

**FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 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, Cameron, Hinton, Howard, Lewendon, Millar, Paton and Shering

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

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

Apologies were received from Cllrs Perkins and Wilson. Also, from Cllr Heron (HCC).

**2. To receive any Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest.

**3. To confirm the minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024 and to report on any matters arising**

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Millar and therefore RESOLVED: that the minutes of the General Council meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024 are signed as a true record. All in favour.

Matters arising

Agenda item 6 – The Clerk wrote to Pennyfarthing Homes about the routing of the construction traffic

Agenda item 15 – The High Street resurfacing works NF1104 are due to begin on 10<sup>th</sup> June and last up to 5 weeks

**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**  
 Members considered the following report and noted that crime had increased significantly.

**Current 90 days up to: 03/06/2024**

**Preceding 90 days up to: 03/06/2023**

	Current R90	Previous R90	Difference
1b Violence with Injury	15	8	7
1c Violence without Injury	27	15	12
2a Rape	0	0	0
2b Other Sexual Offences	2	1	1
3b Robbery of Personal Property	0	0	0
4a1 Burglary Residential	2	2	0
4a2 Burglary Business and Community	1	3	-2
4b Vehicle Offences	16	8	8
4c Theft from the Person	0	0	0
4d Bicycle Theft	0	0	0
4e Shoplifting	7	7	0
4f All Other Theft Offences	8	5	3
5a Criminal Damage	12	6	6
5b Arson	0	0	0
6a Trafficking of Drugs	0	0	0
6b Possession of Drugs	1	1	0
7 Possession of Weapons Offences	0	2	-2
8 Public Order Offences	14	7	7
9 Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	1	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>40</b>
	<b>Current R90</b>	<b>Previous R90</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Residential Burglary (Excl Sheds/Garages)	0	0	0

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

The Mayor gave the following report.

*It is nice to now be seeing the start of the works at the recreation ground. The new railings alongside the children's play area look great & the proposed circular path is moving further forward.*

*This month I attended the De-Fib awareness session run by the local co-responders & funded by our District Councillors. A reasonable turnout was made by local residents to learn how to use a De-Fib.*

*I have also attended an initial site meeting at the Rec with the Men's Shed to look at providing them with some land for their new building funded from the recent CIL allocation.*

*Following a complaint I received from a local resident, discussions with Phil Woods & the maintenance manager from NFDC some work has been carried out on the old railway line between Downwood Close & Marl Lane to repair the route. A good bit of joint working between FTC & NFDC plus we also have happy residents who have positively commented on the improvements.*

*I am looking forward to being involved in tomorrow's D-day events locally to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary.*

*Finally, as we are now reaching out for a new Councillor to join us just a thank you to you all for the continued hard work for the Town.*

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

No report received.

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

Cllr Millar reported that the NFDC cabinet meeting had been postponed due to the upcoming General Election. The First Responder session at the Town Hall, organised by Cllr Millar and Woods went well and may become a permanent event with training across the Parish Councils.

Cllr Woods reported that the Annual Hyde Council Meeting was attended by 60 people including Cllr Heron (HCC) who answered questions about potholes and parking. The evening ended with a talk from a Ranger about the New Forest Code. The digital switchover was also a topic of discussion.

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

- Annual Town Assembly – 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024 – received Cllr White
- Planning Committee – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – received Cllr Paton
- Amenities and General Purposes Committee – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – received Cllr White
- Finance and Policy Committee – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – received Cllr Millar

**10. To consider the progression of a Neighbourhood Plan**

- Forming of a Sub Committee or Steering Group in principle and reporting line
- Councillor membership of above, as well Chairman and Vice Chairman roles
- Terms of Reference for Sub Committee / Steering Group
- Publicity on decision to proceed and inviting local community volunteers to be on Sub Committee /steering group
- Consultant selection process

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Millar and therefore RESOLVED: to agree the Terms of Reference for the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group with a change in wording from Deputy Town Clerk to Assistant Town Clerk. All in favour.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will comprise of Cllrs Hinton, Howard, Millar, Paton, White and Wilson.

Interest will be invited from members of the community to join the Steering Group. It will be advertised in local newspapers, via the schools and business links, on the website and social media.

Cllr White proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore RESOLVED: to agree the proposed specification for appointment of consultants and the evaluation of tenders. All in favour.

**11. To consider the membership of the Staff and Remuneration Committee**

Cllr Cameron joined the Staff and Remuneration Committee. The committee now comprises of Cllrs Cameron, Hinton, Perkins, Lewendon, White and Anstey.

**12. To consider contractors' quotes for a circular path at the Recreation Ground**

Cllr Millar proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hinton and therefore RESOLVED: to approve in principle the quote of £76,728.07 from 3 Counties, subject to the timescales being agreeable, otherwise to consider further at a future meeting. All in favour.

**13. To consider play company proposals for new play equipment at the Recreation Ground**

Cllr White proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore RESOLVED: to choose HAGS as the preferred contractor subject to confirmation of the warranty and change of the swing pole for a traditional see-saw. All in favour.

**14. To consider quotes for boreholes at the Augustus Park allotments**

One quote had been received for boreholes at the Augustus Park allotments.

Cllr Millar proposed and it was seconded by Cllr White and therefore RESOLVED: to suspend standing orders. All in favour.

Cllr Hinton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Millar and therefore RESOLVED: to accept the quote from Earlcote for £5648 excluding VAT. All in favour.

**15. To consider the provision of summer play activities**

Members considered the summer holiday club proposal. Cllr Hinton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore RESOLVED: to accept the brief and the costs for summer play provision. All in favour.

Members agreed to investigate other play options for the remaining budget.

**Action: Clerk to investigate possibility of hiring a climbing wall**

**16. To consider Highways (roads and pavements) in Fordingbridge**

The footpath officer reported that the HCC cutting list had been cancelled. Volunteers may be recruited to do the work instead and would attend a training course with an exam component. A new engagement ranger started work on 1<sup>st</sup> June. The footpath officer had concerns about whether a safe crossing point would be provided to access Puddleslosh Lane from footpath 83. Members discussed the condition of footpaths generally.

**Fryern Court Road flooding**

The Asst Clerk reported that the HCC highways team are currently undertaking investigations into a number of flooding situations across the County following a very wet winter, and in anticipation of future similar winters. It is hoped that at many of these sites there will be maintenance or improvements that can be made during the dryer summer months. In many cases including Fryern Court Road, any improvements will be reliant on the landowners keeping culverts and ditches clear. From the investigation so far, it appears that there are very few highway assets in Fryern Court Road, so it is likely that residents will be receiving letters requesting that they take action as indicated above. The highways team have confirmed that at the junction with the A338 there are pipes crossing the road and these have been cleared during the winter. However, it was evident where these outfall, the flow is compromised by the silting of ditches and ponds. To resolve this the landowners have already been contacted, and it is hoped that progress will be made in preparation for next winter. There are also further investigations planned in the near future.

**NF1104 Carriageway Resurfacing Works - High Street, Fordingbridge**

HCC will not be holding an information session in advance of these roadworks beginning but will answer businesses' and residents' questions on an individual basis.

**17. To report on any Health & Safety issues**

The play matting beneath the swings at Parsonage Park and the Recreation Ground has been replaced.

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

Cllr Anstey visited the Discovery Bus at Fordingbridge Recreation Ground on 1<sup>st</sup> June and reported that it was enjoyable and well attended.

**19. To note any items of correspondence**

Several items of correspondence have been received about the boardwalk at the SANG on Whitsbury Road being overgrown. Pennyfarthing Homes have now cut this back.

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

The D-Day commemoration event will be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June at Fordingbridge Recreation Ground.

Cllr Hinton asked whether FTC would manage the amenity land at Tinkers Cross.

**Action: Clerk to ask Pennyfarthing Homes when a decision will be made.**

**21. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024.**  
The meeting closed at 8:39p.m.