

**FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7.30pm  
held at the Town Hall.**

**(Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Council)**

**Present:** Cllr Wilson – Chair  
Cllrs Anstey, Earth, Goldsmith, Hale, Jackson, Lewendon, Paton, and White

**In Attendance:** Mr P Goddard, Town Clerk  
Mrs M Coatham, RFO  
Two members of the public

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

Apologies were received from Cllrs Millar and Perkins, District Cllrs Bellows and Sevier (NFDC), County Cllr Heron (HCC).

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

No declarations of interest.

**3. To confirm the minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>  
December 2022 and to report on any matters arising**

Cllr White proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Goldsmith and therefore RESOLVED: that the minutes of the General Council meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022 are signed as a true record. All in favour.

**Matters Arising**

Agenda point 8 – the trees that were removed had Ash dieback or were unstable.

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

No matters raised.

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

See appendix for crime report.

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

The Mayor reported that the Afternoon Tea prior to Christmas had been successful. Cllr Wilson circulated a paper about the formation of the recreation ground, noting that 2023 was the 100 year anniversary. Discussion took place about recognising the centenary and it was agreed to consider celebrations which would work alongside any events planned to reflect the Coronation. Cllr White will raise with the Events Group to see if anything was due to take place.

**7. To receive a report from the County Councillor – not present**

**8. To receive a report from the District Councillors - not present**

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

- **Planning Committee – 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 - noted**

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

Cllr Lewendon has reported the footpath from Tinkers Cross to Augustus Park as the grass verge has been damaged with the new development and there was mud on the road, causing the drains to block. Cllr Bellows was going to raise as a planning issue.

Cllr Wilson noted that the steps near Marl Lane bridge needed replacing – discussion took place about ownership and who had installed the steps originally. It was agreed to report to HCC Footpaths to see whether replacement/repair was possible by their volunteers in the first instance.

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

It was noted that local roads have not improved and are in a poor state, the Council are in continual contact with Highways over repairs. Members welcomed that Provost Street had finally re-opened.

#### **12. To receive a recommendation from the Finance & Policy Committee on the precept for 2023/2024**

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Paton and therefore RESOLVED: to agree the recommendation of the Finance & Policy committee for the budget proposals for 2023/24 resulting in a precept request of £318,152. All in favour.

#### **13. To consider a response to the NFDC Consultation on the Public Space Protection Orders**

Discussion took place about the consultation (relating to BBQs and feeding animals), it was noted that the Quadrant had requested support from members for the Orders. Members felt that more publicity in situ was required – as online information was not available despite QR codes being used in the forest as there was not a reliable signal. Cllrs agreed to support the principle of the PSPO's but questioned how it might be implemented in practice. **Action: Clerk to register support for the PSPO's.**

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

Cllr Jackson announced that after 3.5 years as Chair of the Steering Group he would be standing down as Chair as he felt unable to move the proposals forward due to objections at General Council. Discussion took place about the objections and lack of progression – members were able to express their individual views. It was agreed to re-group and consider ways to move forward with the plan in a positive manner.

**Action: the Clerk to confirm a meeting date for further discussion**

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

Nil other than the spring on the gate at Sweatfords Water.

#### **16. To decide whether to co-opt a councillor.**

The Electoral Officer at NFDC had confirmed that whilst an election could not take place within six months of the May 2023 election, the Town Council could agree to co-opt a new councillor to serve until May. Members agreed to co-opt a councillor if there was interest and it was agreed to hold an EO General Council meeting prior to Finance & Policy (25<sup>th</sup> January) to consider candidates.

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

Cllr Anstey had attended the North West Quadrant meeting in December and the minutes had been circulated to members. There had been a presentation about the Minerals & Waste plans and discussion about Freeports.

**18. To note any items of correspondence - none**

**19. To receive a report from the Clerk or any other relevant business - none**

**20. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023.**

It was noted that there would be an extra-ordinary General Council meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023 prior to Finance & Policy to co-opt a councillor.

The meeting closed at 8:23 p.m.