

**FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 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 Cameron, Hinton, Lewendon, Paton, Shering and Wilson

**In Attendance:** Paul Goddard, Town Clerk  
Rachel Edwards, Asst Town Clerk  
Cllr Woods, New Forest District Council  
1 Member of the Public

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

Apologies were received from Cllrs Bailey, Millar 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 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and to report on any matters arising**

Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore RESOLVED: that the minutes of the General Council meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 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****Preceding 90 days up to: 31/10/2022****Filters applied:  
FORDINGBRIDGE**

	Current R90	Previous R90	Difference
1b Violence with Injury	7	12	-5
1c Violence without Injury	22	19	3
2a Rape	0	4	-4
2b Other Sexual Offences	0	3	-3
4a1 Burglary Residential	6	6	0
4a2 Burglary Business and Community	0	3	-3
4b Vehicle Offences	9	11	-2
4d Bicycle Theft	0	2	-2
4e Shoplifting	9	11	-2
4f All Other Theft Offences	13	17	-4
5a Criminal Damage	17	15	2
5b Arson	1	0	1
6a Trafficking of Drugs	1	0	1
6b Possession of Drugs	0	1	-1
7 Possession of Weapons Offences	1	4	-3
8 Public Order Offences	13	15	-2
9 Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	0	3	-3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>-27</b>

	Current R90	Previous R90	Difference
Residential Burglary (Excl Sheds/Garages)		1	-1

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

The Mayor gave the following report.

I attended the theatre performance of Hags in the Town Hall on the evening of 20<sup>th</sup> October. It was great to see something different being offered to the local community & the good-sized audience all seemed to enjoy it. Thanks to Fordingbridge Events Group for organising this & supporting small drama companies.

On 21<sup>st</sup> October I attended the opening of the new Chevrons building premises in Green Lane. This is a really well presented & comfortable residence for those who have served their Country to enjoy in the later years of life. It was a privilege to cut the ribbon & raise the Chevrons flag outside.

I had a meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> October with the Chair of NFALC & discussed his vision for the future of this group to assist local Councils.

Preparations for our Christmas event is now well underway & it looks like once again we will have an evening to remember in Fordingbridge.

Sadly, this month we have seen two members of our Council stand down. I would like to personally thank both Cllr Edward Hale and Cllr Mike Jackson for their commitment to FTC and the local community over some years. This will however shortly see a couple of new faces join our team & hopefully we can continue to work together and maintain the current momentum we are seeing to get some changes made to some of our facilities and amenities for the benefit of our local community.

## **7. To receive a report from the County Councillor**

Cllr Wilson said she was concerned that money is being reallocated from other budgets to pay for the partial Plan update (Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan Development Scheme Revision) and that school crossing patrols may be lost due to budget cuts. She quoted from Cllr Heron's October report:

***School Crossing Patrols*** - *HCC do not have a legal duty to provide school crossing patrols. We do have a legal duty to ensure children can travel to school safely. We will therefore carry out a review of every crossing patrol location, reviewing if there is either the capital or developer funding to put safe crossings in place, or whether the continuation of the school crossing in that location is the most efficient way of continuing to undertake our duty to the county's school pupils.*

Cllr Wilson then quoted from the HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL Decision Report Decision Maker: Cabinet Date: 13 June 2023, Title: Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan Development Scheme Revision Report:

*The total budget estimate for the partial Plan update (Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan Development Scheme Revision) is £816,750. Based on the current distribution of costs, partner authorities are contributing approximately £261,360 to the estimated total budget. The remaining £555,390 will be paid by Hampshire County Council. The cost of the partial Plan update is being funded from monies previously identified and earmarked for a Plan update (£230,000 which remained from the preparation of the adopted (2013) Plan) with the remaining resource requirements met through re-prioritisation of work programmes and activities within existing budgets and income generation.*

Cllr White emphasised the importance of retaining the school crossing patrol on Whitsbury Road, saying that this location is an accident blackspot and that two children were knocked down in the 1980s there.

***Action: Clerk to write to Cllr Heron to express concern about funds being reallocated from other budgets to cover the costs of the partial plan update and school crossings being lost due to budget cuts. Clerk to request that Cllr Heron attend Town Council meetings.***

The Clerk informed members that there would be an Access Strategy Meeting with Graham Wright (HCC) on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **8. To receive a report from the District Councillors**

Cllr Woods reported that he had attended the NFDC cabinet briefing and that the monitoring of finances and the procurement process was discussed. Increases in car parking charges were agreed and are shown below.

Short stay annual clocks	£30.00 to £40.00 (33.3% increase)
Long stay annual clocks	£140.00 to £220.00 (57.1% increase)
Long stay quarterly clocks	£40.00 to £65.00 (62.5% increase)

#### **Town and village centre car parks (all year)**

1 hour	Current: £1	Proposed 2024: £1.00 (no increase)
2 hours	Current: £2	Proposed 2024: £3.00
3 hours	Current: £2.50	Proposed 2024: £3.50
4 hours	Current: £3.00	Proposed 2024: £4.00
5 hours	Current: £4.00	Proposed 2024: £5.00
20 hours	Current: £5.00	Proposed 2024: £8.00

Cllr Wilson said that the huge increases in car parking charges were being used to keep the Council tax artificially low.

Cllrs Woods and Millar signed a joint letter supporting the application for Bathing Water Status in Fordingbridge.

Cllrs Woods and Millar attended a meeting in Alderholt regarding the plan for Mineral and Waste Extraction at Midgham Farm.

Cllr Woods attended a meeting with the Practice Manager at Fordingbridge Surgery regarding the additional 1100 houses being built in Fordingbridge and the impact this will have on medical services.

Cllr Woods reported that the Site 16 planning application would be considered by NFDC on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November. Fordingbridge Town Council will make representation.

Cllr Wilson raised the issue of the sinking decking at Sweatford Water Meadows and asked that action be taken to remedy it. This path is part of the NFDC Greenway project which aims to improve recreational walking routes across the district as mitigation for the effect on the National Park and as such is an important part of the town.

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

- Planning Committee – 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023 – received Cllr Paton
- Amenities Committee– 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023 – received Cllr White
- Finance and Policy Committee – 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023 – received Cllr White

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

The footpath officer advised the Clerk that HCC was mistaken to say that an inquiry would automatically be triggered with all the associated expenses, if the parish objected to the relocation of footpath 7 as the process was not at this stage yet.

Cllr Hinton reported that NFDC had made no provision for an upgrade of footpath 84 from the old school entrance to the junction with Pennys Lane. The extra section of path would need to be funded from CIL or included in the Access Strategy.

Cllr Lewendon reported that the footway north of Augustus Park is currently difficult to walk due to debris being washed down from the Tinkers Cross building site in the recent rains.

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

Councillors considered the street furniture at Burgate following a recent near miss of a student crossing the A338 to school from a bus stop opposite. Cllr Lewendon thought the refuge in the centre of the A338 should be further north. Members agreed that overgrown hedges and overhanging trees impeded the visibility along the A338 and Salisbury Road.

**Action: Clerk to request that trees and hedges be cut back on the A338 southbound south of Burgate Farm and also along Salisbury Road. Also to ask the bus company to complain.**

Members considered the complaint of motorcycle noise from a resident of Bowerwood Road. Cllr Lewendon thought that the motorcycle noise was legal but possibly at a higher volume than usual due to braking and accelerating on the corner of Bowerwood Road. Cllr Cameron lives further along this road and agreed that it was noisy on a Tuesday night due to the weekly bike night at the Churchill Arms in Alderholt. She reported that other people have also complained about the noise, but Environmental Health will not consider traffic noise. Cllr Cameron said that this does not go on late at night.

**Action: Clerk to write to the landlady of the Churchill Arms asking that they remind patrons to be considerate of residents when riding their motorcycles**

### **12. To agree the dates of the ordinary meetings in 2024**

Members agreed the dates of the ordinary meetings in 2024. See appendix.

### **13. To agree the use of levelling up funds from NFDC for town centre improvements (UKSPF)**

The Finance and Policy Committee recommended on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023 that in principle, the levelling up funds from NFDC for Town Centre improvements be spent on the NFDC land to the rear of the Co-op.

Cllr Hinton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore **RESOLVED**: to ratify the decision made by the Finance and Policy Committee to progress the above project and in principal to spend the levelling up funds from NFDC for Town Centre improvements on the NFDC land to the rear of the Co-op. All in favour.

**Action: Cllr Wilson to confirm with NFDC that the above would be a suitable project on which to spend the levelling up funds for Town Centre improvements (action carried forward from the Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on 25th October 2023)**

Cllr Wilson reported that three quotes had been received for redesigning the area to the rear of the Co-op.

- Option A: measured sure survey, mood board, concept ideas, layout plan, concept sketches.
- Option B: all of the above plus design proposal, developed design, photorealistic renders(visuals) of the proposed design.
- Option C: all of the above plus technical drawings and finishes/ materials schedule for builders to quote from, information on suppliers and products, material samples etc.

Members agreed that option C would be most appropriate, should the project be approved by NFDC.

Councillors agreed that public realm improvements in the town centre were key and discussed promoting projects to businesses and residents, with match funding coming from CIL funds. Members asked that residents and businesses be encouraged to keep their frontages tidy, clean, and swept. Cllr White asked that town centre businesses be invited to a meeting in the New Year.

***Action: Clerk to write to town centre businesses asking them to keep their frontages tidy and inviting them to a meeting in the New Year.***

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

Cllr Wilson asked for a copy of the Town Hall evacuation plan in advance of the Christmas Lights Switch On event on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

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

Cllr Wilson reported on the Avon Valley Shed seeking a site for a shed. Cllrs discussed Flaxfields End and other Council owned land that might be possible sites and the sites' respective merits and difficulties.

Cllr Hinton reported that the CEMEX consultation representatives were rude and patronising. He said that The Harbridge Protection Society (HPS) reported that "There are a number of issues with statements made within the (CEMEX) Flyer which are considered to be misleading and could amount to an attempt to deceive." The HPS have asked CEMEX for a detailed response to all the points of concern.

***Action: Add item to Planning Agenda "To consider a response to the Midgham Farm Consultation"***

#### **16. To note any items of correspondence**

Nothing to report.

#### **17. To receive a report from the Clerk or any other relevant business**

Cllr Wilson asked whether one quote would be sufficient to go ahead with boreholes at the allotments.

***Action: Clerk to investigate the suspension of standing orders for this matter***

#### **18. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023.**

The meeting closed at 8.42p.m.

## APPENDIX



The Town Hall, 63 High Street,  
Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 1AS  
Tel – 01425 654134

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Town Clerk – Mr P Goddard

### Meeting Dates 2024

*All meetings are held in the Town Hall at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated on the agenda.*

#### **January**

03 General Council  
10 Planning  
17 Amenities & General Purposes  
24 -  
31 Finance & Policy

#### **February**

07 General Council  
14 Planning  
21 -  
28 Finance & Policy

#### **March**

06 General Council  
13 Planning  
20 Amenities & General Purposes  
27 Finance & Policy

#### **April**

03 General Council  
10 Planning  
17 **ANNUAL TOWN ASSEMBLY**  
24 Finance & Policy

#### **May**

01 **ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
08 Planning  
15 Amenities & General Purposes  
22 -  
29 Finance & Policy

#### **June**

05 General Council  
12 Planning  
19 -  
26 Finance & Policy and General Council

#### **July**

03 General Council  
10 Planning  
17 Amenities & General Purposes  
24 -  
31 Finance & Policy

#### **August**

07 General Council  
14 Planning  
21 -  
28 Finance & Policy

#### **September**

04 General Council  
11 Planning  
18 Amenities & General Purposes  
25 Finance & Policy

#### **October**

02 General Council  
09 Planning  
16 -  
23 -  
30 Finance & Policy

#### **November**

06 General Council  
13 Planning  
20 Amenities & General Purposes  
**Budget meetings**  
27 Finance & Policy – **Budget meeting**

#### **December**

04 General Council  
11 Planning  
18 -  
25 -

Fordingbridge Town Council operate the following seven committees: General Council, Planning, Amenities, General Purposes, Finance & Policy, Staff & Remuneration, & Transport