

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 7.30pm
held at the Town Hall.**

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

Present: Cllr White – Chair
Cllrs Bailey, Cameron, Hale, Hinton, Jackson, Lewendon, Millar, Paton, Perkins,
Shering and Wilson

In Attendance: Paul Goddard, Town Clerk
Rachel Edwards, Asst Town Clerk
Martine Coatham, RFO
PCSO Stephen May
Ruth Croker, Footpath Officer and representative of Ringwood &
Fordingbridge Footpath Society (RFFS)

1. To elect the Town Mayor for the coming year

Cllr Perkins proposed Cllr White as Town Mayor and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon.

Cllr Millar proposed Cllr Jackson as Town Mayor and it was seconded by Cllr Hinton.

It was therefore **RESOLVED**: to elect Cllr White as Town Mayor for the forthcoming year. 9 in favour, 3 against.

Cllr White signed his acceptance of office as Mayor and took the Chair.

2. To elect the Deputy Mayor for the coming year

Cllr Lewendon proposed Cllr Wilson as Deputy Mayor and it was seconded by Cllr Hale and therefore **RESOLVED**: to elect Cllr Wilson as Deputy Mayor for the forthcoming year. 10 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention.

3. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Heron, Hampshire County Council.

4. To receive any Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest.

5. To confirm the minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 5th April 2023 and to report on any matters arising

Cllr Millar proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Perkins and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the General Council meeting held on the 5th April 2023 are signed as a true record. 8 in favour, 4 abstentions.

Matters Arising

Agenda item 10 – NFDC have replied to HCC with their comments on the draft access strategy for Fordingbridge.

Agenda item 12 – Cllr White reported that the Coronation Events all went well.

Agenda item 19 – Cllr Bailey asked and the Clerk confirmed that the power supply was changed when the skate park was installed.

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

No matters raised.

7. To elect membership of the following Committees

- Amenities Committee (minimum of 5 + Chairman & Vice Chairman)
- Finance & Policy Committee FULL COUNCIL
- General Purposes Committee (minimum of 5 + Chairman & Vice Chairman)
- Planning Committee FULL COUNCIL
- Staff & Remuneration Committee (4 + Chairman & Vice Chairman)
- Transport Committee (5)

See Appendix 1 for Committee Membership for the year 2023-24.

8. To confirm representatives of the following outside bodies and agree arrangements for reporting back:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Almshouses | Cllr E. Hale |
| • Avon Valley Shed | Cllr A. Wilson |
| • Burgate School Community Management | Cllr D. Paton & Cllr M. Jackson |
| • Fair Trade | Cllr D. Paton |
| • Footpath Officer | Ruth Croker |
| • Fordingbridge Events Group | Cllr A Wilson |
| • Community Garden | Cllr A. Wilson |
| • Community Orchard | Cllr A. Wilson |
| • Fordingbridge Hospital Liaison | Cllr A. Lewendon |
| • Fordingbridge Sports Club | Cllr P. White |
| • Fordingbridge Conservation Group | Cllr E. Hale & Cllr A. Wilson |
| • HALC | * Vacancy * |
| • NFALC | * Vacancy * |
| • N F Consultative Panel | * Vacancy * |
| • NPA Quadrant meetings | Cllr L. Cameron |
| • Passenger Transport | Cllr A. Lewendon |
| • Twinning Association | Cllr D. Paton |
| • Victoria Rooms Committee | Cllr E. Hale |
| • Youth Action Group | Cllr D. Paton & Cllr L. Cameron |
| • The Rotary Club | Cllr Jackson |

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

PCSO May introduced himself by saying he covers the 3 Fordingbridge Wards of Downlands and Forest, Forest North West and Fordingbridge Town. He is part of the Ringwood and Fordingbridge neighbourhood police team that consists of an Inspector, a Sergeant, 5 Police officers and 3 Police Community Support Officers. They cover the area from Sopley to Martin with each area managed by a PC and PCSO. The Fordingbridge team is PCSO May and PC Adrian Woodhead and they are based at Fordingbridge Police office. PCSO May is building relations with local schools, he also attends Council meetings and community events. He deals with ASB and low-level crimes.

PCSO May reported on two large operations across the Forest in the past year – Operation Concrey targeting catapults causing damage to vehicles and properties, and Operation Stall targeting non-dwelling burglaries. There have been 4 arrests and these people are still in remand. Crime has fallen as a result. Work is ongoing to compile information to present to the courts.

PCSO May reported on the Fordingbridge 12-month comparison figures (appendix 2), saying that a 10% increase is in line with the national average.

Action: PCSO May to send FTC 12-month comparison figures for other local wards

Councillors commented on the reduction in numbers of local Police. Previously the Ringwood and Fordingbridge neighbourhood police team consisted of 8 PCs and 5 PCSOs but has now reduced to 5 and 3 respectively. This didn't seem to match with the Donna Jones saying there are an extra 600 Police in Hampshire now.

Action: Clerk to write to PCC and the Chief Constable to request more Police

Cllr Perkins asked about back-up. PCSO May reported that back-up can be between 5 minutes and 45 minutes away. Often, he will call on Wiltshire or Dorset Police if he is in the more rural locations on the borders of Hampshire.

[PCSO May left the meeting.]

10. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

The Mayor thanked the outgoing Mayor Cllr Wilson for doing a sterling job during her time in office over the past year. He said there had been difficult times but that she had been a great encouragement to the Events Group especially. He also thanked Cllr Wilson on behalf of the Council.

The Mayor thanked the Council for their support and promised to give 100% to the role. He welcomed the new Councillors, Cllrs Bailey, Cameron and Shering, and asked everyone at the meeting to introduce themselves.

11. To receive a report from the County Councillor

No report received. Cllr Heron will submit a report for the Annual Town Assembly on 23rd May.

12. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllrs Millar and Woods (Liberal Democrats) were elected on 5th May to represent Fordingbridge, Godshill and Hyde. Cllr Millar reported that he and Cllr Woods would sign their acceptance of office at 10am on 11th May and were not allowed to conduct official business before then.

Members raised the following issues for consideration by Cllrs Millar and Woods after 11th May:

1. Regarding an NFDC Facebook post advertising 6 homes available to buy in Fordingbridge as part of a shared ownership scheme, and anyone interested being asked to complete a shared ownership interest list form:
 - a. Are these houses part of the 13 promised?
 - b. Why are these houses being advertised on Social Media?
 - c. Where do we find the written agreement?
 - d. What is the requirement for a local connection?
 - e. How much are the houses?
 - f. Will the Council own these houses or a developer instead?
 - g. Will the rent payable be fair?
 - h. Will prospective owners be told the annual fee due (on top of the maintenance fee)?
2. The level of engagement with the higher Councils on issues such as Highways has been abysmal. FTC have no visibility of the Access Strategy report despite it being very relevant to what they are trying to do.

At the Annual Town Assembly, guest speakers Tim Guymer, Policy and Infrastructure Service Manager, and Stephen Belli, Senior Planning Officer from the New Forest District Council will give an update on the committed development sites in Fordingbridge and the future of planning policy matters.

Action: Clerk to invite HCC to attend and speak at the Annual Town Assembly.

The Mayor congratulated Cllrs Millar and Woods on their election success.

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

- Planning Committee – 12th April 2023 – received Cllr Paton
- Finance and Policy Committee – 26th April 2023 – received Cllr Millar

14. To consider Footways in Fordingbridge

Footpath 83 is now open but has not yet been completed. The base layer has been laid and is safe to walk on. A top layer of type one limestone is due to be laid but there is no date set for the works. The contractor for Burgate Acres is carrying out the work. The Footpath Officer reported that the base layer surface is already eroding. The Footpath Officer reported that the path from the junction with the A338 to the school is in a dire state and the path behind the Junior School is awful.

Cllr Jackson reported accessibility problems in Fordingbridge, saying that the pavements are too narrow for wheelchairs and mobility scooters. Also, that dropped kerbs don't match with the pavement opposite.

15. To consider Highways in Fordingbridge

Cllr Jackson said that the only way to solve the accessibility problems in Fordingbridge was to make the roads one-way only. Members are still awaiting the publication of the HCC draft access policy and agreed they need input into this.

Action: Clerk to write to HCC again regarding the HCC draft access policy

Action: Clerk to circulate report to Members again regarding Accessibility in Fordingbridge

Members discussed improving disabled access to the Rec and the importance of the Strategic Plan and deciding priorities.

Cllr Millar had received an email from a member of the public regarding the clearing of the drainage ditches on Salisbury Road. Riparian owners are responsible for clearing ditches, rather than Highways. HCC can write to riparian owners reminding them of their responsibilities.

Action: Clerk to report Salisbury Road ditches to HCC

16. To report on any Health & Safety issues

Nothing to report.

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

Many Councillors attended the Coronation Event at the Rec on Sunday 7th May and agreed it was an excellent event and was well attended by the public.

Cllr Jackson reported on The Big Help Out on Monday 8th May, saying that many organisations in the town are short of volunteers. He asked that FTC match up volunteers and organisations and specifically mentioned the Two Bridges Care Group as needing helpers.

Cllr White said that it was good to see the Rotary Club volunteers pulling out weeds in the High Street. Cllr Shering asked whether FTC could encourage homeowners and shopkeepers to keep a clean frontage and for the town to have pride in itself. The RFO reminded members that the parish lengthsman is available for certain jobs.

Action: Clerk to register FTC with The Big Help Out organisation and to add this to the FTC website. Clerk to encourage members of the community to volunteer.

18. To consider planning application 22/11367

22/11367	TOWN HALL, 63 HIGH STREET, FORDINGBRIDGE SP6 1AS	Mr Paul Goddard
Fit two window boxes for flowers to the front elevation of the building (Application for Listed Building Consent)		
Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore RESOLVED: to recommend PERMISSION under PAR3 as it improves the look of the building. 11 in favour, 1 abstention.		

19. To note any items of correspondence

Nothing to report.

20. 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.

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

The meeting closed at 9:07p.m.

APPENDIX 1

2023-24

Members of the Council may be contacted via the Town Council Office on 01425 654134 or town.clerk@fordingbridge.gov.uk

Members of the Town Council

Cllr Pete White – Town Mayor
Cllr Anna Wilson – Deputy Mayor
Cllr Steve Bailey
Cllr Leila Cameron
Cllr Edward Hale
Cllr Kelvin Hinton
Cllr Mike Jackson
Cllr Alan Lewendon
Cllr David Millar
Cllr Diane Paton
Cllr Brian Perkins
Cllr David Shering

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Steve Bailey
Cllr Mike Jackson
Cllr David Millar
Cllr Diane Paton
Cllr Brian Perkins
Cllr David Shering
Cllr. Pete White) ex-
Cllr. Anna Wilson) officio

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Cllr Leila Cameron
Cllr Edward Hale
Cllr David Millar
Cllr Kelvin Hinton
Cllr Alan Lewendon
Cllr. Pete White) ex-
Cllr. Anna Wilson) officio

FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE

All members of the Council

PLANNING COMMITTEE

All members of the Council

STAFF & REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

Cllr Steve Bailey

Cllr Brian Perkins

Cllr Edward Hale

Cllr Alan Lewendon

Cllr. Pete White) ex-

Cllr. Anna Wilson) officio

TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Cllr Leila Cameron

Cllr Kelvin Hinton

Cllr Mike Jackson

Cllr Alan Lewendon

Cllr David Shering

APPENDIX 2



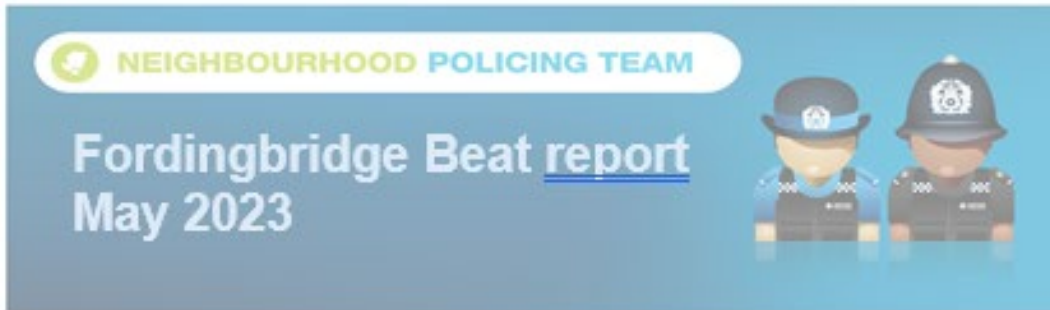
Fordingbridge 12-month comparison

	April 22 – April 23	April 21 – April 22	Difference	Difference
1b Violence with Injury	46	41	5	
1c Violence without Injury	99	110	-11	
2a Rape	6	15	-9	
2b Other Sexual Offences	10	16	-6	
3b Robbery of Personal Property	3	2	1	
4a1 Burglary Residential	31	35	-4	
4a2 Burglary Business and Community	5	11	-6	
4b Vehicle Offences	37	28	9	
4c Theft from the Person	1	0	1	
4d Bicycle Theft	3	1	2	
4e Shoplifting	12	9	3	
4f All Other Theft Offences	44	29	15	
5a Criminal Damage	73	50	23	
5b Arson	4	3	1	
6a Trafficking of Drugs	4	1	3	
6b Possession of Drugs	8	11	-3	
7 Possession of Weapons Offences	3	2	1	
8 Public Order Offences	81	64	17	
9 Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	8	5	3	
TOTAL	478	433	45	10.39%
Residential Burglary (Exc. heds/Garages)	15	11	4	36.36%

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

HAMPSHIRE ALERT
 HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY APP
101
 SAFER
 HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY

APPENDIX 3



Current 90 days up to: 01/05/2023
 Preceding 90 days up to: 01/05/2022
FORDINGBRIDGE

	Current R90	Previous R90	Difference
1b Violence with Injury	10	12	-2
1c Violence without injury	19	17	2
2a Rape	1	2	-1
2b Other Sexual Offences	1	4	-3
3b Robbery of Personal Property	1		1
4a1 Burglary Residential	10	4	6
4a2 Burglary Business and Community	2		2
4b Vehicle Offences	7	7	0
4c Theft from the Person	0	0	0
4d Bicycle Theft	0	2	-2
4e Shoplifting	6	2	4
4f All Other Theft Offences	15	10	5
5a Criminal Damage	21	13	8
5b Arson	3	0	3
6a Trafficking of Drugs	1	0	1
6b Possession of Drugs	0	3	-3
7 Possession of Weapons Offences	0	2	-2
8 Public Order Offences	20	9	11
9 Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	4	1	3
TOTAL	121	88	33
	Current R90	Previous R90	Difference
Residential Burglary (Excl Sheds/Garages)	7	2	5