

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 3rd August 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, Hale, Jackson, Lewendon, Millar, Perkins and White

In Attendance: Paul Goddard, Town Clerk
Rachel Edwards, Asst Town Clerk
Cllr Bellows (NFDC)
PCSO Rhys McCormick
Ruth Croker, Footpath Officer and representative of Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society (RFFS)
A reporter from the Salisbury Journal
4 Members of the Public

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Earth, Goldsmith and Paton, 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 6th July 2022 and to report on any matters arising

Cllr White proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Perkins and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the General Council meeting held on the 6th July 2022 are signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Agenda items 9 & 13 – Cllr Jackson asked if a response had been received from Graham Wright, HCC Transport, regarding the transport issues in Fordingbridge. None received.

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

A member of the public reported that she and her family had been experiencing antisocial behaviour from their neighbours over a sustained period of time. She said she repeatedly reported matters to the Police but thought their response lacking. Cllr Wilson advised her to speak to her District Councillor regarding a housing move.

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

See Appendix for report.

Cllr Lewendon reported that children have been loitering outside the hospital, being verbally abusive and banging on the windows at night. He was concerned that the police may be too friendly towards young troublemakers.

The Clerk reported that progress is being made towards the installation of CCTV in the Town Centre. He said that NFDC have removed the benches from the car park at Roundhill in an effort to combat anti-social behaviour, however this has caused some upset amongst local people on

social media. The Clerk reported that he'd received a letter from a holidaymaker saying they wouldn't return to Fordingbridge again, having been put off by the people drinking, swearing and smoking drugs on these benches. Cllr Wilson asked whether it might be possible to get a Public Space Protection Order for the town. PCSO McCormick advised that these are generally for larger towns than Fordingbridge.

Cllr Millar asked if monthly reports could be compared with the report from the same month of the previous year. The Asst Clerk reported that there have been several months when no reports were received but where available, monthly reports from the previous year could be emailed to members for comparison. PCSO McCormick advised that the annual crime comparison figures were presented to the Annual Council Meeting in May.

Action: Asst Clerk to email the monthly crime report to members with the corresponding report from the previous year where available

6. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

Cllr Wilson reported that she visited Vimoutiers in July for the Twinning Society's 40th Anniversary celebrations.

Cllr Wilson attended a HALC Levelling up meeting on 29th June. She reported that the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill will come into effect in February 2023 and may affect how CIL payments are made. Levelling up aims to boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector and improving public services, especially in those places where they are weakest.

Cllr Wilson attended Burgate School's Environment day and reported that the school does a lot in this respect. She reported that Burgate School students spoke about the environment via Zoom at the Vimoutiers Twinning Event.

Cllr Wilson met with Byron McGrail, NFDC Head of Open Spaces, and reported that NFDC have agreed to remove the radar locks from the gates at Sweatford Water Meadows to make access easier. Cllr Lewendon reported that the radar locks were back on the gates again today. Cllr Wilson reported that NFDC will allow a bench by the river at the water meadows. FTC will pay for the cost of the bench, NFDC will install and maintain it.

Cllr Wilson attended a Himalyan Balsam pull organised by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) on 29th July on the land between Green Lane and Normandy Way. She asked that if anyone has any Himalyan Balsam on their land that they notify the HIWWT.

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 the CCTV cameras in Lyndhurst are rented. Internet access and planning permission is required before installation and cameras are monitored constantly.

Cllr Lewendon asked about recent waste collection operational difficulties, with glass and green waste collections having been missed. Cllr Bellows reported that on Tuesday NFDC was short of 22 operatives due to a combination of holiday, sickness, training and vacancies. She said that NFDC will shortly be running a recruitment drive. She advised that if residents have insufficient storage space until the next scheduled collection, they should take glass bottles to the bottle

banks and green waste to the HWRC at Somerley. Cllr Lewendon asked if waste and recycling services are likely to be affected; Cllr Bellows said that NFDC is prioritising services.

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

- Planning Committee – 13th July 2022 – received Cllr Lewendon
- Amenities Committee – 20th July 2022 – received Cllr White
- General Purposes Committee – 20th July 2022 – received Cllr Wilson
- Finance and Policy Committee – 27th July 2022 – received Cllr Adams

10. To consider Footways in Fordingbridge

Cllr Wilson reported that Giganet is continuing to install fibre broadband in Fordingbridge and this involves digging up some footways.

Cllr Lewendon reported that the grass encroaching on the path to Tinkers Cross has been cut back and the path is far wider as a result.

The footpath officer reported that due to staff shortages, HCC has agreed to cut a small number of paths only. She said that the footpath society can access a grant for a brush cutter but there are not enough volunteers to make paying for the brush cutter and training worthwhile.

Councillors discussed the amenity land on the new developments and whether FTC would have the opportunity to manage this land, rather than it being the responsibility of a management company. Cllr Bellows (NFDC) advised that this would be a big thing to take on and that FTC should get an idea of the time and costs involved. Councillors had concerns that a management companies may restrict access for the general public and thought FTC should take on the management of the play areas, with first refusal for ANRG land.

11. To consider Highways in Fordingbridge

Cllr Jackson reported that a local businessman has said he will meet the cost of the fees for a speed limit reduction in Fordingbridge to 20mph (approximately £12k – £17.5k plus VAT). The fees will cover a concept design scheme, undertaking audits (cycle/access/walking/parking) and a quality audit. The businessman has also received a quote for the fees of a strategic highway plan which he hoped the Council would support (£16.5k - £31.5k + VAT).

12. To consider adopting a Strategic Plan

A draft strategic plan had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Cllr Jackson said that this would be a live document, updated over time. Cllr Lewendon recommended that public transport is included in the document.

Cllr Jackson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Anstey and therefore **RESOLVED**: to adopt the strategic plan. All in favour.

Cllr Jackson reported that Penny Farthing Homes would announce tomorrow their phosphate mitigation plan to develop the reed beds at Bickton and create a wildfowl sanctuary. The Clerk confirmed that this project is large enough to address all the phosphate issues in the area. Councillor Wilson said this is exciting news and would be a huge boost for Fordingbridge.

13. To report on any Health & Safety issues

The Council today asked members of the public not to light fires or barbeques at the Recreation Ground due to the risk of fires spreading in the ongoing drought conditions. This has been publicised on Facebook and posters displayed at the Rec. Cllr Lewendon asked that a Facebook post be published asking members of the public not to light bonfires in their gardens.

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

Cllr Hale attended the Conservation Group meeting on 19th July where they discussed public access to the Bishop's Pond site. The site is open when working groups are there three times a month but not otherwise due to unsafe conditions.

Cllr Wilson advised that volunteers will be putting up a shed at the Community Garden on Saturday 6th August at 10am and invited Councillors to join.

15. To note any items of correspondence

Nothing to report.

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

The Clerk thanked Kelvin Hinton for his significant contribution to the Strategic Plan. Cllr Jackson asked if the Terms of Reference of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group could be changed to Strategic Plan rather than Neighbourhood Plan.

The Clerk advised members that a meeting to discuss Open Spaces is likely to be held on either Wednesday 17th or 24th August.

17. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as Wednesday 7th September 2022

The meeting closed at 8:51p.m.

Fordingbridge Town Beat Report

Hello to all, thank you for taking your time to read this beat report for the month of July 2022 for Fordingbridge. I am PCSO Rhys McCormick 18330, local PCSO allocated to Fordingbridge Town, I also cover the town with my colleague PC Elliott O'Sullivan 28307. Please email me at: rhys.mccormick@hampshire.pnn.police.uk if you ever have any questions or queries.

Figures for July 2022 – Please be aware I have only included statistics regarding offences that are relevant to the community, and confirmed offences. Some domestic related stats may be included but not all.

5x Theft (Two theft from a motor vehicle, Two theft of a motor vehicle & one theft of a property belonging to another)

2x Burglary non-dwelling/business (Three E-BIKES stolen, two returned to owner, investigation ongoing)

2x Burglary within a dwelling (house broken into by means of force used)

3x Criminal Damage (Suspect identified and due in for interview)

1x Drug Offences (Two arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply a Class B drug & arrest for being concerned in the supply of, remains under investigation)

12x Public Order Offences (Behaviour that has caused or is likely to be caused harassment, alarm or distress. And/or a person acts with intent to cause such)

1x Assault Police (Suspect arrested)

9x Assault (Six assaults resulting in an injury, three resulting with no injury)

Non-Crime, Antisocial behaviour reports – **10** reports of anti-social behaviour within the community. Behaving in an anti-social manner, causing a nuisance.

Suspicious Behaviour / Person(s) / Subject – **9** reports of suspicious behaviour, vehicle &/or person.

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Deaf? Non-emergency text
07781 480999
For crime and community information
www.hampshirealert.co.uk

HAMPSHIRE ALERT

HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY
101
IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS CALL 999

YOU YOUR FAMILY OUR COMMUNITIES
SAFER

HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY