within

Burglary Other Than Dwelling (2) Electric bike taken from a garage and 1 incident of persons heard entering shed, nothing taken.

Business Burglary (2) Building entered and tools taken, shop door smashed and perfumes stolen from glass cabinets

Damage (6) 2 relating to damage to a shop window, 2 incidents of damage to cars, 1 of a lead being pulled from a CCTV camera and 1 relating to a domestic incident.

Theft (6) 1 of a strimmer taken from a communal area, 1 of tins of paint taken from a front garden, a small speaker also taken from a front garden, small portable table stolen from the surgery carpark, 1 theft of a scooter from the rec ground and 1 relating to a push bike taken from the road

Theft from motor vehicles (0)

Theft of vehicle (1) Theft of a moped from a front garden.

OCTOBER 2020

Total occurrences reported: 84, 38 of which were recordable as crimes

Anti-Social Behaviour (10) 2 reported of motorbikes and quads on a byway, 1 relating the use of a toy BB gun, 1 connected to a NOTTINGHAM KNOCKER, 1 reported of drinking and rowdy behaviour, 1 incident of customers refusing to wear a mask and 4 are personal related.

Violence against the Person (7) 2 connected to the same incident of a fight outside a local pub, 1 of a fight between known persons, 1 related to a neighbour dispute and 3 were domestic related.

Dwelling Burglary (2) Entry gained to property while residents on holiday with cash and jewellery taken. Key removed from key safe and unoccupied property entered, no items taken.

Burglary Other Than Dwelling (0)

Business Burglary (5) 3 reported breaks to local building sites and tools taken, 1 incident of entry to local school garages with tools taken from within and a break to local service station, Attempted theft of cash and cigarettes

Damage (5) 2 incidents of parked cars being damaged, 1 of a rear house window being damaged by unknown means, 1 of a fire alarm being broken at a half-way house and 1 incident of windows being damaged during an argument

Theft (2) Armoured cable taken from a field and 1 report of theft of fishing rights.

Theft from motor vehicles (0)

Theft of vehicle (2) Old van taken from industrial site and 1 report of an off road bike taken from a residential driveway.

APPENDIX - FORDINGBRIDGE BEAT REPORTS CONT.

NOVEMBER 2020

Total occurrences reported: 55, 21 of which were recordable as crimes

Anti-Social Behaviour (4) 1 report of persons throwing fireworks, 1 incident of unwanted youths on school grounds and 2 were personal related

Violence against the Person (3) 2 relating to an assault on police officers and 1 domestic related.

Dwelling Burglary (0)

Burglary Other Than Dwelling (3) All relating to outbuildings being broken into and tools taken

Business Burglary (2) Village post office entered and a small amount of cash taken and 1 attempted break to a garage at a local fishery

Damage (1) Damage caused to items on school grounds

Theft (1) Report of a theft of a push bike from outside a supermarket

Theft from motor vehicles (0)

Theft of vehicle (1) Small van taken from the street

DECEMBER 2020

Total occurrences reported: 75, 31 of which were recordable as crimes

Anti-Social Behaviour (10) 2 reports of aloud vehicle linked to local food delivery, 1 report of a possible smell of cannabis in a school playground coming from a local residence, 1 of youths on school grounds out of hours, 1 report of rude children playing in the street, 1 of persons smashing glass in the street, 3 reports of people entering marquees in surgery carpark and 1 personal related.

Violence against the Person (8) 1 incident within a residential care home between patients, 1 historical report of assault, 1 relating to an arrest request from an out of county assault, 1 of a person being pushed by an unknown male, and 4 were domestic related.

Dwelling Burglary (0)

Burglary Other Than Dwelling (3) All relating to outbuildings being broken into and items taken

Business Burglary (0)

Damage (3) 1 report of damage to a parked vehicle, 1 of a stone be thrown through an upper floor window and 1 historical report relating to a neighbour dispute

Theft (1) Bag and keys taken from place of work

Theft from motor vehicles (3) 2 reports of tools stolen from work vans and one domestic related.

Theft of vehicle (0)