

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on Wednesday 1st May 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, Hinton, Howard, Millar, Paton, Perkins, 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 elect the Town Mayor for the coming year

Cllr Paton proposed Cllr White as Town Mayor and it was seconded by Cllr Shering and therefore **RESOLVED:** to elect Cllr White as Town Mayor for the forthcoming year. All in favour.

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

2. To elect the Deputy Mayor for the coming year

Cllr Perkins proposed Cllr Anstey as Deputy Mayor and it was seconded by Cllr Millar and therefore **RESOLVED:** to elect Cllr Anstey as Deputy Mayor for the forthcoming year. All in favour.

3. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Bailey, Cameron and Lewendon. Also from Ruth Croker, Footpath Officer and representative of Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society (RFFS).

4. To receive any Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest.

5. To confirm the minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 3rd April 2024 and to report on any matters arising

Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Anstey and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the General Council meeting held on the 3rd April 2024 are signed as a true record. No matters arising.

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

The member of public reported that AMS aggregate lorries were thundering along the High Street every ten minutes. Councillors said that construction traffic from the Pennyfarthing Homes sites should not be routed through the town centre but should use the approved route past the Somerley estate onto the A31 and up the A338.

Action: Clerk to write to Pennyfarthing Homes about routing of construction traffic

7. To agree the terms of reference of the Amenities and General Purposes Committee

Cllr Wilson queried the length of time between meetings. The Clerk reported that meetings are scheduled every two months, with additional meetings as required.

Cllr Millar proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore RESOLVED: to agree the terms of reference of the Amenities and General Purposes Committee. All in favour.

8. To elect membership of the following Committees

- Finance & Policy Committee FULL COUNCIL
- Planning Committee FULL COUNCIL
- Amenities and General Purposes Committee FULL COUNCIL
- Staff & Remuneration Committee (4 + Chairman & Vice Chairman)

See Appendix 1 for Committee Membership for the year 2024-25.

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

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

It was agreed to remove the Almshouses from the list of outside bodies and to ask the Clerk to the Trustees to report back to the Town Council. Cllr Anstey said he can attend meetings as needed.

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

No report received.

11. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

I am now looking forward to another year as Chair of Fordingbridge Town Council after thoroughly enjoying the past 12 months.

I would like to wish Councillor Anstey all the best in his new role as Deputy Chair for the coming year.

Also, I would like to say a big thank you to Councillor Wilson for all the hard work and support she has provided over the last year as Deputy Chair of Fordingbridge Town Council.

As a Council we are starting to see things slowly happen with the planned improvements at the Recreation Ground. The recent news of our CIL grant from NFDC will see the proposed pathway now hopefully progress. We are currently doing some comms on our various media sites to let local people know. It was nice to hear of other local groups including the Men's Shed also receiving these grants.

Last Thursday Paul & I met with PCSO Steve May to discuss parking & speeding issues in the town as well as the anti-social behaviour at the Rec. Steve was supportive of us pursuing the 20mph limit with HCC. In terms of parking, he highlighted the issues with dealing with this.

On Friday I was proud to attend the official opening of the Burgate School 3G pitch which was carried out by Harry Redknapp. Steve Fletcher & Tyler Adams also attended from AFC Bournemouth. Councillors Shering, Howard & Miller also came along.

On Friday I also met with the NFDC Open Spaces manager, Byron McGrail, & District Councillor Phil Woods to discuss improvements to the pathway between Falconwood Close & Marl Lane. He has suggested some joint working on a CIL bid between FTC & NFDC as well as involving the new site developers to see what can be done in the future.

A recent successful meeting held with local businesses, FTC & the Events Group to discuss the Christmas lights switch on for 2024 saw agreement that both the High Street & Salisbury Street will be closed for this year's event on the 29th November.

The D-Day event is now all arranged for the 6th June & the Summer Festival is in the process of being organised for the 20th July at the Rec.

Both Paul & I have now completed the FTC Emergency plan which has received good feedback from the HCC Emergency Planning team. This will be shared with all members soon.

It has been a good year for FTC in terms of working together with FEG, Rotary & NFDC with these relationships getting stronger & more effective to achieve combined results.

Here's wishing us all as a Council a good year ahead.

12. To receive a report from the County Councillor

No report received.

13. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Millar reported that:

- NFDC has positively responded to the BCP local plan consultation.
- The Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan, ratified by an independent auditor, was approved.
- NFDC presented a Housing Delivery Action Plan due to not meeting their housing target. They reached 92% of the goal, missing the 95% target. Falling below 80% would require a 20% increase in the housing requirement, and below 75% would trigger a presumption in favour of development applications. The Housing Delivery Action Plan includes reference to a government grant worth £9.8m to help address nutrient issues. This could perhaps upgrade sewage works on the River Avon.
- A Freeport presentation highlighted the need to dredge Southampton Water to accommodate larger ships. NFDC is focusing on ensuring the Freeport brings economic benefits to the area, with plans to develop A326 due to traffic concerns and long-term plans for Dibden Bay including a country park and a nature area.
- Cllr Woods has replaced Cllr Millar on the Resources & Transformation Overview and Scrutiny Panel and continues on NFDC's Planning Committee and the Council Tax committee. He is also part of the Car Parking Strategy group.
- Cllrs Woods and Millar have sponsored a First Responder session at the Town Hall on Saturday 18th May which is now starting to be advertised.

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

- Planning Committee – 10th April 2024 – received Cllr Paton
- Staff & Remuneration Committee – 10th April 2024 – received Cllr White
- Annual Town Assembly – 17th April 2024 - deferred.
- Finance and Policy Committee – 24th April 2024 – received Cllr White

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

The Footpath Officer sent the following report:

- *I have been to look at the work on the new road from Augustus Park to the A338. Grass has been mown to provide a walking route around the fenced in area. It is easily usable but would benefit from better signage.*
- *The path passing the Junior School remains muddy.*
- *The Avon Valley Path south to the A338 is ok. There is no seasonal growth on it. However, there are blue marks on the path surface which suggest to me that the surface could be dug up for water pipes. As the path is wide this may not be a problem.*
- *As yet I have not been to look at the completed path diversion at Midgham. The new route has been agreed by HCC and is probably already on the Definitive Map.*

The Clerk reported that NFDC had incorrectly sited the SDR (Speed Detection Radar) on Salisbury Street, rather than on Shaftesbury Street where speeding has been reported. The device will be moved.

Cllr Millar asked when the High Street resurfacing works will take place.

Action: Clerk to ask Hampshire Highways

16. To report on any Health & Safety issues

The Clerk reported that he and Cllr Bailey will meet with Worknest next week. Cllr Wilson had concerns about some of the play equipment. The Clerk reported that all play equipment was inspected annually by RoSPA and any issues either addressed or deemed low risk. Cllr Bailey is currently undertaking a risk assessment across all outdoor spaces.

Action: Cllrs Shering and Bailey to identify work required and report back to the next Amenities and General Purposes Committee meeting

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

Cllr Wilson and the Clerk attended a meeting with the Salvation Army on 30th April. She reported that the Salvation Army would be willing to run a four-day children's holiday club with the morning activities being for younger children and some afternoon or evening events for older children. She said that this would be a good use of the Council's budget for summer holiday activities in the town and that if further funding is required then a grant application could be made.

Cllr Hinton attended the NFDC Local Plan review on 9th April.

Cllr Howard joined the Fordingbridge Conservation Group at Bishops Pond on 28th April. He reported that more volunteers are needed, and the gate and fence may require maintenance. Also, that newts can be found in this location and an ecologist visit may be arranged. The group will not be lining the pond but is considering installing a board walk. Cllr Howard said that trees were planted in the hedge but when the hedge was next cut, the new trees were lost; he asked that the group be notified before the Council undertakes work at the pond.

18. To note any items of correspondence

Nothing to report.

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

Cllr Wilson reported that although there has been lots of interest in renting the old Miles of Value premises, but the expensive business rates are putting interested parties off.

The Asst Clerk reported that the manager of Avonway Community Centre will retire in May. A new manager may be appointed in due course.

20. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as Wednesday 5th June 2024.

The meeting closed at 8:30p.m.

APPENDIX 1

2024-25

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 Paul Anstey – Deputy Mayor
Cllr Steve Bailey
Cllr Leila Cameron
Cllr Kelvin Hinton
Cllr Mike Howard
Cllr Alan Lewendon
Cllr David Millar
Cllr Diane Paton
Cllr Brian Perkins
Cllr David Shering
Cllr Anna Wilson

AMENITIES AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

All members of the Council

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 Kelvin Hinton
Cllr Alan Lewendon
Cllr Pete White) ex-
Cllr Paul Anstey) officio