

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 3rd April 2024 at 7.30pm held at the Town Hall.

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

Present: Cllr White – Chair
Cllrs Anstey, Bailey, Cameron, Hinton, Lewendon and Wilson

In Attendance: Paul Goddard, Town Clerk
Ruth Croker (Footpath Officer)
Cllr Phil Woods (NFDC)

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Howard, Millar, Shering 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 6th March 2024 and to report on any matters arising

Cllr Cameron proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Wilson and therefore RESOLVED: that the minutes of the General Council meeting held on the 6th March 2024 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 27th March 2024

Cllr Anstey proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Extraordinary General Council meeting held on the 27th March 2024 are signed as a true record. All in favour. 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

Members considered the following report.

Current 90 days up to: 01/04/2024

Preceding 90 days up to: 01/04/2023

	Current R90	Previous R90	Difference
1b Violence with Injury	8	10	-2
1c Violence without Injury	18	20	-2

2a Rape	1	1	0
2b Other Sexual Offences	1	8	-7
4a1 Burglary Residential	1	6	-5
4a2 Burglary Business and Community	3		3
4b Vehicle Offences	16	4	12
4d Bicycle Theft	0	1	-1
4e Shoplifting	10	9	1
4f All Other Theft Offences	6	8	-2
5a Criminal Damage	13	10	3
5b Arson	0	1	-1
6a Trafficking of Drugs	0	1	-1
6b Possession of Drugs	1	1	0
7 Possession of Weapons Offences	2	1	1
8 Public Order Offences	9	14	-5
9 Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	1	0	1
TOTAL	90	95	-5

	Current R90	Previous R90	Difference
Residential Burglary (Excl Sheds/Garages)	0	0	0

Action: Clerk to ask for update from the NFDC regarding the CCTV trial.

7. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

The Mayor gave the following report.

“A fairly quiet month.

I attended the VIP/Press opening of the new Moody Cow premise in the former Farm Shop along Whitsbury Road. A very nice place to socialise & will hopefully become a popular social hub for the community.

On behalf of the Council this month I put together a very short video highlighting what Fordingbridge has to offer visitors particularly during school holiday periods.

Plans for the Town’s D-Day celebration at the Recreation Ground on the 6th June are now complete. Both Hyde band & Sing Space choir will be performing from 8pm. The Town’s beacon

will then be lit at 9.15 in line with the national protocol. The 6th June is also national Fish & Chip day!

Finally for awareness plans are being put together for this year's Summer Festival which will be held on the 20th July."

Cllrs discussed testing the air raid siren stored at the museum and possibly using it at the D-Day commemoration. As the siren was subsequently used to call out fire crews, Cllr White suggested, if the museum no longer wanted to store it, it may be possible to home it at the Hampshire Fire Service Museum in Southampton.

8. To receive a report from the County Councillor

No report received.

Cllrs agreed that the letter drafted by Cllr Hinton to the Chief Executive of Hampshire County Council regarding the process of the mineral consultation should be sent.

9. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Woods reported that he and Cllr Millar had submitted their response to the HCC Future Services Consultation. There had been an NFDC special council meeting in relation to the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan - Partial Update. Cllrs Millar and Woods held a surgery for residents towards the end of March. Cllr Woods is also looking at the issues with the footpath behind the Junior School and, in conjunction with Cllr White, the old railway line path. Cllr Woods has also written to HCC Councillor, Edward Heron regarding water from the road splashing the alms houses. The NFDC are also currently looking at its corporate plan and CIL funding recommendations are being considered by NFDC cabinet today.

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

- Planning Committee – 13th March 2024 – received Cllr Lewendon
- Amenities Committee – 20th March 2024 – received Cllr White
- General Purposes Committee – 20th March 2024 – received Cllr Cameron (Cllr Bailey asked that Cllr Anstey being on the sub-committee should be minuted.)
- Finance and Policy Committee – 28th February 2024 – received Cllr Hinton

11. To consider Highways (roads and pavements) in Fordingbridge

The footpath officer reported the rights of way are generally very wet. Work had been done on the Avon Valley Path. Cllrs discussed the state of the footpath to the school, the Sandheath path and the old railway line. The footpath officer mentioned the unsatisfactory pavement lay out in Salisbury Road. Cllr Woods reported that consideration of the siting of a bin by the NFDC in Provost Street was ongoing. Cllrs also discussed funding for improvements to the path from Burgate Cross to Breamore.

12. To consider progressing a Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk provided a brief report on producing a Neighbourhood Plan. Cllrs discussed the NFDC's review of the Local Plan. The NFDC are currently unable to provide information regarding the implications of the review for the town. Cllrs discussed the work involved, the likely cost and the need to use planning consultants. Cllrs agree that all councillors needed to be committed to progressing a Neighbourhood Plan, so those Cllrs unable to attend this

meeting should be updated and the matter should be brought back to next week's planning meeting.

Action: Clerk to put progressing a Neighbourhood Plan on the next planning committee agenda.

13. To consider merging the Amenities and General Purposes committees

Cllrs discussed the merits of restructuring the committees. Cllr Hinton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Bailey and therefore RESOLVED: to combine the Amenities and General Purposes committees for a trial period of 12 months. Six in favour one abstention.

14. To report on any Health & Safety issues

Cllr Bailey suggested putting a gate in to the cemetery from the adjacent footpath would make it safer for those walking to the cemetery as they could avoid walking on the road to the current entrance. This should be put to the next meeting of the Amenities and General Purposes committee.

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

Cllr Anstey provided an update on an NFDC run community resilience seminar that he had attended. Cllr White reported that he was updating a resilience plan for the town. Cllr Cameron provided an update on a community transport forum that looked at connecting rural areas. Cllr Wilson attended the recent NFDC special council meeting.

16. To note any items of correspondence

None.

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

The Clerk advised title of Flaxfields End and the Stuckton Road cemetery had been registered at the Land Registry.

Cllr Hinton asked if a timeframe for a decision by Pennyfarthing on the open spaces at Tinkers Cross could be obtained.

Action: Clerk to ask Pennyfarthing.

18. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 1st May 2024.

The meeting closed at 8:55p.m.