

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 5th July 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, Shering and
Wilson

In Attendance: Paul Goddard, Town Clerk
Cllr Woods, New Forest District Council
Footpath Officer and representative of Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath
Society (RFFS)

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Paton 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 7th June
2023 and to report on any matters arising**

Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Shering and therefore RESOLVED: that the minutes of the General Council meeting held on the 7th June 2023 are signed as a true record. All in favour.

No Matters arising.

**4. To confirm the minutes of the Extraordinary General Council meeting held on
Wednesday 28th June 2023 and to report on any matters arising**

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Jackson and therefore RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Extraordinary General Council meeting held on 28th June 2023 are signed as a true record with a change to show Cllr White chaired the meeting. All in favour.

No matters arising.

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

Cllr Woods went to Hyde Parish Council, who send a newsletter to residents. He asked what the Town Council did in terms of communications. Cllrs discussed how the Town Council might better promote itself and the work it does, including the practicalities of a newsletter, improving the Council's website and getting articles in the press and free papers. Cllr White agreed to call the Salisbury Journal.

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

No crime report has been received.

7. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

The Mayor had presented prizes at Burgate School for the Community Orchard and Garden signs.

He had today attended the prize giving at Forres Sandle Manor School. He had met with the Sports Club and shared the plans of the Recreation Ground Working Party with them, which had been met with enthusiasm. The Mayor and the Clerk had met with representatives regarding the Sandleheath Traffic Management Plan and had provided them with useful contacts.

8. To receive a report from the County Councillor

No report received. The Town Council congratulated Cllr Heron on his appointment as Official Verderer.

9. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Millar had prepared a report, which he would circulate. Cllrs Millar and Woods had attended some good training sessions and Cllr Woods had attended his first planning committee meeting. The NFDC are looking at a transformation project to cut costs, whilst maintaining service levels. The NFDC is looking at the services it can offer on its website but realises that there are vulnerable residents who need in person interaction. The aim is to reduce costs without diminishing services to the most vulnerable. The NFDC has launched a survey to encourage cultural activity in the district. It is in its early stages but Cllr Millar wanted to make sure Fordingbridge did not miss out. Cllr Millar met a resident and discussed HCC's mineral extraction consultation, there had been around 900 objections. Cllr Wilson said the plan was years away and felt the government would have changed the rules before then. Cllr Woods had met with the volunteer sector engagement manager who had said it was difficult to organise volunteers in Fordingbridge. The representative of the RFFS said HCC, the NPA and the NFDC were all trying to get volunteers and HCC had offered funding for equipment. Cllr Woods reported that the NFDC's waste plan had been passed at cabinet and provided details of the new green waste scheme. Cllr Wilson advised that recycling area of the NFDC car park needed tidying up and Cllrs Woods and Millar agreed to raise that.

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

- Planning Committee – 14th June 2023 – received Cllr Lewendon
- Finance and Policy Committee – 28th June 2023 – received Cllr Millar

11. To consider Footways in Fordingbridge

The representative of the RFFS and Cllrs discussed the current position regarding the Avon Valley Path to the A338, the progress of the work and accessibility issues. The Rotary Club is keen to assist regarding accessibility. The representative of the RFFS and Cllrs also discussed the standard of accessibility on the new development sites. Cllrs considered accessibility outside the post office. Cllr Bailey is currently looking to establish ownership of the land.

Action: Clerk to obtain Land Registry detail for 49 & 51 Salisbury Street. It was noted that the land might not be registered at the Land Registry. Cllr Lewendon reported a trench that had been dug on the Whitsbury Road footway that had been barriered off resulting in people having to walk in the road.

12. To consider Highways in Fordingbridge

- **To consider writing to Hampshire County Council requesting that blockwork be replaced in the High Street and Salisbury Street.**

Cllr Bailey presented on the history of the block work following a request by Cllr Heron (HCC) to the Town Council to write to HCC requesting the removal of the block work. Cllrs discussed the merits of the block work and the replacement options, the current condition of the roads, the

standard of road repairs and the impact of the road closures that would be needed to undertake the work. Cllrs also discussed the delays in HCC producing an Access strategy for the town. Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hinton and therefore RESOLVED: to write to HCC saying the Town Council understands that Hampshire County Council are considering taking up the blockwork on the vehicular highway in Fordingbridge High Street and Salisbury Street, asking for details of what is being proposed, pointing out that the current state of the blockwork is poor and the High Street zebra crossing is in a bad condition and asking that any replacement surface to be of an equivalent quality, as when the blockwork was installed it was done so to raise the standard of the town. Nine in favour and one abstention. Cllrs considered the consultation on the proposed speed limit change on Whitbsury Road to 30mph. Cllr Millar proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore RESOLVED: to support the proposed speed limit change. All in favour.

13. To agree the Council's position on open spaces on the Tinkers Cross site and consider how to progress discussions with Pennyfarthing

The Clerk reported that Cllrs had met earlier in the week to consider the open spaces and play areas at Tinkers Cross. Cllrs had agreed at that meeting that professional advice should be sought by the Council to advise on the implications for the Council on taking on the open spaces and the likely associated costs. The Clerk is currently obtaining fee proposals in that regard. Cllr Wilson raised her concerns regarding the headwalls on the site.

14. To approve revised terms of reference for the Strategic Plan Steering Group

Approving terms of reference for the Strategic Plan Steering Group was deferred pending the meeting scheduled next week to consider the existing adopted Strategic Plan and the priorities of the Council.

15. To report on any Health & Safety issues

Cllrs raised issues regarding the junior swing at the Whitsbury Road play area and the perspex shelter at the Recreation Ground. Cllr Bailey will review risk assessments regarding the play areas and also raised concerns regarding the quality of the play equipment proposed for the Tinkers Cross site compared to the play equipment in the existing play areas.

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

Cllr Lewendon had attended an online transport meeting on 21st June. Cllr Lewendon provided details of the matters covered and the quality of the event. Cllr Wilson provided details of a meeting regarding Culture in Common through Arts Reach. She provided details of the scheme and a proposal to put four events on in Fordingbridge both before and after Christmas. She said that any venue would retain 20% of ticket sales and the minimum number of ticket sales would be waived. It may be necessary to find accommodation for and provide food to the performers. Cllrs discussed the scheme and potential venues and were in favour of the Town Hall being used as a possible venue. Cllrs were in favour of progressing the scheme and having performances in the town. Cllr White agreed to raise this with the Fordingbridge Events Group with regard to publicising and organising the events. Cllr Hale agreed to revisit the Victoria Rooms as a potential venue. Cllr Jackson had met with a representative of the Rotary Club. The club has recruited younger members and is keen to help with work regarding accessibility and tidying up the town. Cllr Hale reported that he had attended a Victoria Rooms trustees' meeting. The trustees had managed to address an insurance issue that otherwise could have resulted in the closure of the rooms. More volunteers were needed. Cllr Millar referred to a

meeting with the Sports Club and Cllr Shering had met police and discussed the Council having a liaison contact.

17. To note any items of correspondence

No correspondence.

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

Nothing additional to report.

19. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 2nd August 2023.

The meeting closed at 9:10 p.m.