

**FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 7.30pm**  
**held at the Town Hall**  
**(Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Council)**

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

**In Attendance:** Paul Goddard, Town Clerk  
Rachel Edwards, Asst Town Clerk  
Cllr Heron (HCC)  
Cllr Bellows (NFDC)  
PC Elliott O’Sullivan  
PCSO Rhys McCormick  
A representative of Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society (RFFS)  
A reporter from the Salisbury Journal  
Kelvin Hinton, candidate for co-option as a member of the Town Council  
David Millar, candidate for co-option as a member of the Town Council  
1 member of the Public

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

Apologies were received from Cllrs Hale and Wilson, Cllr Sevier (NFDC).

**2. To receive any Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest.

**3. To consider applications for co-option as a member of the Town Council**

There were two applications for co-option onto Fordingbridge Town Council. Mr Kelvin Hinton and Mr David Millar.

Cllr Jackson proposed Mr Kelvin Hinton for co-option onto Fordingbridge Town Council and was seconded by Cllr Paton.

Cllr Adams proposed Mr David Millar for co-option onto Fordingbridge Town Council and was seconded by Cllr Anstey.

Votes for Mr Kelvin Hinton – 4

Votes for Mr David Millar – 5

It was therefore RESOLVED that Mr David Millar be co-opted onto Fordingbridge Town Council.

The Clerk expressed his thanks to both candidates and reminded the meeting that elections will be held in May 2023.

**4. To confirm the minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and to report on any matters arising**

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore RESOLVED: that the minutes of the General Council meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022 are signed as a true record. All in favour. There were no matters arising.

**5. To confirm the minutes of the extraordinary General Council meeting held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and to report on any matters arising**

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore RESOLVED: that the minutes of the extraordinary General Council meeting held on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022 are signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

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

No matters raised.

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

PCSO McCormick apologised that no report had been written this month. He introduced the new PC for Fordingbridge, PC Elliott O'Sullivan, to the Council and said the increased Police presence is good news for the town. PCSO McCormick reported that there had been a positive and engaging meeting between the Police and Fordingbridge Town Council and good progress is being made in partnership working.

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

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Earth, attended the Jubilee picnic at Fordingbridge School Federation on 27<sup>th</sup> May, she gave the reading at the Jubilee service at St Mary's Church on 5<sup>th</sup> June and today gave out prizes at Forres Sandle Manor School.

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

Cllr Heron forewarned the Council that HCC are refreshing their minerals and waste plan and the first consultation will be either in September or October. Cllr Jackson asked if most of the extraction would take place on the county boundary of Hants and Dorset. Cllr Heron said that the last consultation brought a lot of representation from Bickton and extraction tends to be from down the valley, rather than through the town.

Cllr Heron reported that he had spoken to Graham Wright, HCC Transport, regarding the transport issues and options in Fordingbridge. An update would follow update shortly.

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

Cllr Bellows reported that the 'Just Got Home' scheme is three months into its six-month pilot and has had 31 referrals and 6 home visits. Funding for the continuation of the scheme is being investigated. Provided in partnership between New Forest District Council and New Forest Disability, 'Just Got Home' is a free service for those returning home after a stay in hospital. It offers a follow up home visit to provide patients with information and help to arrange access to services on their behalf.

Cllr Jackson asked if NFDC are aware of the proposal for 1700 new homes in Alderholt and reported that developers seem to be unaware that many of the access roads belong to HCC. He asked about the sewerage system and how that could impact Fordingbridge. Cllr Bellows confirmed that NFDC is aware of the proposals but that sewerage has not yet been discussed.

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

- Planning Committee – 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022 – received Cllr Paton
- Transport Committee – 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022 – received Cllr Earth
- Amenities Committee – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022 – received Cllr White
- General Purposes Committee – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022 – received Cllr Earth
- Finance and Policy Committee – 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022 – received Cllr Adams
- Annual Town Assembly – 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022 – received Cllr Earth
- Planning Committee – 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022 – received Cllr Paton
- Finance and Policy Committee – 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022 – received Cllr Jackson

**12. To consider Footways in Fordingbridge**

Cllr Lewendon reported that paths are being cleared up to Tinkers Cross. Cllr Earth reported that the hedges are being cut at the hospital. Cllr Paton reported that the underpass (under the A338, between Salisbury Road and the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust) is overgrown with brambles and asked that they be cut back.

**13. To consider Highways in Fordingbridge**

Cllr Heron said this is an ongoing issue. As mentioned in agenda item 9, he has spoken to Graham Wright, HCC Transport, regarding this matter and an update would follow update shortly.

**14. To consider a response to the HCC passenger transport consultation**

The Clerk reported that HCC are carrying out a public consultation on proposed changes to supported passenger transport services and the Concessionary Travel Scheme. The proposals seek to continue to deliver effective services, within a reduced budget, and help make around £800,000 p.a savings by April 2023, by:

- making operational changes to supported passenger transport services e.g. supported bus services, Dial-a-Ride, Call & Go and Taxishares
- removing some enhancements to the Concessionary Travel Scheme; and
- increasing the contributions users pay for some services

There are no specific routes/services selected for reductions or changes. The County Council will review data relating to passenger journeys, the cost of providing particular journeys or services, and passenger and stakeholder feedback gathered through the consultation, in order to identify where resources could be used more effectively and where services could be adjusted with minimal impact on service users.

A discussion followed about how plans need to have statistical supporting evidence. The demographics of those living in the town were mentioned, with Cllr Heron reporting that economically active people are retiring and even with younger people moving into the town, there are fewer working people. He said there is an affordability gap with older people having greater care needs and this presents challenges.

*[PCSO McCormick and PC O'Sullivan left the meeting.]*

**15. To consider a response to the HCC draft Catchment Management Plans**

Cllr Lewendon commented that the table covering the Avon Catchment area makes very interesting reading and, once again, illustrates how poor the Local Plan is.

## **16. To receive an update regarding a Strategic Plan**

Cllr Jackson circulated to members a set of slides he'd prepared, based on a conversation with Cllr Heron. He said the Council need to decide their priorities and outlined the following:

- The High Street and Traffic Management
- The Recreation Ground – Cllr Jackson said that FTC owns all the Recreation Ground and there is a lot of potential here
- The Burgate Hub – potential for recreational use and town use. New houses will be within walking distance of the facility.
- Open Spaces and Footpaths (Amenity Land) – FTC should be given the opportunity to manage the land. Management companies have been known to charge occupants and then only allow the occupants to use the land e.g. play areas

Cllr Jackson recommended that the Council make a plan for the next 5, 10 and 14 years and said that oven-ready projects are more likely to be funded by NFDC.

Several Councillors expressed reservations about a Burgate Hub, saying that it could be a millstone around the Council's neck and would draw people away from Recreation Ground. Several members said they'd prefer to invest in the Recreation Ground and expand the facilities there instead.

The Clerk read an email from Cllr Wilson to the meeting in her absence. Cllr Wilson said in her email that the Strategic Plan cannot be considered in isolation. Fordingbridge Town Council need to complain about the lack of NFDC spending framework for CIL. The process of CIL allocation should be open and transparent, and it is not. What is Fordingbridge Town Council going to do about that? Previously FTC have complained to NFDC but that hasn't worked. FTC should now complain to Cllr Heron as leader. Cllr Wilson asked in her email why town and parish councils have not been asked to put forward ideas for projects. She said there should a timetable to put forward ideas and a clear process to do this. There is not. Again, please could FTC complain to the NFDC leader. Cllr Wilson asked in her email why the communication between various NFDC departments and Fordingbridge Town Council is so chaotic. She said that it has taken two years to get NFDC to address the issues with their land behind the Co-op, only for them to ask the town Council to fund the improvements on their land. She said there should at least two meetings a year between officers of all three councils - it is time to ask why this is not happening.

Cllr Heron said he was disappointed with Cllr Wilson's comments and reported that the Chief Planning Officer spends more time in Fordingbridge talking to FTC than any other town. He said that regarding the CIL and section 106 monies, FTC projects have remained on the books and not been progressed. He said that FTC need to work with NFDC to develop plans and recommended that FTC look at Hampshire 2050 document and consider 2050 vision.

The Clerk said that he understands Cllr Wilson's frustrations. He reported that a meeting he had with Claire Upton-Brown, Chief Planning Officer and David Hurd, Environmental Enforcement and Amenities Manager, regarding the area behind the Co-op was productive. However, although David Hurd said the budget is available to improve the area, NFDC now expect a contribution from FTC towards this work, despite it being NFDC land and within a conservation area.

Cllr Heron recommended that FTC ask NFDC councillors to sit in on discussions with officers but that both Councils would need to contribute. Cllr Heron said that people will look at towns and see which deliver on projects and which don't.

Cllr Lewendon reported that there are health and safety issues now that NFDC have removed the railings in the car park, leaving a low wall. He reported that this is a trip hazard for blind people.

Cllr Jackson said that Fordingbridge Town Council have to realise their position and engage with partners. Cllr Paton said that although it is strange that FTC are being asked to pay for work on NFDC land, FTC need to prioritise spending and think about what they want money to be spent on. She said the area behind the Co-op is not great.

**17. To consider revising the terms of reference of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

The Clerk advised that the terms of reference were drafted for the Neighbourhood Plan and recommended that they now be revised. He asked that members email him regarding this matter.

**18. To report on any Health & Safety issues**

Nothing to report.

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

Cllrs Jackson and Lewendon attended an online Passenger Transport meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> June. Cllr White attended a wash-up meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> June regarding the Jubilee celebrations.

*[Cllrs Heron and Bellows left the meeting.]*

**20. To note any items of correspondence**

The Clerk reported that the letter below had been received from a member of the public following the Jubilee celebrations at Fordingbridge Rec and said it's good to get this type of feedback, particularly knowing that the Groundsman had a lot of clearing up to do.

*It was uplifting to see huge crowds enjoying fun and picnics in beautiful sunshine on Jubilee Bank Holiday in Fordingbridge Park. We walk our two dogs there each morning at 8am. This morning we were amazed to see all the litter, tents etc. had been cleared and the park was pristine. WELL DONE THE TEAM.*

A request has been received from a Master's Degree student for permission to film in the Recreation Ground from 20<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> July a comedy about making a film to save his Master's degree. Members were broadly supportive of the project although raised concerns that the filming is due to take place just after the schools have broken up, so the Rec is likely to be very busy and there could be potential conflict with members of the public.

**Action: Clerk to request further information regarding management of the public using the area, whether cordons are being proposed and the timings of filming**

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

The Clerk reported that the fly casters raised £160 for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance with each participant making a £20 charitable donation, as well as paying FTC to use the pitch for their workshop.

**22. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2022**

The meeting closed at 8:22p.m.