

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of the General Council on Wednesday 7th February 2018 at
7.30pm in the Town Hall**

Present: Cllr Connolly – Chairman
Cllrs Adams, Anstey, Earth, Hale, Lewendon, Price

In Attendance: Mrs R Edwards, Asst Town Clerk
Cllr Edward Heron HCC
PCSO Stephen May
A Member of the Press (Forest Journal)
2 Members of the Public

1. To receive any apologies for attendance

Apologies were received from Cllrs Fulford, Paton, Perkins, White, Wilson and Cllrs Matcham and Sevier, NFDC.

2. To receive any declarations of interest

No declarations made.

3. To confirm the minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 3rd January 2018 and to report on any matters arising

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Anstey and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd January 2018 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

Matters Arising

Minute No. 3 - Cllr Lewendon hopes that the hedge on Whitsbury Road will soon be cut.

Minute No. 5 – The PCSO had come to answer questions about Policing.

Minute No. 8 – The proposed market on Round Hill is still under discussion.

Minute No. 12 – The matter of parking on Salisbury Street has now been referred to the NFDC Enforcement Team Leaders who will ensure that the Parking Officers patrol and enforce this area.

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

A member of the public raised the issue of parking on Church Street. Two of the residents have positioned planters outside their houses to deter people from parking there. This has resulted in loss of space which could be used to park two or three cars. The complainant believes that one of the planning conditions of the development at Timbermill Court was to maintain this area for parking and that the residents concerned should be instructed to remove the planters.

Action: Clerk to investigate.

The same member of the public then mentioned the alcoholics often found seated at the entrance of the town car park. They give a bad first impression of the town and people find them intimidating.

Member of the Public left the meeting.

5. To receive a report on any matters under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act
 PCSO May gave the following crime reports for December and January.

	December 2017	January 2018
Anti-Social Behaviour	3	7
Violence against person	0	7
Dwelling Burglary	0	2
Other Burglary	1	7
Damage	6	6
Theft	0	6
Theft from Vehicles	3	4
Suspicious Incidents	6	8

PCSO May had no concerns about crime in this area. There had been a slight spike in non-dwelling burglaries but the alleged perpetrator has since been arrested. PCSO May has been patrolling with Parking Enforcement Officers in response to parking complaints, especially along Salisbury Street and outside the Chinese, and will be doing so in the evening too.

Cllr Lewendon asked about parked cars causing obstruction along Salisbury Street and other vehicles having to drive around the corner on the wrong side of the road. PCSO May advised that there had been no reported accidents and as such they were limited in how often they could patrol. Also that if a driver moved their car within the first five minutes then no ticket could be issued.

Cllr Adams asked how many incidents were attended by Police. PCSO May said that this information wasn't available without a lot of time consuming work and possibly a FOI request too. However, a dwelling burglary would always be attended, even if it was just a garage leading to a house. A non-dwelling burglary without CCTV or fingerprints wouldn't be worth pursuing but the police would look for patterns instead. Assault or violence would always be attended and dog bites were always dealt with, with the lowest possible outcome being a community resolution.

Cllr Hale asked whether any training is available for Speed Watch volunteers.

Action: PCSO May will arrange training for Speed Watch volunteers.

PCSO May was then asked about the alcoholics and drug addicts who regularly sit at Round Hill. He advised that as they were seated in a public area, it was difficult to move them on. Cllr Heron refuted this by saying there was plenty of legislation and advised the Council to look into it and force the Police to move these people on. PCSO May said he'd like to work with the Council rather than being told what to do.

Action: Clerk to investigate legislation.

The Chairman was concerned that the Police no longer take responsibility for speeding, anti-social behaviour or parking offences, they no longer hold surgeries nor have a visible presence in the town. He thought that people don't know who the police are and see reporting crime as a waste of time.

Cllr Heron responded by saying that Police have limited resources and need to engage constructively. He advised the Council to write and ask for a senior police officer to come to the Town Assembly.

PCSO May advised that all crime should be reported on 101 in order to be allocated more police resources to the area.

Action: Clerk to invite senior police officer to Town Assembly.

PCSO May left the meeting.

6. To receive a report from the Mayor

The Mayor had nothing to report due to illness.

7. To receive a report from the County Councillor

Cllr Heron gave the following report.

Hampshire County Council's Cabinet has considered plans firming up their careful budget strategy for 2018/19, which aim to retain school crossing patrols, community transport, and Household Waste Recycling Centres - against a backdrop of increasing demand for social care from growing numbers of vulnerable children and adults, and rising inflation.

At their meeting on 5 February, Cabinet Members were also asked to recommend to the County Council, a 5.99% increase in the Council Tax precept for Hampshire County Council's element of the tax, for the financial year beginning 1 April 2018. This equates to an annual charge of £1,200.96 for a Band D property – or around £1.31 extra per week. 3% of the proposed overall 5.99% increase will specifically go towards the social care costs from Hampshire's growing population of vulnerable adults and older people, and is the County Council's way of helping the NHS locally, by supporting people to get out of hospital and back into their own homes as soon as possible.

In addition, proposals were considered for the capital budget for the coming financial year, and proposed investment of £530 million in Hampshire's economy, jobs and the quality of the environment over the next three years.

Cllr Heron advised that County services were targeted to specific groups of people and those services not used to a reasonable extent will not survive.

Cllr Adams asked about the A338 bypass and whether it could be kept open for turning right from Godshill direction, as it was for the Late Night Shopping event in Fordingbridge. Cllr Heron said that it couldn't, due to restrictions on the road.

The Asst Clerk raised the issue of delivery lorries causing obstruction outside Tesco during busy times of the day. Cllr Heron asked for the correspondence to be forwarded onto him.

Action: Asst clerk to forward relevant emails.

8. To receive a report from District Councillors

No report received.

Cllr Heron left the meeting

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

- Planning Committee – 10th January 2018 - received Cllr Hale
- Amenities Meeting – 17th January 2018 – received Cllr Anstey
- General Purposes Meeting – 17th January 2018 – received Cllr Earth
- Finance and Policy Committee – 31st January 2018 – received Cllr Connolly

10. To report on any Health & Safety issues

Cllr Anstey reported that Ellis Whittam would soon be making an initial Health and Safety services visit.

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

Cllr Earth reported that the Twinning Association's murder mystery evening on 3rd February 2018 was a great success and all tickets sold.

Cllr Hale attended a Conservation group meeting on 9th January 2018 with various experts. It was agreed not to line Bishops Pond.

Cllr Anstey

- 10th January 2018 – Post-Christmas wash-up meeting
- 15th January 2018 – Health and Safety course
- 24th January 2018 – Fordingbridge Events committee meeting
- 1st February 2018 – Summer Events Committee meeting

Cllr Lewendon advised that the bus service going from Fordingbridge – Alderholt – Verwood will continue for the next year with an additional bus in the afternoon.

12. To note any items of correspondence

Lorries causing obstruction outside Tesco (see item 7).

Cyclists without lights

An email had been received regarding the problem of cyclists not using lights or wearing reflective clothing on dark mornings and evenings. The Council agreed it was concerning but didn't think there was anything they could do.

Dog fouling

A message had been received from a local residents association about the amount of dog excrement left on the grass verges, common grass areas and pavements and asking for action to be taken by the Council to reduce or eliminate the level of dog fouling. The Clerk has emailed NFDC asking for the location of poo bins.

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

Nothing further to report.

14. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as Wednesday 7th March 2018

The meeting closed at 8.45pm