

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Council Meeting held on Wednesday 7th October 2015 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall (Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Committee)

Present:

Cllr Adams – Chairman of meeting

Cllrs Price, Lewendon, Hale, (G) Wilson, (A) Wilson, Earth & Perkins

In Attendance:

Mrs H Richards – Town Clerk

4 Members of the Public

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Connolly, Anstey, Paton & Fulford and Cllr E Heron, Hampshire CC.

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest

No declarations of Interest were made.

3. To confirm the minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 2nd September 2015 and to report on any matters arising.

Cllr (A) Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hale and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September be signed as a true record. All in favour.

Matters Arising

Minute No 13, Community Policing Priorities – the Clerk advised that following the survey the following priorities had been established for the next 6 months for Ringwood and Fordingbridge:

Dwelling Burglary, Violence Offences and Rural theft.

4. To receive any matters raised by Members of the Public

A resident of Burgate Fields requested that a litter bin is provided at Burgate (along the access road to the school) as litter is a continual problem. Town Clerk to contact New Forest DC.

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

The Clerk read out the written report provided by Inspector Stokes (See Appendix A) which included informing the Council that she is leaving her post in the Forest to take up another post.

6. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

The Mayor did not undertake any official engagements during September.

7. To receive a report from the County Councillor

County Councillor not present and no written report.

8. To receive a report from the District Councillors

District Councillors not present and no written reports.

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

- Planning Committee – 9th September 2015
- Amenities Committee – 16th September 2015
- General Purposes Committee – 16th September 2015
- Finance & Policy Committee – 30th September 2015

No recommendations to General Council contained therein.

10. To report on any Health & Safety issues

The Clerk reported receipt of a report that the seat under the Playhouse in the Recreation Ground Play Area is damaged.

11. To receive reports on Outside Bodies and meetings attendedCllr Hale

Fordingbridge Conservation Volunteers – AGM attended on 14/09/15 and reported that Membership is very low. A young offender has recently been helping the group to carry out works, currently only working at Bishops Pond which needs excavation to reinstate – natural supply to the pond has been affected by falling water levels.

Cllr (G) Wilson

Twinning Association - Replacement Memorial Tree to be located next to the commemorative seat in the Memorial Garden. An event is to be held in the Town Hall on 24th October 2015, Jazz in the Autumn which would include refreshments.

Cllr Earth

Avonway Community Centre – Maureen Burt has retired from Avonway in September. An Race Night event is planned to be held on 17th October 2015.

12. To discuss the replacement pavilion way forward

The Clerk summarised the report prepared by the Finance Officer (and distributed to Members) which advised of the current position. Following previously distributed sketches and ideas for the refurbishment of the existing facilities or alternative options for a smaller re-build, the Finance Officer has approached a local architect to provide a quote to carry out a feasibility study for which a quote of £3,500 was received. This would involve a measured survey of the existing building together with future options and a budget cost for works.

Following discussions members requested that further sketch plans are obtained together with details of funding that may be gained and that the matter is referred to the Chair of Amenities Committee (who was not present at the meeting) and who would decide if a special amenities meeting should be held.

13. To note any items of correspondence

The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received regarding the zebra crossing on the High Street, raising safety concerns and requesting that a pelican crossing replaces it – the correspondence has been forwarded to the County Councillor, Cllr Heron.

Ringwood & Fordingbridge Lions Club – details have been received from the Lions Club announcing an event to be held on Wednesday 14th October, outside of the Town Halls in Ringwood between 10am – 12 noon and between 2.00-4.00pm in Fordingbridge. The event “Lions World Sight Day” is to raise awareness of issues regarding the loss of or poor sight and a crusade to conquer blindness.

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

The Clerk advised that due to a high volume of Planning Applications being received for consideration, it will be necessary to hold two planning committee meetings in October, one as scheduled for the 14th October and the second on the 21st October 2015.

Cllr Lewendon advised that a sign had been erected on the wall adjacent to the river, forming part of the flood defence at Riverside Place informing “Trespassers will be prosecuted”. Members discussed the ongoing issues over the Public Access through Riverside Place. Town Clerk to write to New Forest DC and Environment Agency (owners of the wall).

15. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as Wednesday 4th November 2015

The meeting closed at 8.14pm

APPENDIX A

Report on matters under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act.

ASB (Anti Social Behaviour) in the past month there has been 1 report, this relates to a young lad who threw a can of red bull into the river, he and his parents have received an ASB first warning letter

VAPI (Violence Against the Person Injury) there have been 13 reports this month the majority of which are youth on youth low level assaults.

Dwelling Burglary - 1 report of a premises in Salisbury Road that was broken into whilst the occupants were on holiday, nothing was stolen.

BOTD (Burglary Other Than Dwelling) there have been 3 in the past month, 1 shed and two garages, camping equipment and tools stolen.

Damage - No reports of damage in this period.

Theft - there have been 3 reports, 2 relate to stone ornaments from gardens being stolen and 1 shoplifting from Tesco.

TFMV (Theft From Motor Vehicle) there have been no reports this month.

Suspicious Incidents - there have been 3 reported, 1 relates to a film crew and 2 relate to concerns around a male taking photos of the kids playing football, to date this male has not been traced.

Please continue to encourage the community to sign up to Hampshire Alerts and to report any suspicious activity on 101.