

**FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 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 Anstey, Earth, Goldsmith, Hale, Jackson, Lewendon, Millar, Paton, Perkins  
and White

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

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

Apologies were received from Cllr Adams, PCSO Rhys McCormick and PCSO Elliott O’Sullivan.

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

No declarations of interest.

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

Cllr Earth proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the General Council meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022 are signed as a true record.

No matters arising

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

Four residents of Green Lane raised concern about the new bench which is due to be installed at Sweatford Water Meadows in near proximity of their houses, saying that it will act as a magnet to drug dealers and attract other antisocial behaviour. They reported that drug deals already take place on the adjacent bridge and asked that a consultation be carried out before installing the bench. The Chairman asked that all incidents of drug dealing be reported to the Police. She said that many requests had been received from the public for a bench in this popular spot by the river but agreed to consider this matter further at a future meeting.

A local resident reported that his garden wall at the junction of Whitsbury Road and Alexandra Road has now been knocked down several times by large lorries on their way to Elliotts Builders Merchants. He was concerned about the danger to pedestrians including school children and the safety risk to the electricity pole.

**Action: Asst Clerk to raise with Cllr Heron (HCC)**

*[One member of the public left the meeting.]*

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

See appendix for crime report.

Cllr Wilson noted that the report stated “Multiple reports of windows damaged and buildings damaged by means of catapults and ball bearings” but thought that local CCTV footage showed a middle-aged man kicking windows in along the High Street.

Members raised concern that reports are often made to the police but local PCSOs say that no reports have been made. Sometimes only after local police have been told about reports made, is action taken.

**Action: Invite Inspector Ord to a meeting**

*[Four members of the public left the meeting.]*

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

The Mayor attended the following meetings and events.

13<sup>th</sup> October – Fordingbridge Events Group meeting to plan the town’s Christmas Lights Switch On event for 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

19<sup>th</sup> October – Meeting with NFDC regarding Sweatford Water Meadow. A community orchard is planned for the rear of the water meadow and a new bench expected to be installed near the river.

20<sup>th</sup> October – A meeting with local community groups regarding the Cost of Living Crisis and its impact on the residents of Fordingbridge and surrounding villages

31<sup>st</sup> October – Stepping Stones Pre-school Party

1<sup>st</sup> November – Cala Homes regarding development plans for Site 16.

28<sup>th</sup> October – Meeting with NFDC Head of Planning regarding the Section 106 agreement. FTC had been tasked at the meeting to agree a figure for a commuted sum with which they’d be willing to take on the amenity land. The Mayor reported however that NFDC had today published a Section 106 agreement on their website and asked where FTC now stood.

**Action: Clerk to email NFDC Head of Planning**

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

No report received.

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

Cllr Bellows attended the Community Groups Cost of Living Crisis meeting at Avonway Community Centre and reported that she has money available which must be spent by April. It could for example fund a new fridge-freezer and the food to fill it.

Cllr Bellows reported that NFDC will consult on a proposal to ban the lighting of fires and barbeques in the New Forest as well as the feeding and petting of ponies, horses, mules and donkeys.

*[Cllr Bellows left the meeting.]*

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

- Extraordinary Planning Committee – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – received Cllr Paton
- Planning Committee – 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – received Cllr Paton

- Finance & Policy Committee – 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – received Cllr Jackson

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

Cllr Lewendon reported that the pavement from Tinkers Cross south towards the town is flooded and opposite the farm shop is very muddy. He said that there is insufficient lighting to see the posts on Whitsbury Road and he has walked into them. The footpath officer reported that the pavement alongside Salisbury Road is lower than the road and regularly becomes flooded and muddy.

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

FTC is still awaiting a report from Graham Wright, Transport Team at Hampshire County Council, regarding the roads in Fordingbridge.

Cllr Wilson reported that FTC have been asked to send NFDC a list of footpaths which need upgrading. This list will include the path by the Junior School to be widened and made suitable for bicycles and mobility buggies. Cllr Wilson said that the pavements into town are in a poor state of repair. Cllr Lewendon was unimpressed with the road patching on Shaftesbury Street.

### **12. To receive an update from the Strategic and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

Cllr Jackson reported that there are four main areas for the Steering Group to focus on:

1. The public realm. That is the communal spaces in the town that we all use. Most importantly roads and footpaths. In the absence of any meaningful engagement from HCC he said this is a very difficult area to progress.
2. The Recreation Ground. This is something under FTC's control and needs a plan. Cllr Jackson asked that General Council action this.
3. The Amenity Land. This is something that is being discussed and actioned by General Council and the Steering Group could well drop this from their remit. One of the Terms of Reference was to liaise with HCC, NFDC and developers but that this could be amended if required. He said that by having regular discussions with Pennyfarthing Homes he has built up a relationship that was previously non-existent.
4. The Burgate Hub. The Burgate School have plans drawn up and costed for a replacement all weather pitch and changing rooms. The pitch has funding approval from the Football Association but this funding will be reliant on an agreement being signed for community use. The Steering Group have had discussions with the school about other matters and will be able to report back as things progress.

A discussion followed about the lack of formal open space on strategic sites 16, 17 and 18. Also about the Burgate Hub and how accessible it would be to members of the public, and the Recreation Ground and what the Council would like there. Cllr Paton recommended having a walking route from Burgate which linked up the strategic sites. Cllr Wilson wanted a Neighbourhood Plan in place. Cllr Jackson said that a Neighbourhood Plan will require an investment of a relatively large sum of money, perhaps £30,000, and it will take at least a year.

*[One member of the public left the meeting.]*

### **13. To receive an update on plans for the Christmas Lights Switch On**

The Christmas Lights will be switched on by Father Christmas on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. The road closure has been granted by NFDC and will be managed by volunteers from the Rotary Club.

Fordingbridge branded reusable plastic pint glasses will be for sale. Free parking is available. Music and stalls will be at various locations throughout the town.

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

Cllr Sevier advised previously that swimming in the River Avon should be avoided until after the water treatment works at Frog Lane have been upgraded in 2023 / 24, due to the sewage discharge into the river. FTC have asked the Environment Agency to comment and is awaiting a reply.

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

Cllr Jackson attended meetings with Penny Farthing Homes

Cllrs Jackson and Paton attended a Burgate School Senior Management Team meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> November

Cllr Jackson attended a meeting with the Mayor of Ringwood Gareth DeBoos on 31<sup>st</sup> October to discuss work on their Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Jackson reported that the NFDC management structure is changing and the Local Plan Part 1 may not be updated as a result. He said this could open sites up to rogue developers, however developments could be prevented by designating sites for use by FTC.

Cllr Earth met with a representative from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust at Sweatford Water Meadow regarding the pond. The pond has been lost due to water levels dropping. The advice was to scrape out the soil but not to add clay.

Cllr Goldsmith attended a Royal British Legion meeting with the Curate Rev Tom Burden.

Cllr Anstey attended a Rural Service Network meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> October.

Cllr Lewendon reported that the new X3 bus timetable is considerably different.

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

Correspondence was received saying that it was difficult to hear what was said by Councillors during public meetings and to follow any discussions.

A member of the public emailed with concerns about the speed the cars and lorries drive through Fordingbridge town centre, saying that they had nearly been hit a few times by cars and big lorries driving above 50mph. This email was forwarded to the police who thought the speed may not be entirely correct as they would be attending RTC's on a regular basis due to the speed and weight of lorries not being able to brake in time. PCSO Rhys McCormick advised that speed reminder signs and possibly a speed monitor would be the best initial course of action to provide more information.

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

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks will hold an information event on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 1pm in the Town Hall to tell people more about the welfare provisions that are available during power outages. All are welcome.

Cala Homes will hold a public exhibition on their proposals for Site 16 from 4pm to 7pm on Monday 7 November at Sandleheath Village Hall. FTC is invited to the councillor preview session from 3pm to 4pm to meet the project team, ask questions and provide feedback.

#### **18. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

The meeting closed at 9:22p.m.



# Fordingbridge Town Beat Report

Hello to all, thank you for taking your time to read this beat report for the month of October 2022. 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](mailto:rhys.mccormick@hampshire.pnn.police.uk) if you ever have any questions or queries.

**Figures for October** – Please be aware I have only included statistics regarding offences that are relevant to the community, and confirmed offences. Some domestic related statistics may be included.

**6x** Theft (Four theft from a motor vehicle, One theft of a motor vehicle found in Whitsbury that had been severely damaged and written off)

**1x** Burglary non-dwelling/outbuilding (attempted break in, no property stolen)

**12x** Criminal Damage (Multiple reports of windows damaged and buildings damaged by means of catapults and ball bearings)

**1x** Arson (bushes have been set a light, enquiries are ongoing to identify offender)

**10x** 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, 4 currently under investigation)

**7x** Assault (All resulting with no injury)

**Non-Crime, Antisocial behaviour reports** – 1 reports of anti-social behaviour within the community. Behaving in an anti-social manner, causing a nuisance.

**Suspicious Behaviour / Person(s) / Subject** – 16 reports of suspicious behaviour, vehicle &/or person.

Our community are the eyes and ears of the community; please continue to report criminality, suspicious behaviour & activity to the Police directly, any information regarding concerns in your community is greatly appreciated.

[www.hampshire.police.uk](http://www.hampshire.police.uk)  
Deaf? Non-emergency text  
**07781 480999**  
For crime and community information  
[www.hampshirealert.co.uk](http://www.hampshirealert.co.uk)

**HAMPSHIRE ALERT**

HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY  
**101**  
IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS CALL 999

YOU  
YOUR FAMILY  
OUR COMMUNITIES  
**SAFER**

HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY