

**FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 at 7.30pm  
in the Town Hall**

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

**Present:** Cllr Hale – Chairman  
Cllrs Adams, Anstey, Earth, Goldsmith, Jackson, Lewendon, Paton, Perkins, White  
and Wilson

**In Attendance:** Mr Paul Goddard, Town Clerk  
Mrs Rachel Edwards  
Cllr Bellows (NFDC)  
Ruth Croker, Ringwood and Fordingbridge Footpath Society  
1 Member of FTC Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group  
2 Members of Public  
A reporter from the Salisbury Journal

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

Apologies were received from Cllr Mouland and Cllr Sevier (NFDC).

**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> October 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> October 2021 are signed as a true record. All in favour.

No matters arising.

*[Cllr Perkins entered the meeting]*

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

A member of the public asked the following questions.

*In view of the current concerns about climate change, COP 26 and Government commitments, when can Fordingbridge expect the Town Council to publish its environmental and CO2 mitigation policy? Two years ago, the council was discussing working with Fordingbridge Greener Living to develop his. Nothing has happened. I am concerned that the Neighbourhood Plan, which if adopted by NFDC will have a huge impact on the town, will not take enough account of the environment, wildlife, traffic, pollution, light pollution, energy efficiency, water pollution and flooding. How will the Town Council ensure that the targets set out in the August 2020 Environment bill be reflected in the neighbourhood plan? The NFDC has recently committed to become carbon neutral. When will the Town Council do the same? The reason I ask these questions is that the NFDC strategic plan includes 820 new houses in Fordingbridge. This is a huge environmental impact on a small town. Lyminster, a considerably bigger town has 285, New Milton 290. Environmental/Climate change planning*

*must be at the forefront of the Neighbourhood plan in order to put the substantial resources of the CIL levy to the greatest benefit for the future. Thank you for listening.*

Cllr Wilson confirmed that a draft environmental policy will be taken to the Finance and Policy Committee meeting for approval on 24<sup>th</sup> November.

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

No report was received. The police recently held a beat surgery in the Co-op; Cllrs Wilson and Perkins attended.

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

The Mayor and Councillors attended a briefing session given by the Case Officer and NFDC Head of Planning on development sites 17 and 18 – planning applications 21/10052 and 21/11237. The Mayor commented that it was worrying that so many applications were coming in within the next few months. Cllr Paton said that the meeting was informative and useful but asked that the next meeting be held in person as there were problems with the audio. Cllr Wilson reported that the site 16 application is fraudulent as the land is not owned by the person listed in the application.

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

No report received.

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

Cllr Bellows reported that on the NFDC decision dates.

- 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021
  - Council Tax discounts and premiums
  - Council Tax Reduction scheme 2022/23
  - Setting the Council Tax Base
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2022
  - Community Grants 2022/23
  - Climate Change and Nature Emergency Action Plan
- 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022
  - Waste strategy

Cllr Bellows reported on the NFDC shortage of HGV drivers saying that new drivers are being trained but there is currently a shortage of test allocations. Cabinet has agreed possible, and temporary, changes to the waste and recycling collection services so that black and clear sack waste can continue to be collected. These possible changes will only be put in place if staffing issues currently impacting NFDC continue. Contingency planning may mean:

- a pause to glass collections
- a pause to black and clear sack deliveries of rolls
- four-weekly garden waste collections continue

Cllr Jackson made a point of saying that FTC is not and will not be employing consultants to help write the neighbourhood plan and he wanted NFDC to know that. Cllr Anstey reminded Councillors that FTC can employ whomsoever they choose.

Cllr Wilson asked for updates on Sequoia Farm and also the area behind the Co-op (barriers, planters, bench and fence)

**Action: Cllr Bellows to investigate and report back**

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

- Planning Committee – 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – received Cllr Paton
- Finance and Policy Committee – 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – received Cllr Adams

**10. To receive an update on Christmas plans**

The road closure has been applied for from 5.30pm–7pm on 27th November 2021 for the Christmas Lights Switch On Event for the following roads:

- Provost Street from junction with West Street/Church Street to junction with High Street
- Shaftesbury Street from junction with Barton Road to Junction with High Street
- High Street from Shaftesbury Street/Provost Street junction to Bridge Street roundabout
- Roundhill from The Hundred (just past the car park) to the High Street

Roundhill will remain open from Salisbury Street to the Car Park - access to the car park will be unaffected by the road closure. Operation Resilience have confirmed that Salisbury Street will be reopened by this date and the road and footway works be completed by then. Rotary have confirmed they will provide marshals for the road closure.

The two charities that Fordingbridge Town Council have chosen to support at the Christmas Lights Switch On Event this year are the Food Bank and the Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal. Donations of non-perishable, in-date, food items and new, unwrapped presents can be brought to Event Control outside the Town Hall from 5.30pm - 6.30pm on Saturday 27th November 2021 (or to the Information Office in Kings Yard beforehand).

A pianist has been booked to play at the afternoon tea in the town hall on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

Contractors have already erected Christmas lights in the town, despite Remembrance Sunday not yet having passed. The Merry Christmas sign will be removed from the Town Hall balcony so the poppy banner can be hung instead.

**11. To receive an update from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

- To consider closing the car park access from Roundhill
- To consider the adoption of open spaces on the Strategic Sites
- To receive an update on the survey
- To discuss a town strategic plan

Cllr Jackson reported that 540 responses to the survey had been received and a summary of results would be available within the week.

A discussion followed about different types of documents and which the Council would like to work towards, from strategic plans to nature recovery plans, 3-year financial plans, neighbourhood plans and supplementary planning documents. Cllr Wilson recommended updating the Town Design Statement. A member of the neighbourhood plan steering group (NPSG) made it clear that a strategic plan is not a planning document but a corporate

governance document, i.e. an expression of the Council's priorities over the next three, four or five years.

Cllr Paton said that more information is needed about a strategic plan and it was agreed to revisit this subject while still moving forward with the plan put forward by Claire Upton-Brown (NFDC Head of Planning).

### **12. To consider Highways and Footways in Fordingbridge**

Cllr Wilson submitted a FOI request to HCC to ask what they consider to be dangerous on the road. She reported that HCC has no policy on this. She reported that Hampshire County Council's current Highway Safety Inspection Manual does not specifically identify defects to gully gratings. However, the document does contain investigatory levels for the identification of defects to ironwork, which is sunken, protruding, or uneven. The term ironwork includes gully gratings. The investigatory level to determine whether the defect is a Safety Defect is "Any visually assessed defect, in a carriageway where an upstand of greater than 40 to 50mm is present. For all footways and off-carriageway cycleways other where the upstand is greater than 25 to 30mm is present."

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

Nothing to report.

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

Cllr Earth attended the Men's shed meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October at St Mary's Church Hall. The group will meet there for the next six weeks while they gauge the public's appetite for a Men's Shed group.

Cllr Anstey attended the North West Quadrant meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> October. Pop-up campsites were discussed again.

Cllr Hale attended the Victoria Rooms trustees' meeting. He reported that a tree branch had fallen onto the roof of the Victoria Rooms causing some damage to the main roof and the outbuilding.

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

The landlady of the George witnessed a group of children throwing stones at the swans and ducks, trying to break up the paddling pool with a scooter and trying to break branches off trees.

The Council has been asked whether they will plant a tree for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. The Council agreed they wanted to do something special to commemorate the occasion. There are already plans in place to plant trees before the Queen's Jubilee. The Events Group would like to light a brazier as part of the national lighting of beacons on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022.

***Action: Cllr White to investigate prices of a brazier with pole mounting***

The Sports Club asked if the cricket club honours boards could be rehomed in the Town Hall. Councillors agreed they could be hung in the hall.

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

The Clerk reported that there will be an Extraordinary Planning meeting on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021 to discuss the site 17 application 21/10052 - LAND TO WEST OF, WHITSBURY ROAD, FORDINGBRIDGE - Residential development and change of use of land to Alternative

Natural Recreational Greenspace and all other necessary on-site infrastructure (Outline planning application all matters reserved except means of access only in relation to a new point of vehicular access into the site).

Cllr Paton asked if Councillors could look at printed plans of this application together in advance of the Extraordinary Planning meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> November.

***Action: Clerk to ask NFDC for printed plans and arrange meeting***

**17. To note the date of the next meeting as the Annual Council Meeting on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021 at 7.30pm**

The meeting closed at 8:38 p.m.