

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 5th April 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, Hinton, Jackson, Lewendon, Millar, Perkins
and White

In Attendance: Paul Goddard, Town Clerk
Rachel Edwards, Asst Town Clerk
Cllr Bellows, New Forest District Council
Cllr Sevier, New Forest District Council
Ruth Croker, Footpath Officer and representative of Ringwood &
Fordingbridge Footpath Society (RFFS)

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Paton. Also from Cllr Heron, Hampshire County Council.

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest.

3. To confirm the minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 1st March 2023 and to report on any matters arising

Cllr Earth proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Anstey and therefore RESOLVED: that the minutes of the General Council meeting held on the 1st March 2023 are signed as a true record.

No Matters arising.

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. A 90 day report up to 2nd April 2023 was received with a comparison with the same period the previous year. Members commented that they liked the new format of the report but found the high number of violent incidents alarming.

Action: Clerk to inform PCSO May that the Council liked the new format of the reports

PCSO May asked that the Council consider provision for youth in Fordingbridge as there is currently a lack of clubs or other things for young people to do. Councillors agreed that younger teenagers could be better catered for in the town and discussed the possibility of gym equipment or a sports facility. The general lack of volunteers was also discussed.

PCSO May is reaching out to local groups by attending coffee mornings and other activities. He visits the schools regularly.

6. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

The Mayor reported that she had opened a new charity shop on the High Street, run by Avon Valley Community Matters, and she would recommend the shop.

7. To receive a report from the County Councillor

Cllr Heron emailed to ask FTC to encourage residents to report potholes or other defects:

The County Council has been allocated an additional £5.95m for the repair of potholes and other road defects. While this additional funding is very much welcomed, it is unfortunately but a fraction of what is required to return Hampshire's roads and pavements to a standard we would wish. However, from April the Council will be deploying additional resource to utilise this funding and the money should allow the Council to fix an additional 40,000 potholes than funding previously allowed for. It is therefore more important than ever that potholes and other road defects are reported, preferably online at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance>. As an alternative, potholes can be reported using the 'FixMyStreet' mobile app (<https://www.fixmystreet.com/>) that is available for both iOS (Apple) and Android devices. Using the 'FixMyStreet' app doesn't enable the same level of feedback as you will not receive the HCC tracking reference number, but as it utilises the mobile device's GPS and camera, it does make on-site reporting simple and quick. It would be preferable for reports to be made using the Council's website, but better defects are reported than not and the simplicity and immediacy of the app may encourage more reports. I would be most grateful if you could do whatever you can to encourage residents to report potholes or other defects. It is not a problem if the same issue is reported by more than one person, better this than a pothole is missed as it wasn't reported.

8. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Sevier reported that NFDC are awaiting information from the government regarding the new waste strategy.

Cllr Bellows reported that she is stepping down as Councillor for the Fordingbridge, Godshill and Hyde Ward of NFDC and will be standing for election for the Downlands and Forest North Ward instead.

Cllr Lewendon asked for an update regarding the closure of a section of footpath 83.

Action: Cllr Bellows to investigate

The Footpath Officer reported that the kissing gate on the Avon Valley Path at Burgate impedes access for mobility buggies and baby buggies and the gate is rusting through.

[Cllrs Sevier and Bellows left the meeting.]

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

- Planning Committee – 8th March 2023 – received Cllr Lewendon
- Amenities Committee – 15th March 2023 – received Cllr White
- General Purposes Committee – 15th March 2023 – received Cllr Wilson
- Finance and Policy Committee – 29th March 2023 – received Cllr Millar

10. To consider Footways in Fordingbridge

Cllr Lewendon reported that footpath 83 has become a quagmire behind the school and can no longer be used. The Footpath Officer reported that walkers are trespassing into the school playing fields to avoid using the path.

Cllr Lewendon reported that footpath 29 to Rockbourne has been cut back and is in an awful state with hardcore and an electric fence.

Cllr Jackson reported accessibility problems in Fordingbridge getting to the chemist and Post Office due to the state of the pavements, in particular for those using wheelchairs or mobility scooters. He said that access needs to be improved.

FTC are still awaiting the publication of the HCC draft access policy.

11. To consider Highways in Fordingbridge

Whitsbury Road Closure

The planned closure of Whitsbury Road for footway resurfacing works may cause problems for Elliotts Builders Merchants due to the narrow diversion route along Picket Close and the large vehicles which need access. Elliotts are in contact with Hampshire Highways.

Bridge Street Closure

A closure of Bridge Street to repair the bridge during the first week of the Easter holidays and Easter weekend had been booked by the contractor with Hampshire Highways. The works were then delayed but the road space not cancelled. The closure of Bridge Street would have had a huge impact on the town, affecting trade as well as people's personal plans but when contacted, Hampshire Highways gave conflicting information about the planned closure. It finally became apparent that the road closure would not be taking place during this week. Cllr Millar asked for thanks to be recorded to the Asst Clerk for finding out and sharing this information with the public on a Sunday. The County Council are currently working with Historic England to agree materials and a method of working to repair the parapet which was damaged in a road traffic accident. When the works do take place diversion routes will be clearly signed and closures will be kept to a minimum, it is hoped these will be night closures only. All relevant parties will be consulted/informed of the working times.

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

The aerial on the Town Hall has now been adjusted so the Coronation can be livestreamed through the projector on Saturday 6th May.

Cllr White thanked the Clerk and the Mayor for applying for the Temporary Events Notice for the Coronation Big Picnic on Sunday 7th May. Cllr White reported that the Sports Club will be open and supporting the event. He said there is a good line-up with the bands and that refreshments will include a bar, hog roast, barbeque, the Cottage Loaf bakers and a mobile coffee shop.

At 2.30pm there will be a rededication of the Recreation Ground to commemorate 100 years since it was given to the town. One Voice Choir will perform and representatives from the Turks football club will attend.

Action: Cllr Wilson to send the Asst Clerk photos from 1923 to share on social media

13. To report on any Health & Safety issues

Nothing to report.

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

Cllr Jackson gave a presentation to the Rotary Club regarding the NFDC Local Plan and the proposed development of 1700 new dwellings in Alderholt. The Rotary Club complained about the state of the roads and town. Cllr Wilson said she had reported the state of the former Martin's newsagent building to NFDC. The Asst Clerk reported the litter and the overflowing dog waste bins to NFDC and this has now been cleared.

Cllr Jackson attended the Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund webinar on 23rd March.

Cllr Anstey attended a RoSPA play area briefing on 9th March.

Cllr Anstey attended a NW Quadrant meeting on 13th March.

15. To consider a revised date for the Annual Town Assembly

Members agreed to postpone the Annual Town Assembly until after the 4th May elections.

16. To consider taking title to the Augustus Park Allotments

Cllr Wilson reported that there are 17 new allotment plots at Augustus Park and these will all be let. There will be no Allotment Association for these allotments.

Cllr Earth proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Jackson and therefore RESOLVED: to take title to the Augustus Park Allotments as agreed at the General Purposes Committee meeting on 15th March 2023. All in favour. Members asked that the meter be read before the land is transferred.

17. To reconsider planning application 23/10132

23/10132	79 ALLENWATER DRIVE, FORDINGBRIDGE SP6 1RE	Mr & Mrs Rodgers
Erection of a two-storey rear extension and a first-floor side extension, replacement of existing cladding on front elevation		
This application was reconsidered due to incorrect information presented at the Planning Committee meeting held on 8 th March 2023.		
Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hinton and therefore RESOLVED: to recommend PAR5: We are happy to accept the decision reached by the District Council's Officers under their delegated powers.		

18. To note any items of correspondence

FTC have been notified that the planning application for Site 16 has been submitted to NFDC. This application will be considered at the planning committee meeting on 17th May.

APPLICATION NO: 23/10316

TYPE: Full Planning Permission

SITE: SS16 LAND NORTH OF, STATION ROAD, FORDINGBRIDGE SP6
1JW

DESCRIPTION: 206 dwellings (including affordable housing provision), new pedestrian and cycle routes, landscaping, parking, public open space, Alternative Natural Recreational Greenspace, improvement of existing access, drainage and all other necessary on site infrastructure

APPLICANT: Mrs Thompson - Cala Homes (Thames) Ltd

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

The Clerk reported that a quote to demolish the toilet block, removing the asbestos and sealing sewage pipes has been received at a cost of £9200 + VAT from Bemacross.

20. To note the date of the next meeting as the Annual Council Meeting as Wednesday 10th May 2023.

The meeting closed at 8:38 p.m.



Current 90 days up to: 02/04/2023
 Preceding 90 days up to: 02/04/2022

	Current R90	Previous R90	Difference	% Difference
1b Violence with Injury	12	7	5	71.43%
1c Violence without Injury	14	21	-7	-0.33%
2a Rape	1	2	-1	-0.50%
2b Other Sexual Offences	3	2	1	50.00%
3b Robbery of Personal Property	1		1	0.00%
4a1 Burglary Residential	10	4	6	150.00%
4a2 Burglary Business and Community	1		1	0.00%
4b Vehicle Offences	8	8	0	0.00%
4c Theft from the Person		1	-1	-1.00%
4d Bicycle Theft		2	-2	-1.00%
4e Shoplifting	5	2	3	150.00%
4f All Other Theft Offences	15	7	8	114.29%
5a Criminal Damage	21	24	-3	-0.13%
5b Arson	3	1	2	200.00%
6a Trafficking of Drugs	1		1	0.00%
6b Possession of Drugs	1	4	-3	-0.75%
7 Possession of Weapons Offences		2	-2	-1.00%
8 Public Order Offences	15	17	-2	-0.12%
9 Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	3	1	2	200.00%
TOTAL	114	105	9	8.57%
	Current R90	Previous R90	Difference	% Difference
Residential Burglary (Ex Sheds/Gar)	6	3	3	100.00%

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