

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 1st February 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, Goldsmith, Hale, Hinton, Jackson, Lewendon, Millar, Paton and White

In Attendance: Rachel Edwards, Asst Town Clerk
Cllr Sevier, NFDC
Cllr Bellows, NFDC
Ruth Croker, Footpath Officer and representative of Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society (RFFS)

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Earth and Perkins.

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest.

3. To confirm the minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 4th January 2023 and to report on any matters arising

Cllr White proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore RESOLVED: that the minutes of the General Council meeting held on the 4th January 2023 are signed as a true record.

Matters arising

Agenda item 14 – Cllr Jackson announced that he has rescinded his resignation as Chair of the Strategic and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

4. To confirm the minutes of the Extraordinary General Council meeting held on Wednesday 25th January 2023 and to report on any matters arising

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Millar and therefore RESOLVED: that the minutes of the General Council meeting held on the 25th January 2023 are signed as a true record. No matters arising.

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

No matters raised.

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

No report received.

Councillors asked that a meeting be arranged with Inspector Ord. Cllr Wilson said she would like to discuss CCTV in the car park and better street lighting in Fordingbridge.

Actions: Councillors to email points for discussion to Clerk. Clerk to arrange meeting.

7. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

The Mayor attended the following events.

7th January – Planted trees in the new Community Orchard with members of The Avon Valley Shed. The Groundsmen finished the tree planting today.

25th January – Attended the NALC event “Local Councils and Community Engagement”. Cllr Wilson reported that the FTC website needs further information but that our engagement on social media is very good. A recommendation from the course was to email a quarterly newsletter to subscribers.

25th January – Met with the Rotary Club regarding a new information board.

25th January – Attended a meeting in Alderholt regarding HCC’s plans for Mineral and Waste Extraction at Midgham Farm

30th January – Attended a meeting at Midgham Farm in opposition to HCC’s plans for Mineral and Waste Extraction on this site.

8. To receive a report from the County Councillor

No report received.

9. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Bellows reported that Cllr Edward Heron (HCC) has approximately £600 to give to Fordingbridge to mark the occasion of the King’s Coronation.

Action: Asst Clerk to apply for County Councillor grant

Cllr Bellows reported that the public consultation about two proposed Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) for the New Forest area attracted 700 responses. The proposed PSPOs concern the lighting of fires and use of BBQs principally on the Crown Lands managed by Forestry England, and the feeding and petting of ponies, horses, mules, and donkeys in the New Forest.

Cllr Sevier reported that there will be new Council houses at Burgate Fields.

Cllr Sevier reported that from May 2023 voters will be required to show a form of photographic identification at polling stations before they are able to cast their vote. If you do not have any of the accepted types of photo identification and you want to vote at the polling station, you will need to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate on the gov.uk website. The deadline to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate for use at the May elections is 5pm on Tuesday 25 April. Please apply as soon as possible if needed.

[Cllrs Bellows and Sevier left the meeting.]

10. The receive the following Committee meeting minutes and any recommendations to General Council contained therein.

- Extraordinary Finance & Policy Committee – 4th January 2023 – received Cllr Jackson
- Planning Committee – 11th January 2023 – received Cllr Paton
- Amenities Committee – 18th January 2023 – received Cllr White
- General Purposes Committee - 18th January 2023 – received Cllr Wilson
- Finance and Policy Committee – 25th January 2023 – received Cllr Millar

11. To consider Footways in Fordingbridge

The pavements in Whitsbury Road and Ringwood Road (by the Recreation Ground) have now been cleared of mud. The Footpath Officer reported that the Avon Valley Path at Burgate has been closed for three months and is still closed. Cllr Wilson reported that the lengthsman will cut the hedge at Witts Way.

12. To consider Highways in Fordingbridge

The junction at Burgate has been left unfinished and is very confusing.

The white lines haven't yet been repainted on Allenwater Drive and Normandy Way after these roads were resurfaced last year. The new drains on Allenwater Drive have sunk.

Cllr Hinton asked that HCC be reminded that their Draft Access Strategy was due for imminent release last December.

Action:Asst Clerk to chase up

13. To receive an update from the Strategic and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Nothing to report.

14. To consider consultations in relation to SS18

Councillors discussed the Case Officer's report to the NFDC Planning Committee on 11th January which detailed the Section 106 requirements and conditions for planning application 21/11237 Land West of Burgate (Site 18). Members agreed to consider this further at next week's planning committee meeting and agree a formal request from FTC of items to be included in the legal agreement.

15. To receive an update on local plans for the King's Coronation

The Coronation Big Picnic will be held at the Recreation Ground on Sunday 7th May 2023. Locals will be encouraged to bring their own picnics. The town's beacon will be lit to celebrate the Coronation. Plans include refreshments, music, entertainment, fairground rides and a charity duck race.

Cllr Millar asked if Fordingbridge Town Council should take a lead on the volunteering aspect of the Coronation weekend. Cllr Jackson reported that Bournemouth Council's local parks are all run by a charitable trust and suggested that FTC might consider doing the same with their amenity land. He said that volunteers could then run some aspects of the amenity land with the added advantage that more grants would be accessible. Cllr Wilson asked if volunteers could wash the Sports Club.

16. To decide which committee will progress Cllr Millar's plan for the Recreation Ground

Cllr White proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Millar and therefore RESOLVED: to form a working group to progress the plan for the Recreation Ground. The working group will report back to the Amenities Committee and comprise of Cllrs Anstey, Millar, Paton, White and Wilson.

17. To consider installing a new heritage board at Fred's Patch funded by the Rotary Club

Members agreed to install a new heritage board at Fred's Patch funded by the Rotary Club.

18. To report on any Health & Safety issues

The Asst Clerk reported that on Monday the sewage pipes from the kiosk and bungalow blocked and the groundsmen could not clear them through manual rodding. A drains company was called and although they are now flowing, it is expected that they'll block again. A CCTV survey showed some roots encroaching the pipe near the hedge line and another blockage. A quote has been received from First Local Services to repair the drains and install a liner at a cost of £1595 + VAT. The Buildings' Manager has been asked for his thoughts on this.

Members discussed the Recreation Ground and asked that the Groundsmen be tasked to:

- Carry out a visual inspection of the riverbank following the recent flooding, to ensure that it's not eroded underneath and in danger of collapse.
- Remove the posters from the bins.
- Open the larger gate on a Saturday to allow rugby players alternative access to the field while the first gateway remains very muddy.

Cllr Anstey asked that some information be added to the website regarding flooding.

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

Cllr Lewendon attended a Passenger Transport Forum meeting on 26th January. Slides from the meeting have been circulated to members. Members discussed the Government's £2 cap on single bus fares which began in January 2023.

Cllr Paton will attend the Twinning Murder Mystery evening on 18th February in St Mary's church hall.

20. To note any items of correspondence

A member of the public has requested a bin and a bus shelter be installed at the bus stop outside the former Surma Valley restaurant on Salisbury Rd. The request for a litter bin has been passed to NFDC's Streetscene team. Cllr Lewendon recommended that shelters also be considered at other stops.

Action: Asst Clerk to liaise with bus company regarding siting of additional shelters

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

Nothing further to report.

22. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as Wednesday 1st March 2023.

The meeting closed at 8:59 p.m.