

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 5th April 2017 in the Town Hall (Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Committee)

Present:

Cllr Connolly – Chairman

Cllr Adams, Price, Lewendon, Paton, Fulford, Wilson, Earth & Hale

In Attendance:

Mrs H Richards – Town Clerk

PCSO Stephen May

Katy Griffin, Salisbury Journal

Tim Devane, Timothys

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Anstey, Perkins & Bailey & Cllrs Sevier & Bellows, New Forest DC

2. To receive any declarations of interest

No declarations of interest made.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 1st March 2017 and report any matters arising

Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Earth and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 1st March 2017 be signed as a true record.

All in favour.

The Chairman then brought forward item no. 5, in order that PCSO May could return to duty.

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

PCSO May gave apologies for the absence of reports in recent months and confirmed that information can be obtained from the Neighbourhood Team's website. He then reported the following for the months of February and March.

	February	March
Anti-Social Behaviour	9	6
Violence against person	3	10
Dwelling Burglary	1	1
Other Burglary	2	2
Damage	4	9
Theft	1	4
Theft from Vehicles	1	3
Suspicious Incidents	3	8

General Council 05.04.17

PCSO May reported that there had be a rise in the number of burglaries outside of the Town Centre in surrounding parishes and that there had also been a recent increase in the number of incidents reported involving cold-callers.

A further Community Youth event has been arranged at the Salvation Army Hall on 19th April 2017 to discuss ideas for a new skatepark, the evening will include a presentation by a skatepark supplier. The chairman confirmed that a representative from the Town Council would not attend as it is inappropriate at this stage (replacement unlikely to be programmed in the short term but Council acknowledge that the existing park has come to the end of it lifespan). The Clerk advised that the Annual Town Assembly is also due to be held on the 19th April.

Cllr Paton entered the meeting during this item at 7.36pm.

PCSO left the meeting.

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

No matters raised by members of the Public.

6. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

The Mayor reported that he had attended the AGM of the Avonway Community Centre and advised that the centre is running successfully.

7. To receive a report from the County Councillor

County Councillor not present and no report received.

8. To receive a report from the District Councillors

District Councillors not present and no report received.

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

- Planning Committee – 8th March 2017 – Received Cllr Fulford
- Amenities & General Purposes Committees 15th March 2017 – GP received Cllr Earth
- Planning Committee – 22nd March 2017 – received Cllr Fulford
- Finance & Policy Meeting 29th March 2017 – received Cllr Connolly

10. To report on any health & safety issues

Cllr Earth raised concern about the persistent dog fouling, particularly near to the schools and also at The Bartons. Town Clerk to request additional dog warden patrols. The clerk suggested that the council consider an initiative used by another local Council – all fouling is marked with fluorescent spray paint to highlight the amount present – this proved useful when carried out and reduced the amount of fouling. This may be a good way of educating children also. Members also suggested that some bins in the area are not being used and could be relocated in problem areas.

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

Cllr Earth – distributed draft programme of events for the 35th Anniversary Twinning Celebrations.

General Council 05.04.17

Cllr Hale – reported on the following:

- 23rd March Victoria Rooms Trustee meeting
- currently experiencing electrical problems
 - AGM to be held at 7.00pm on Friday 21st April

27th March Avonway AGM

- Good financial situation
- Entrance area has been refurbished
- Continuing with work on corridor & kitchen
- Some users unhappy with new rules

4th April Conservation Volunteers Committee

- Arranging more surveys of Bishops Pond
- Attending Frogham Fair for publicity
- Hoping to set up website

Cllr Lewendon raised concern over tadpoles at Sweatsford Water – last year tadpoles died as area dried out – currently lots of tadpoles present, would it be possible to divert watercourse to ensure area remains wet? Town Clerk to contact Graham Long.

Cllr Anstey The Town Clerk read out a written report from Cllr Anstey of attendance at a Lions Club event (Lions Den) at Burgate School on the 22nd March.

12. To note any items of correspondence

(Incorrectly numbered on Agenda as 14)

The Clerk reported on the following items of correspondence received:

Tim Devane, Timothys – regarding the decline in the Town Centre and calling for action from the Council. The clerk advised that a response had been made updating Mr Devane regarding the Fordingbridge Club site – a planning application has been submitted to New Forest DC but consultation has not yet been received by the Town Council. Members discussed options and concerns regarding the lack of an active Business Forum; the Town becoming a dormitory town; new potential retailers encounter barriers from the District Council with the Chair advising that there is little that the Town Council can do.

Mr Devane requested that the Town Council write to all businesses seeking ideas and suggested that artisan markets could be held at Roundhill (the Chair reminded the meeting that this is a highway which requires a road closure to be obtained for such events). The clerk advised that a successful craft and separate food market had been run in the Town Hall recently with others planned.

Town Clerk to write to New Forest DC to gain support. The chair also advised that through the New Forest Association of Local Councils (NFALC), pressure would be put onto the District Council to involve town and parish councils in pre-application (planning) discussions. Overall the Town Council are aware of the issues and that something needs to be done.

Salvation Army – Mike French – Invite Members to meet with the youth and consider forming a youth steering group - members to advise Clerk of availability.

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

(Incorrectly numbered on the Agenda as 15)

The clerk reported on the following:

Christmas Lights - attendance at the Hampshire County Council Festive Lighting Seminar held on the 22nd March at which time information was given on current requirements & relevant legislation. The "Guidance on Installation and Maintenance of Seasonal Decorations and Lighting Column Attachments" has been purchased from the Institute of Lighting Professionals and will be used in the preparation of the Tender for the Christmas Lights.

Paddling Pool – Drainage works to clear blockage and improve draining of the Pool completed on the 24th March – groundsman has reported a huge improvement.

Kiosk Toilets – Drainage survey undertaken and report received with recommendations for improvements.

Town Hall/Clock Tower Leak – The Principal Designer had recently re-visited the site and investigated further (internally) and is preparing his report.

Annual Town Assembly 19th April – Tim Daykin, former vicar in Fordingbridge and now presenter on Radio Solent has agreed to be guest speaker at the meeting.

14. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 3rd May 2017 – Annual Council.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm