

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 1st September 2021 at
7.30pm in the Town Hall**

(Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Council)

Present: Cllr Hale – Chairman
Cllrs Goldsmith, Jackson, Lewendon, Moulard, Paton, Perkins and White

In Attendance: Mr Paul Goddard, Town Clerk
Mrs Rachel Edwards, Asst Town Clerk
Cllr Heron (HCC)
Cllr Sevier (NFDC)
Cllr Bellows (NFDC)
Ruth Croker, Ringwood and Fordingbridge Footpath Society
1 Member of Public
A reporter from the Salisbury Journal

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Adams, Anstey, Earth and Wilson.

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest.

3. To confirm the minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 4th August 2021 and to report on any matters arising

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Jackson and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the General Council meeting held on the 4th August 2021 are signed as a true record. All in favour.

No Matters Arising

[Cllr Bellows entered the meeting]

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

A member of the public spoke about the traffic issues in the town, saying that

- Traffic levels are increasing
- Lorries are becoming larger and heavier, causing his house on Shaftesbury Street to shake as they drive past
- Some vehicles drive on the pavements without first erecting any warning signs
- Vehicles park on the pavements and there are no signs indicating there will be any consequences
- Some people are afraid to cross the road
- Wing mirrors of lorries are missing people's heads by just inches
- Vehicles regularly park in front of the gates by the bookshop without leaving space for wheelchairs or prams to pass.
- He thought someone would get hurt one day.

[Cllr Perkins entered the meeting]

Cllr Hale agreed that vehicles, speed and parking are all issues in Fordingbridge and in the past a vehicle size limit had been proposed in the town. He said that most lorries are accessing places through the town and therefore must take this route

Cllr Hale reported that he had received an email from a resident of Mill Court about the danger of people parking on pavements. He had referred this matter to the police but received no response.

Cllr Heron (HCC) reported that the traffic survey conducted some years ago showed that most lorries are accessing locations through the town and therefore need to drive through Fordingbridge, for example a reasonable route to Cranborne would go via Fordingbridge. He said that Fordingbridge wasn't built for the size of the lorries now driving through it but there isn't a lot that Hampshire County Council can do. He said it may be possible to re-do the traffic survey.

Cllr Heron said that he would take up the issue of parking with the enforcement team. Parking is not a police matter unless causing an obstruction or danger.

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

No report received.

6. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

Nothing to report.

7. To receive a report from the County Councillor

Cllr Heron reported that HCC is currently setting the Budget and Savings programme and that in addition to the £640M cutbacks already made, another £80M needs to be found.

He said that County Council Officers provide regular updates on the Council's highways maintenance service to Members and the recent update to the Council's Executive Member for Highways Operations of the 29th July can be found at

<https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s78059/Report.pdf>.

Cllr Heron reported that the Government has recently announced some initiatives and that in rural Council areas there is the potential for Councils to work together to spend money more efficiently.

Cllr Jackson asked about the member of staff promised from HCC to help with the Fordingbridge Area Neighbourhood Plan.

Action: Cllr Heron to follow this up

Cllr Jackson reported that the Highways comment on the Tinkers Cross planning application 20/11469 said that the X3 bus would be diverted through the new estate into Fordingbridge. He asked where the bus would be routed after that as the roads are too narrow.

Action: Cllr Heron to raise this with Hampshire Highways and report back to FTC

Cllr Lewendon asked about the short-notice closure of Footpath 62 to check the integrity of the bridge. Cllr Heron replied that it was unusual to happen this way and that there had been no email notification.

Cllr Heron reported that car parking is under review by NFDC and short stay parking spaces are to be prioritised in Fordingbridge. There would be no changes to the current layout.

[The member of public left the meeting.]

8. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Sevier reported that work is ongoing on the NFDC waste strategy to change the ways in which waste is collected and disposed of.

Cllr Bellows reported on the NFDC Empty Homes Strategy to bring long-term empty homes back into use and improve the standard of housing in our communities, saying that any empty building can be considered.

https://www.newforest.gov.uk/media/2380/Empty-Homes-Strategy/pdf/Empty_Homes_Strategy_13_Sep.pdf?m=637679871580100000

Cllr Bellows reported that NFDC has approved £8,445,000 to complete the development of employment land at Crow Lane, Ringwood, for industrial and office space. This project is part of the 'Asset Investment Strategy', which seeks to aid in the economic development of the district.

[Cllrs Heron, Sevier and Bellows left the meeting.]

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

- Planning Committee – 18th August 2021 – received Cllr Paton
- Finance and Policy Committee – 25th August 2021 – not received

10. To consider a Christmas Lights 2021 event

The Clerk reported that the Fordingbridge Events Group are planning an all-day Christmas event this year, involving the closure of Roundhill and also a section of the NFDC car park, possibly using a day from the NFDC annual free parking allowance to do this. The planned date is Saturday 11th December.

Councillors agreed that the Christmas lights should be switched on before this date and discussed holding a switch on event. Cllrs Paton, White and Wilson agreed to form a working party to progress plans. Due to the ongoing pandemic this is likely to be on a smaller scale than usual.

11. To consider continuing membership of the Rural Market Towns Group and approve membership fee

The Clerk reported that the membership cost of the Rural Market Towns Group is £130 per annum. Cllr Moulard proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Goldsmith and therefore **RESOLVED**: to continue membership of the Rural Market Towns Group for one year and approve the membership fee.

12. To consider Highways and Footways in Fordingbridge

Cllr Lewendon reported that the path to Tinkers Cross is getting worse and is now overgrown with nettles and brambles. The Clerk confirmed that the length of path by the new Penny Farthing Homes development is still the responsibility of Penny Farthing Homes and the overgrown path has been reported to them today. He said that there are conditions on the

developer for the maintenance and improvements of paths but that these are not generally being adhered to.

13. To report on any Health & Safety issues

The Clerk reported that the paddling pool has been closed since the August bank holiday weekend due to damage found on the surface of the pool. The Buildings' Manager thinks this may have been caused by the paint being applied too quickly after the render was applied. He is due to meet with the contractors.

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

Cllr Jackson attended the Alderholt Neighbourhood Plan Committee meeting and plans to continue to liaise with the committee as the Dorset Local Plan develops.

15. To note any items of correspondence

The Asst Clerk reported that the Safer New Forest Partnership has been in touch with Parish and Town Councils asking for their views and thoughts on the local area, as part of their annual community consultation regarding crime and disorder. The closing date for the survey is 30th September 2021.

Action: Members to submit comments to Asst Clerk to collate and submit

A letter was received from Buckingham Palace thanking The Worshipful Mayor of Fordingbridge for his condolences on the death of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

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

The Tinkers Cross planning application is likely to be discussed by the Planning Committee at an extraordinary meeting (date TBC).

20/11469 LAND AT TINKERS CROSS, WHITSBURY ROAD, TINKERS CROSS, FORDINGBRIDGE SP6 1NQ - Erection of 64 dwellings, change of use of land for Alternative Natural Recreational Greenspace, new accesses onto Whitsbury Road, and all necessary on-site infrastructure.

17. To note the date of the next meeting as the Annual Council Meeting on Wednesday 6th October 2021 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8:26p.m.