

**FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 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, Moulard, Perkins  
and Wilson

**In Attendance:** Mr Paul Goddard, Town Clerk  
Mrs Rachel Edwards, Asst Town Clerk  
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 Paton and White. Also, Cllrs Bellows and 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 3<sup>rd</sup>  
November 2021 and to report on any matters arising**

Cllr Goldsmith proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Earth and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the General Council meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 are signed as a true record. All in favour.

No matters arising.

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

A member of the public asked for an update on the Council's Environmental Policy. The Clerk confirmed that the policy had been approved at the Finance and Policy Committee meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> November and will be uploaded to the website. Actions will be carried forward to the appropriate committees.

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

No report was received.

The Asst Clerk reported that two emails had been received on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November regarding the recent spate of vehicle break-ins in Fordingbridge. The lack of CCTV cameras and minimal street lighting in the town was mentioned too. The Asst Clerk had raised these issues with the Police and with County Councillor Edward Heron. The Police said they are aware of the issue and have been visiting victims, providing crime prevention advice and police reassurance. They are also investigating whether they could deploy some of their CCTV cameras in the town. County Councillor Edward Heron said that the route from the town to the A338 slip road car park would be considered as part of the Town Centre Transport Plan.

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

The Mayor reported that on Thursday 11th November he attended the Remembrance Service at Stuckton Road Cemetery, on Sunday 14th November he attended the Remembrance Services and Parade in the town and on Saturday 27th November he attended the Christmas Lights Switch On event. He said that it was excellent to see so many people at all of these events, and for the events to go ahead as these did in previous years. The Mayor thanked the Councillors and Council staff who helped to arrange the Lights Switch On, and made the event such a success.

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

No report received.

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

No report received.

Cllr Wilson was concerned that both NFDC Councillors were currently unable to attend meetings and suggested that Fordingbridge Town Council needed interim support from NFDC. She also pointed out that both Cllr Sevier and Cllr Bellows sit on the NFDC Planning Committee and as such could have a conflict of interest in representing the views of FTC and local residents on the proposed housing developments. Cllr Wilson said that FTC is not able to lobby the District Councillors and gain their support because of this. Cllrs Jackson and Lewendon recommended asking Cllrs Sevier and Bellows about these matters directly, also Cllr Heron too.

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

- Planning Committee – 10th November 2021 – received Cllr Lewendon
- Amenities Committee – 17th November 2021 – received Cllr Moulard
- General Purposes Committee – 17th November 2021 – received Cllr Wilson
- Finance and Policy Committee – 24th November 2021 – received Cllr Adams

**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 of other bodies has historically been considered towards the end of the financial year. However, most memberships run for the calendar year rather than for the financial year and therefore this item should be considered at December's General Council meeting instead.

The Clerk reported that following the loss of funding from Hampshire County Council, the Executive Committee of the Hampshire Playing Fields Association unanimously agreed at their meeting in November 2019 to close the charity on 31 March 2020 subject to the satisfaction of all

liabilities and transfer all assets to Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation Charity (HIWCF)1100417. HIWCF can be contacted regarding all future grant applications.

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Perkins and therefore **RESOLVED**: to continue membership of all bodies, with the exception of the Hampshire Playing Fields Association. All in favour.

## **11. To consider Footways in Fordingbridge**

### **Lengthsman Funding**

The Clerk reported that at the HCC Full Council meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November the Council had resolved to withdraw direct financing from the Lengthsman Scheme from the financial year 2023/24 onwards. No financial changes were proposed for the current (2021/22) or next (2022/23) financial years. The saving is programmed for 2023/24 to allow time for alternative funding and/or delivery models to be explored.

Appendix 3 containing the proposal can be found at <https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s85098/MTFS%20Appendix%203%20-%20SP23%20proposals.pdf> (Page 19, ref. ETE01)

The minutes of the Full Council meeting can be found at <https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/g7737/Public%20minutes%2004th-Nov-2021%2010.20%20County%20Council.pdf?T=11> – item 44.

### **Mill Court Parking**

The Clerk reported that vehicles are parked on the verges at Mill Court every night, blocking access to the pavements for both pedestrians and people in mobility scooters. This continues to be a problem even when the traffic officer issues tickets, with offenders returning to park in the same places. FTC asked HCC to put in place measures such as concrete posts or a crash barrier to put a stop to this dangerous parking and ongoing damage to the verges.

Hampshire Highways replied to say that they are not generally in favour of installing preventative measures to stop parking on pavements. Bollards never actually solve the problem as a whole, they merely move the issue further along the road and each bollard installed is a further maintenance burden on Hampshire Highways, not only in terms of the not insignificant installation cost (roughly £900-£1200 per bollard) but also the on-going maintenance costs when they inevitably get damaged. They said that, with all aspects of maintenance, remedial measures are prioritised with safety issues treated ahead of other concerns.

Cllr Wilson suggested introducing a by-law which would enable prosecution if damage was caused to a green space. Councillors thought that HCC would have no appetite for this and FTC should instead investigate the possibility of planting a tree on this space with a sturdy tree guard.

**Action: Clerk to ask HCC for permission to plant a tree on the grass verge at Mill Court.**  
**Action: Clerk to ask HCC Cllr Heron for numbers and details of parking tickets issued for on-road parking offences.**

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

- To consider a proposal for speed signs in Normandy Way

Further to the General council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021, where members approved the proposal for the siting of speed limiter signs along Normandy Way, a request for £100 funding towards these signs has been made by the Normandy Way Residents' Association.

Members had previously asked whether cheaper signs from Ebay could be bought instead but were told that these wouldn't be suitable as they're not official signs.

Cllr Adams proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Mouland and therefore **RESOLVED**: that subject to confirmation of the necessary permissions being granted by SSE to approve the request for £100 funding towards the speed signs in Normandy Way.

Members agreed that this would be a pilot scheme and that a report would be requested from the Residents' Association afterwards.

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

Cllr Jackson said that with the size of the Town Hall and social distancing measures in place, it was often difficult to hear what was being said in meetings. He asked that an amplification system be considered.

Councillors discussed whether the installation of sound boards similar to those in Sandleheath Scout Hut would help.

**Action: Clerk to investigate sound panels**

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

Cllr Anstey attended a Community Preparedness event on 9<sup>th</sup> November and a Greening Campaign Introduction for Parish and Town Councils on 25<sup>th</sup> November <http://www.greening-campaign.org/>

Cllr Jackson attended a presentation about Avon Valley Environmental Protection on 30<sup>th</sup> November.

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

NFDC would like to know what events local Councils will be organising to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year. Members agreed to be led by the Fordingbridge Events Group.

Information about ways to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day on 27<sup>th</sup> January was received.

New Life Community Church have invited everyone to their Christmas Service on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 5.30pm at Burgate School.

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

The Fordingbridge Town Council Christmas Afternoon Tea for older residents of the town and volunteers in the community will be held on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December from 2pm to 5pm in the Town Hall.

A collection of items for the Food Bank and the Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal was made at the Christmas Lights Switch On event on 27<sup>th</sup> November. Members agreed to give further

contributions from the Mayor allowance of £250 to the Food Bank, £250 to the Salvation Army Present Appeal and also a £500 gift to the Women's Refuge.

The Clerk reported that an Extraordinary Planning Meeting would be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January to discuss the site 18 planning application 21/11237. Printed plans would be available for members to view on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December from 6pm in the Town Hall.

Cllr Hale reported that the Men's Shed have confirmed that they are no longer interested in using the old toilet block at the Recreation Ground for their meetings. Their early meetings at St Mary's Church Hall have proved so popular, they will have already outgrown it. The Amenities Committee will consider this building at their next meeting in January. Cllr Adams suggested asking the public for suggestions or whether any of the other groups might wish to use it for storage. He also thought it could be converted into a nice summer house.

**17. To note the date of the next General Council Meeting as Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7.30pm**

The meeting closed at 8:33p.m.