

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 3rd July 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, Lewendon, Millar, Paton and Shering

In Attendance: Paul Goddard, Town Clerk
Rachel Edwards, Asst Town Clerk
Cllr Phil Woods (NFDC)
2 Representatives from the Avon Valley Shed
5 Members of Public

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs 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 5th June 2024 and to report on any matters arising

Cllr Anstey proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Millar and therefore RESOLVED: that the minutes of the General Council meeting held on the 5th June 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 26th June 2024 and to report on any matters arising

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hinton and therefore RESOLVED: that the minutes of the General Council meeting held on the 26th June 2024 are signed as a true record. All in favour.

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

Shaftesbury Street traffic calming

An NFDC speed radar device was sited in Shaftesbury Street from 30th April to 6th May as a result of concerns raised by a resident of Shaftesbury Street. The NFDC report showed that the speeds are generally low in both directions and this information was shared with the resident prior to the meeting. The resident said that she considered the data to be incorrect, but that if it is correct then she thought 30mph to be too fast for this road. She reported that lorries cross the centre line, lorries mount the kerb, vans approach each other head on and that a van wing mirror hit a child's shoulder when walking on the pavement. She thought that people didn't know there was a 30mph limit on Shaftesbury Street and asked for more signage including a digital reminder sign. She requested that a police speed van be sited in the layby in front of the police station on occasion. She thought that the High Street road repairs had exacerbated the speeding problems due to the road surface being better now. She also thought some roadworks on Shaftesbury Street could have slowed the traffic at the time of the survey.

Action: Clerk to ask NFDC if there were any issues with roadworks on Shaftesbury Street at the time of this survey. Clerk to request a comparison survey from NFDC for an extended period, in a location west of the previous location

Action: Clerk to ask HCC their current policy on 20mph for town centres.

[4 members of public left the meeting.]

Parking on the High Street

Cllr Woods (NFDC) asked on behalf on another resident why there are no double yellow or even red lines in the town centre to prevent people parking on the High Street and causing obstruction. Cllr White responded that the double yellow lines on Salisbury Road are not enforced, and this is no longer a Police matter HCC are responsible for on-street parking instead. Cllr Shering encouraged everyone to report parking contraventions to HCC online.

Action: Clerk to ask HCC for suggestions to prevent parking on the High Street. Clerk to request increased visits from the parking attendant.

Whitsbury Road Pavements

Cllr Woods (NFDC) raised the condition of the Whitsbury Road pavement on behalf of another resident.

Action: Cllr Hinton to follow up with Pennyfarthing Homes and update Cllr Woods.

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

Members considered the following report.

	Current up to 30/06/2024	Previous upto 30/06/2023	Difference
1b Violence with Injury	16	8	8
1c Violence without Injury	26	20	6
2a Rape	1	0	1
2b Other Sexual Offences	2	1	1
4a1 Burglary Residential	2	1	1
4a2 Burglary Business and Community	1	3	-2
4b Vehicle Offences	11	15	-4
4e Shoplifting	5	10	-5
4f All Other Theft Offences	7	6	1
5a Criminal Damage	8	11	-3
6b Possession of Drugs	1	1	0
7 Possession of Weapons Offences	1	2	-1
8 Public Order Offences	12	9	3

9 Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	2	1	1
TOTAL	95	88	7
	Current R90	Previous R90	Difference
Residential Burglary (Excl Sheds/Garages)	0	0	0

7. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

The Mayor gave the following report.

Well, the month of June has been quite a busy one.

The D-Day 80 celebrations were well recognised by the Town on the 6th June. I had the honour of raising a special commemoration flag at Chevrons Living. I then attended, along with a good crowd of people, the towns D-Day event at the Rec & the lighting of our town beacon along with many others at the same time across the Country. We also acknowledged National Fish & Chip Day with several of the crowd enjoying their supper to the sound of Sing Space choir & Hyde Band. Huge thanks & well done to the members of FTC & FEG who organised it all. A fitting celebration.

On the 11th June I attended a Creativity, Arts & Culture workshop along with other Councillors from across the New Forest to look at ways that more can be provided for communities to enjoy events. Early stages but NFDC will be doing further workshops & discussions with other key stakeholders before producing an action plan. I also met the new Mayor of Ringwood Rae Frederick.

Paul & I met with Andy Wilson from the Men's Shed on the 19th June to discuss the proposals for dressing the empty shop windows along the High Street. As a council we confirmed our support & Pete will be progressing this to hopefully cheer up our Town Centre.

On the 22nd June I represented FTC at the 40th anniversary of Fordingbridge Rugby Club & presented the trophy for Clubman of the Year.

Amed Forces Day was marked this month by the raising of the appropriate flag on the Town hall.

Along with Cllrs Hinton & Anstey I attended the Avonway Community Centre open day on the 29th June. There were several other local groups there & we had some discussions over our proposed Neighbourhood plan & the location of the Augustus John statue!

Also, this month we have continued to look at the provision of a premises for the Men's Shed group at the Rec. The sports club idea has met approval from the various committee's with further talks to be arranged. The improvements to the play equipment & the provision of the new pathway are still on-going but progressing.

Following the resignation of Cllr Wilson this month I would like to record my thanks for the service & work that Anna gave to FTC over a significant period of time. I would also sadly like to

note the same following this week's resignation from Cllr Cameron. Hopefully we will find replacements in due course for Cllrs Wilson, Bailey and Cameron.

I have today been privileged to attend the annual prize giving event at Forres Sandle Manor School where I awarded numerous talented students their trophies and other awards.

Finally, just to note how nice it is to see our High Street resurfaced & looking in a much smarter state of affairs & ready for hopefully a busy Summer ahead for our town & businesses.

8. To receive a report from the County Councillor

No report received.

9. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Millar reported that due to the General Election there had been no NFDC meeting in June and the next would be on Monday 7th July. The D-Day flag was raised at the NFDC offices in Lyndhurst by chairman Cllr David Hawkins. Cllrs Millar and Woods attended Frogham Fayre and reported that Fordingbridge Astronomers said they met in Ringwood as no venue was available in Fordingbridge. Cllrs Millar and Woods are using some of their Councillor grant to support the Table Tennis club at Hyde to part fund a new table tennis table. They reported that the Memorial Hall at Hyde is fully booked with activities and now self-funding. They wondered if the Town Hall in Fordingbridge could be the same. They reported that a £60k grant had been given to Hyde Hall by Veolia to refurbish it.

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

- Planning Committee – 12th June 2024 – received Cllr Paton
- Finance and Policy Committee – 26th June 2024 – received Cllr Millar

11. To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan

- To consider the membership of the Steering Group

Cllr Shering filled the vacancy on the Neighbourhood plan Steering Group left after Cllr Wilson's resignation from the Council. The Steering Group now comprises Cllrs Hinton, Howard, Millar, Paton, Shering and White. Cllr White asked about recruiting volunteers to the group and Cllr Millar asked that shopkeepers be approached to join.

Action: Cllr Hinton to liaise with the Clerk to recruit volunteers to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

12. To receive an update on summer play activities

The Clerk reported that following funding being agreed, posters and booking forms have been drafted. The Asst Clerk reported that a climbing wall is available at a cost of £795.40 + VAT for up to 6 hours climb time and the Clerk confirmed that budget is available for this. Cllr Lewendon said that Fordingbridge Air Training Corps has access to a climbing wall and asked that they be contacted.

Action: Asst Clerk to contact Air Training Corps about a climbing wall

13. To receive an update on the Circular Path

The Clerk reported that he and Cllr Shering are due to meet the Buildings' Manager and the contractor tomorrow regarding the circular path and reported that it may not be necessary to fence off the whole Recreation Ground for the duration of this work.

14. To receive an update on the Avon Valley Shed

Cllr White, Cllr Wilson and the Clerk met with two representatives from the Avon Valley Shed and discussed siting the Avon Valley Shed behind the Sports Club 1m from the rear wall. This location would not encroach on the Whippet track. A meeting will be held with FTC, the Sports Club and the Avon Valley Shed regarding this proposal.

The Clerk confirmed that utility supplies would need formal agreement from the Town Council. The circular path would need to be amended as a result of siting the shed in this location. The Clerk reported that the Avon Valley Shed building would be owned by FTC and £10k of CIL has been allocated by the Town Council to this project.

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

• Communal roadside areas

Councillors discussed the weeds in the town centre. Cllr Hinton suggested asking HCC for permission to weed the pavements and for payment to take on this task, should the groundsman have spare capacity to take on this work. Cllr White asked that an email be sent to shopkeepers asking them to tidy up their frontage now that the High Street has reopened after the roadworks, that summer is here, the hanging baskets are about to go out and the empty shop windows decorated. He noted that the shopkeepers responded really well to this request when last asked. Cllr Paton asked that residents be asked to do the same with their house frontages.

Action: Clerk to action the above

Cllr Lewendon reported that the pavement and sewer had sunk at the junction of Burnham Road and Whitsbury Road.

Action: Clerk to report to Wessex Water

16. To report on any Health & Safety issues

The Clerk met with the HR company WorkNest who recommended additional risk assessments, for example for lone working. Also, that time using vibrating hand tools and machines be monitored.

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

Cllrs Anstey, Hinton and White attended the Avonway Open Day on Saturday 29th June.

Cllr Paton attended the Twinning Boules event at Sandy Balls Holiday Village.

Cllr Paton attended a meeting at Burgate School regarding the school's all-weather pitch. She reported that outside bookings are taken but the pitch does not have much use over the summer holidays.

The Asst Clerk attended a Children, Family and Youth meeting on 1st July with Burgate School, Fordingbridge Infant and Junior Schools Federation, Stepping Stones Pre-school, the Salvation

Army, The Branch (NLCC) and Avon Valley Community Matters. A further meeting has been arranged for September and Councillors are invited to join.

On 2nd July, the Asst Clerk attended a meeting with the Salvation Army and Community First who identified funding for youth provision.

18. To note any items of correspondence

The Trustees of Avonway Community Centre wrote to thank all those involved in making the Avonway Open Day a success, for giving their time so generously and for providing such interesting information. Fordingbridge Town Council a stand at the Avonway Open Day.

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

The Clerk reported that Cllr Cameron has resigned from the Council.

The British Red Cross medical loans equipment service in Fordingbridge is due to close in Fordingbridge. The closure is of great concern to Fordingbridge Surgery who reported that the current service is of great value to their patients. The surgery has asked if there is anything they can do to offer support.

Action: Asst Clerk to find out further information about the closure

20. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 7th August 2024.

The meeting closed at 8:54p.m.