

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on Wednesday 4th May 2022 at 7.30pm
held at the Town Hall
(Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Council)

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

In Attendance: Paul Goddard, Town Clerk
Rachel Edwards, Asst Town Clerk
Cllr Bellows, NFDC
Ruth Croker, Footpath Officer
PCSO Rhys McCormick
A reporter from the Salisbury Journal
1 member of the Public

1. To elect the Town Mayor for the forthcoming year

Cllr Hale said he was sorry to hear that Cllr Mouland resigned from the Council and thanked him for his good work.

Cllr Earth proposed Cllr Wilson as Town Mayor and it was seconded by Cllr Jackson and therefore **RESOLVED:** to elect Cllr Wilson as Town Mayor for the forthcoming year. All in favour.

Cllr Wilson signed her acceptance of office as Mayor and took the Chair.

2. To elect the Deputy Mayor for the forthcoming year

Cllr Wilson proposed Cllr Earth as Deputy Mayor and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore **RESOLVED:** to elect Cllr Earth as Deputy Mayor for the forthcoming year. All in favour.

Cllr Earth signed her acceptance of office as Deputy Mayor.

3. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Sevier (NFDC).

4. To receive any Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest.

5. To confirm the minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 6th April 2022 and to report on any matters arising

Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Wilson and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the General Council meeting held on the 6th April 2022 are signed as a true record. All in favour.

Matters Arising

Agenda item 3 – Cllr Lewendon reported that the spoil heap behind the Glasshouse Studios has been flattened but is still out of place. The footpath has been repaired.

Agenda item 12 – The Clerk confirmed that Donna Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire, will speak at the Annual Town Assembly.

Agenda item 16 – Cllr Lewendon reported improvements in the diversion route for the footpath works currently being undertaken outside the Augustus Park development.

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

No matters raised.

7. To elect membership of the following Committees

- Amenities Committee (minimum of 5 + Chairman & Vice Chairman)
- Finance & Policy Committee FULL COUNCIL
- General Purposes Committee (minimum of 5 + Chairman & Vice Chairman)
- Planning Committee FULL COUNCIL
- Staff & Remuneration Committee (4 + Chairman & Vice Chairman)
- Transport Committee (5)

See Appendix 1 for Committee Membership for the year 2022-23.

8. To confirm representatives of the following outside bodies and agree arrangements for reporting back:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Almshouses | Cllr E. Hale |
| • Avon Valley Shed | Cllr M. Adams & Cllr P. Earth |
| • Avonway Community Centre | Cllr A. Wilson |
| • Burgate School Community Management | Cllr D. Paton & Cllr M. Jackson |
| • Fair Trade | Cllr D. Paton |
| • Footpath Officer | Ruth Croker |
| • Fordingbridge Events Group | Cllr P. White |
| • Fordingbridge Greener Living | Cllr A. Wilson & Cllr P. Earth |
| • Fordingbridge Hospital Liaison | Cllr A. Lewendon |
| • Fordingbridge Sports Club | Cllr P. Anstey & Cllr P. White |
| • Fordingbridge Conservation Group | Cllr E. Hale & Cllr A. Wilson |
| • HALC | Cllr P. Anstey |
| • NFALC | Cllr P. Anstey |
| • N F Consultative Panel | Cllr P. Anstey |
| • NPA Quadrant meetings | Cllr P. Anstey |
| • Passenger Transport | Cllr A. Lewendon |
| • Rural Market Towns Group | Cllr P. Anstey |
| • Twinning Association | Cllr D. Paton |
| • Victoria Rooms Committee | Cllr E. Hale |
| • Youth Action Group | Cllr D. Paton & Cllr P. White |

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

PCSO McCormick gave two reports, firstly the annual crime statistics for Fordingbridge (appendix 2) and secondly the beat report for April 2022 (appendix 3). PCSO McCormick reported that only incidents relevant to the community were included; domestic incidents were not included. He said that the crime rate was low in April.

Cllr Wilson expressed concern that children are keeping company with the adult drug users at Roundhill. She reported that a year 7 child had been seen with this group on the recent school inset day and it was apparent from the child's behaviour that they had been abusing substances. This was a safe-guarding concern and she asked if the police could talk to children's parents. PCSO McCormick responded that he has a good relationship with the local schools. He said that children who take drugs in Fordingbridge are young and, referring to the year 7 child taking drugs, he said that no one can force anyone to make changes, they need to make changes themselves. PCSO McCormick asked if Cllr Wilson had raised this matter with Burgate School and said that safeguarding concerns can be reported on the police non-emergency number (101) with a description of those involved.

Cllr Wilson reported that a catapult has been used to shoot at birds in trees. PCSO McCormick said that a catapult is an offensive weapon and this should be reported.

10. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

The Mayor gave the following report.

Thank you for having faith in me to lead this council. When the subject of the Town Council comes up, people often ask, 'why do you do it?'. Nobody makes us do it so I suppose I must enjoy it! We have great staff. They are good fun to work with, and change and improvements would be impossible without the help and collaboration they always give.

It is important to me, that this is not a political Council; being a member of this Council is as far removed as possible from the dramas at Westminster. I am sure Councillors will agree that this is not a game of politics - it is about preserving and enhancing what is good about our Town, and contrary to the views of some, the effort we put in is never in vain. We may have put ourselves forward and been elected, but we are not the only guardians of this Town. Our job is to represent and support the views of the people who elected us, but we can only do this if we know what those views are. So, we (The Whole of Fordingbridge) need to engage in what is happening, learn about what is proposed, and participate in seemingly endless consultations, in particular from the Local Planning Authority. We must keep responding and make our opinions known. Again, this is never in vain.

Unfortunately, everything happening in this Town right now is pretty overwhelming. We all sometimes avoid getting involved because we feel that one person cannot make a difference, but we can make changes and improvements by working together. Fordingbridge has a wealth of volunteers and organizations who are prepared to work hard to make this place A BEAUTIFUL PLACE. That seems hard when we see so much building going on. But I remain optimistic, and I am determined to work for the best results possible.

The New Forest District Council owns and maintains the majority of Green and Open Spaces in the area. In order to provide updated information concerning existing projects (like Sweatford Water Meadow) or submit additional projects to be included in their delivery plans, a mechanism

is not in place and must be found. A public consultation process should be in place to enable the public to offer suggestions for schemes. To improve our roads, pavements, and public footpaths, we will need to work with Hampshire County Council. We must develop genuine collaboration, openness, and transparency between ourselves and the two authorities. Regardless of which council you are elected to or indeed work for, the goal should be the same: to improve the lives of the people we represent on a daily basis.

11. To receive a report from the County Councillor

No report received.

12. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Sweatfords Water Meadows

Cllr Bellows raised the matter of Sweatfords Water Meadows. Cllr Wilson reported that neither the hole in the fence nor the noticeboard have been mended. She said that Sweatfords Water has dried up and that this is disastrous for the local wildlife and ecology. The Clerk has written to NFDC raising the Council's concerns but not received a reply.

Action: Cllr Wilson to email Cllr Bellows further information.

Action: Cllr Bellows to follow up with NFDC

Cllr Wilson reported that the disabled access gates at Sweatfords Water Meadows have been locked with a heavy padlock and chains which she considered a waste of money. She reported that gates aren't needed in this location and they prevent people with buggies accessing the water meadows. Cllr Wilson complained that Fordingbridge Town Council is not consulted by NFDC. She gave the example of FTC requesting a recycled plastic bench for people to sit on in the water meadows but it being refused on the grounds that the area floods.

Boundary Changes

Cllr Bellows reported that the number of Councillors in the New Forest area will be reduced from 60 to 48, following the recent electoral review and boundary changes. This will affect the elections in May 2023. Cllr Wilson asked if a second polling station would be needed after the new developments are built in Fordingbridge. Cllr Bellows said this wouldn't be considered for the 2023 elections.

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

- Extraordinary Staff & Remuneration Committee – 13th April 2022 – received Cllr Lewendon
- Extraordinary Finance and Policy Committee – 13th April 2022 – received Cllr Adams
- Planning Committee – 13th April 2022 – received Cllr Paton
- Extraordinary Planning Committee – 27th April 2022 – received Cllr Lewendon
- Finance and Policy Committee – 27th April 2022 – received Cllr Adams

14. To consider Footways in Fordingbridge

The Footpath Officer reported that New Forest NPA was looking specifically at funding for verge improvements to a path alongside the B3078 between Sandy Balls Holiday Village and Fordingbridge.

The Footpath Officer reported to the NFNPA that the existing path alongside the B3078 is narrow and close to the road, she considers it unpleasant and unsafe because of the traffic and

the need to cross the busy B3078 in at least two places. She informed them that acquiring adjacent land for a path was considered but was impossible and stated that as Chairman of Ringwood and Fordingbridge Footpath Society and Footpath Officer for Fordingbridge Town Council she will support the Burgate route but not the route alongside the B3078 which in her view is unsafe.

The Footpath Officer told the NFNPA that Fordingbridge Town Council considers the safe route to be between Burgate and Sandy Balls and not alongside the B3078. She reported that there will be a safe crossing point of the A338 when the roundabout and road improvements are completed and that this path into Sandy Balls is very pleasant. She said that the path would benefit from some improvements but is perfectly usable now.

Cllr Wilson said that people will continue to walk and run the path alongside the B3078.

[PCSO McCormick left the meeting during this item.]

15. To consider Highways in Fordingbridge

The Clerk reported that he had met with Cllr Heron and Hampshire Highways at the end of April regarding work needed on the roads in Fordingbridge. Cllr Heron admitted that budgetary constraints existed and this could limit the work done.

The Clerk reported that he continues to receive complaints, including a phone call today from a local resident regarding the lack of paint on the zebra crossing and the general poor state of the roads in Fordingbridge. The Clerk reported that a repaired drain on the High Street had sunk again within two weeks of repair.

Cllr Jackson reported that a local resident had paid for a traffic survey to be carried out on the High Street. Unfortunately, a vehicle had parked on the equipment and the survey would need to be redone.

16. To receive an update regarding the Queen's Jubilee

Cllr White reported that the Jubilee Beacon was progressing nicely and the shield graphics look good. The installation would begin on 20th May. The bunting and signs advertising the event are going up now. Bunting would be hung on the catenary wires next week and Fordingbridge Events Group will contribute £1,000 towards the cost of hanging the bunting.

17. To consider a response to the consultation on preventing charges for DIY waste at Hampshire HWRCs

The Government is consulting on plans to change the rules that currently allow some Local Authorities to charge for DIY waste from households. Under the proposals, households would not be charged to get rid of waste including plasterboards, bricks and bath units. This is a new move to tackle fly-tipping which is a crime, blights communities, poses a risk to public health and the environment, and costs up to £392 million a year.

Cllr Adams recommended that FTC fully support these proposals.

18. To receive an update regarding a Strategic Plan

Cllr Jackson reported that some Councillors had had technical problems accessing the survey set up by the Neighbourhood Plan steering Group, but these would soon be resolved. He emphasised

again the importance of Fordingbridge Town Council taking a unified approach with HCC and NFDC. Cllr Adams said he completed the survey but found some questions difficult to answer. Cllr Jackson recommended a specific meeting be arranged to discuss the survey results and any issues that arise as a result.

19. To report on any Health & Safety issues

The Clerk reported that the low wall in the main car park will be the subject of a meeting between NFDC and FTC. The metal barriers on top of the wall were removed by NFDC in 2021, making the remaining low wall a trip hazard, in particular for partially sighted people.

Cllr Wilson asked the NFDC for a risk assessment of the car park but was instead sent a generic risk assessment. This did not consider the particular risks of Fordingbridge car park, including the adverse cambered footway to the rear of the Co-op.

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

Cllrs Hale and Paton attended an Open Spaces meeting with NFDC on 4th May. They reported that specialist management is needed to increase the biodiversity of open spaces and that if the land is not managed correctly then a prosecution could result. Councillors discussed the possibility of FTC taking on the new open spaces in the town and noted that the town survey showed that residents want FTC to take on the open spaces. The Council agreed that some areas, for example play areas, would be easier to manage than other areas, which could prove quite challenging. The cost of employing someone to inspect the open spaces for increases in biodiversity net gain over time would also need to be factored in. Cllr Jackson said that FTC could choose which pieces of land to manage, taking responsibility for jobs such as emptying bins and grass cutting, with a specialist company managing the rest. Cllr Wilson requested that a meeting between FTC, NFDC and Pennyfarthing Homes be arranged once NFDC have produced the notes from today's meeting.

Action: Clerk to arrange meeting between FTC, NFDC and Pennyfarthing Homes once meeting notes received

Cllr Wilson reported that good progress is being made in the Community Garden at the allotments. A digger will be commencing work next week with the shed arriving soon after that. Cllr Jackson said that this is a good example of community land being managed well.

Cllr Anstey attended the NFALC meeting on 28th April with a presentation of the NFDC waste strategy. He reported that the waste strategy would not be implemented for another two years.

21. To note any items of correspondence

No items of correspondence.

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

The Clerk reported that following Cllr Moulard's resignation from the Council, the notice of vacancy in the Office of Councillor for Fordingbridge Town Council has been advertised. The vacancy will be filled either by co-option or election.

23. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as Wednesday 6th July 2022

The meeting closed at 8:41p.m.

APPENDIX 1

2022-23

Members of the Council may be contacted via the Town Council Office on 01425 654134 or town.clerk@fordingbridge.gov.uk

Members of the Town Council

Cllr Anna Wilson – Town Mayor
Cllr Patricia Earth – Deputy Mayor
Cllr Malcolm Adams
Cllr Paul Anstey
Cllr Leonard (Nobby) Goldsmith
Cllr Edward Hale
Cllr Mike Jackson
Cllr Alan Lewendon
Cllr Diane Paton
Cllr Brian Perkins
Cllr Pete White
** Vacancy **

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr P. Anstey
Cllr L. Goldsmith
Cllr M. Jackson
Cllr. D. Paton
Cllr. P. White
Cllr. A. Wilson) ex-
Cllr. P. Earth) officio

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Cllr. M. Adams
Cllr L. Goldsmith
Cllr. E. Hale
Cllr. A. Lewendon
Cllr B. Perkins
Cllr. A. Wilson) ex-
Cllr P. Earth) officio

FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE

All members of the Council

PLANNING COMMITTEE

All members of the Council

STAFF & REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

Cllr M. Adams

Cllr L. Goldsmith

Cllr A. Lewendon

Cllr. B. Perkins

Cllr. A. Wilson) ex-

Cllr P. Earth) officio

TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Cllr P. Earth

Cllr E. Hale

Cllr M. Jackson

Cllr A. Lewendon

Cllr. A. Wilson

APPENDIX 2
Fordingbridge Town 12 month comparison

	May 21- May 22	May 20- May 21	Difference	% Difference
1b Violence with Injury	41	45	-4	-0.09%
1c Violence without Injury	112	82	30	36.59%
2a Rape	14	5	9	180%
2b Other Sexual Offences	16	6	10	166.67%
3b Robbery of Personal Property	2	3	-1	-0.33%
4a1 Burglary Residential	35	27	8	29.63%
4a2 Burglary Business and Community	11	13	-2	-0.15%
4b Vehicle Offences	30	27	3	11.11%
4c Theft from the Person	0	2	-2	-1%
4d Bicycle Theft	1	3	-2	-0.67%
4e Shoplifting	9	21	-12	-0.57%
4f All Other Theft Offences	29	33	-4	-0.12%
5a Criminal Damage	48	50	-2	-0.04%
5b Arson	3	0	3	0%
6a Trafficking of Drugs	1	8	-7	-0.88%
6b Possession of Drugs	11	12	-1	-0.08%
7 Possession of Weapons Offences	2	4	-2	-0.50%
8 Public Order Offences	63	34	29	85.29%
9 Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	5	5	0	0%
TOTAL	433	380	53	13.95%

	May 21- May 22	May 20- May 21	Difference	% Difference
Residential Burglary (Excl Sheds/Garages)	11	8	3	37.50%

Hampshire 12 month comparison

	May 21- May 22	May 20- May 21	Difference	% Difference
TOTAL	173428	142381	31047	+21.81%

Fordingbridge Town Beat Report
April 2022

Hello to all, thank you for taking your time to read this beat report for the month of April 2022 in Fordingbridge. I am PCSO Rhys McCormick 18330, part of the Ringwood neighbourhood policing team; I am your local PCSO for Fordingbridge Town. Here to tackle community-based issues and deliver on community priorities.

Figures for April 2022 – Please be aware I have included statistics regarding offences that are relevant to the community.

9x Theft (Two theft from a motor vehicle, One theft of a motor vehicle & Three shoplifting offences, also Three thefts)

1x Burglary Dwelling (Entry gained, messy search conducted, nothing stolen)

9x Criminal Damage (One suspect issued a Community Resolution. Attempted theft of a MPV causing damage to property and vehicle)

5x Making off without payment (Filling with petrol and making off without paying at Southampton Road Garage)

5x Public Order (Male arrested & charged for Drunk & Disorderly)

1x Assault Police (Male suspect has Assaulted a PC with a class bottle causing an injury requiring stitches)

13x Assault (Four assault with injury, Nine assault without injury)

Non-Crime, Antisocial behaviour reports – 9 reports of anti-social behaviour towards community and included towards a person.

Suspicious Behaviour / Person(s) / Subject – 6 reports of suspicious behaviour &/or person. Please email me on rhys.mccormick@hampshire.pnn.police.uk if you ever have any questions or queries