

## FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the General Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014 in the Town Hall (Minutes subject to approval at the next General Council meeting)

#### Present:

Cllr Connolly – Chairman

Cllrs (G) Wilson, (A) Wilson, Earth, Hale, Perkins, Anstey, Paton, Price & Adams

#### In Attendance:

Mrs H Richards, Town Clerk

Cllr Heron, Hampshire County Council

Cllr R Bellows, New Forest District Council

#### 1. Apologies

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Fulford & Lewendon and also Cllr Sevier, New Forest DC & Sgt Towler.

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Adams declared an Interest in Agenda Item 9 Finance & Policy Minutes, Payment of Accounts but remained in the room to speak and vote.

#### 3. To confirm the Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2014 and to report on any matters arising.

It was proposed by Cllr Price and seconded by Cllr (G) Wilson and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2014 be signed as a true record subject to the following amendment raised by Cllr Heron:

#### Minute No. 6 – Report from County Councillor

Second paragraph amend to ... would be cut by a further £89M

#### Matters Arising

Minute No 10 – Health & Safety – Cllr Anstey reported that the Lifebuoy had finally been replaced at the Recreation Ground.

#### 4. To receive any matters raised by members of the public

No members of the public present

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

In the absence of a representative from the Police, The Chairman reported on the latest figures received from Sgt Towler.

#### Fordingbridge Town - 01st April - 17th Nov 2013 v 01st April - 17th Nov 2014

Dwelling Burglary	33.33% down
Burglary Other Than Dwellings (sheds & garages etc)	57.69% down

Theft Of Motor Vehicles	50% down
Theft From Motor Vehicles	40% down
Assaults with Injury	50% down
Assaults without injury	38.89% down
Criminal Damage	50% down
<b>Total crime</b>	<b>43.64% down</b>
<b>Anti Social Behaviour</b>	<b>28.95% down</b>

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

The Mayor reported on the following events attended during November:

6<sup>th</sup> - Art Club meeting – New Members required

9<sup>th</sup> – Ringwood & Fordingbridge Lions Club – hoping to restart in New Year

11<sup>th</sup> – Royal British Legion – New Members required

The Mayor reported that a Club/organisation fair for Fordingbridge groups would be organised in the new year to raise awareness and hopefully encourage new membership.

The Mayor then thanked everyone involved in the organisation of the Late Night Shopping/Christmas Light Switch on event.

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

Cllr Heron reported that SSE had still not completed the replacement street lighting project in the Town but had been assured that once completed, works will be in accordance with the original plan – project is due to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015.

As reported last month, Hampshire County Council have to find £89M of savings in the financial year 2016-17. Following essential expenditure including education, Following previous reductions of £250M, £800M remains in the budget for other items. The County Council's main priorities are Highways, Adult Social Care and Children's Support Services. Other items of spending are priority choices in each local area. However local communities must also contribute. Fordingbridge should consider a Speedwatch Project, the results of which would inform the County Council of speed restriction and traffic calming requirements.

Consideration should also be given to Youth provision in the Town. It is likely that the £8,000 of funding per annum will not be given in the future, All other areas in Hampshire have funding allocation in their budgets for youth; if a sum is committed by the Town Council, this will increase Cllr Heron's ability to gain funding from County Council.

The County Council will also restrict spending on the Lengthsman scheme with the same level of funds being spread across more member parishes if new parishes join the scheme.

The Chairman agreed that the Town Council would review its budget provision.

Cllr Hale requested an update on the provision of accommodation for Youth Services within the former Toilet Block in the Recreation Ground – the Mayor reported that following a survey of the building, estimates were awaited for refurbishment and possible extension and confirmed that funding will be available from Hampshire CC and New Forest DC.

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

Cllr Bellows had nothing to report.

Cllrs Heron and Bellows left the meeting.

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

- Planning Committee – 12<sup>th</sup> November 2014
- Amenities Budget Meeting – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014
- General Purposes Budget Meeting – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014
- Finance & Policy Committee – 26<sup>th</sup> November 2014

No recommendations contained in above Committee Minutes.

**10. To report on any Health & Safety Matters**

Nothing to report

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

**Cllr (G) Wilson** – Twinning Association – Event to be held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at the Town Hall, tickets available.

**Cllr (A) Wilson** – Avonway – Confirmed that Avonway have taken over the publication of The Gate Magazine.

**Cllr Hale** – Victoria Rooms meeting attended 27/11/14. Event to be held on 9/1/15 (Forest Forge). The Victoria Rooms do not have Christmas lights this year due to a problem with the electricity supply equipment. Town Clerk to ascertain cost and Group to investigate funding.

Fordingbridge Conservation Volunteers – Information stand at Late Night Shopping 28/11/14, thanks for accommodation in Salvation Army Hall

**Cllr Anstey** – Sports Club Correspondence with Turks FC and ongoing discussions with White Star Running Group regarding proposed Fordingbridge Marathon. Trying to resolve parking issues

Planning Framework event attended on 18<sup>th</sup> November – aimed more at District Council.

10-12<sup>th</sup> November – Visit to Knokke-Heist, Belgium to receive the WW2 helmet of former Fordingbridge resident, Col Clementi. Cllr Anstey will present further details

of the trip to Council at a later date. Members agreed that the Council would write with thanks

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

No items of correspondence to report.

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

The Clerk advise Members of opening hours at the Town Hall over the festive period.

The Chairman reported that following meetings with New Forest District Council, negotiations had been re-opened regarding Fordingbridge TC taking over Sweatsford Water Meadows – this would be subject to repair and remedial works being completed by the District Council prior to transfer. Replacement of the boardwalks, tree works and weed control are required. Money would be available for ongoing maintenance of the area.

Cllr Perkins informed the meeting that Cllr Heron had advised that New Forest DC would retain ownership of the land and would lease it to the Town Council. Lease conditions would include no development on the land.

The Chairman also reported that funding bids to Sport England, Hampshire County Council and New Forest DC relating to the provision of the new Sports Facility, had all been rejected. The design of the build was currently being reviewed to reduce the size and cost by reducing the number of changing facilities and removing the youth accommodation provision.

Mr Brownsey, owner of Brownsey's Field had requested that the Council (& Rugby Club) surrenders land at the former Redbrook Filling Station which is currently leased through New Forest DC – discussions are ongoing.

Cllr (G) Wilson raised progress on the former Fordingbridge Club site – purchaser still unknown and no further updates.

Cllr Perkins reported that he had spoken with the St John's campsite regarding parking for the marathon.

Cllr (G) Wilson – Gave thanks for help with organisation of the Christmas event and advised that Cllr Bellows had agreed to make a contribution. Members agreed that next year's event should be planned a lot earlier in the year and all stakeholders should be included.

**14. To note the date of the next General Council Meeting as Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

The meeting closed at 8.32pm