

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 2nd January 2019 at
7.30pm in the Town Hall**

(Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Council)

Present: Cllr Anstey – Chairman
Cllrs Adams, Earth, Hale, Lewendon, Mouland, Paton, Perkins, White and Wilson

In Attendance: Mrs R Edwards, Asst Town Clerk
A representative from the Salisbury Journal

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Fulford.

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To confirm the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 5th December 2018 and to report on any matters arising.

Cllr Anstey requested an amendment to the minutes regarding the traffic correspondence (item 3).

Cllr White proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Mouland and therefore **RESOLVED:** subject to the following amendment, that the minutes of the meeting held on the 5th December 2018 are signed as a true record.

Minute No. 3 – Cllr Anstey reported that ~~a letter has been sent to~~ Hampshire County Council *has been written to* about the increasing traffic.

All in favour.

Matters Arising

Minute No. 3 - Cllr Lewendon reported that he still has the bicycle.

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

No members of the public were present.

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

No report received.

6. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

The Mayor attended the following events

- 18th December – Inspection of pavilion at the Recreation Ground, with the Buildings Manager and Cllr John Mouland.
- 19th December – Fordingbridge Town Council Christmas meal. Thanks were expressed to the Assistant Clerk for organising.
- 23rd December – visited Ford Ward, Fordingbridge Hospital, with sherry and mince pies
- 2nd January - Presented Cup to 'Jane The Florist' for best Christmas window display

Mayor Anstey gave the following report

Reflecting on 2018.

With regards the letter from Nicky Jenkins, Chair Fordingbridge Events Group (FEG) who thanked the Council for their help in the Christmas in Fordingbridge event on 30Nov18. As Chairman of Council and on behalf of the Council I would wish to thank Nicky and the whole team from FEG for organising both the Christmas and Summer events this year.

This was again an example of the remarkable spirit of the people in Fordingbridge, who have set out to make positive changes to our town. One hundred years ago on the 21Nov1918 the War Memorial Committee was formed with the aim to raise money to provide a monument in remembrance to those who died in the 1914-18 war. In the early 1960 certain people of Fordingbridge not members of the Parish Council, conceived the idea of erecting a statue in honour of Augustus John. Long may this public spirit and commitment to our town continue.

As Chair I wish to thank all the Councillors for their time and commitment throughout the previous year.

7. To receive a report from the County Councillor

No report received.

8. To receive a report from the District Councillors

No report received.

9. To receive the following Committee meeting minutes and any recommendations contained therein:

Staff and Remuneration Committee – 12th December 2018 - received Cllr Anstey

Planning Committee – 12th December 2018 - received Cllr Hale

10. To receive a recommendation from the Finance & Policy Committee on the precept for 2019-2020

Cllr Mouland proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Earth and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the precept would be raised by 16.3% as recommended by the Finance and Policy Committee to **£230922**. All in favour.

11. To receive an update on the tendering process for the Town Hall project

The Building Manager submitted the following report

A comprehensive tender was prepared by Sheerin Bettle which incorporates all the required items to address the problems caused by water ingress into the Council Chamber through both the Clock Tower and also the front elevation and roof.

The tender documents were sent out on 20th December 2018 to 5 contractors selected for their previous experience and knowledge of works of this nature to listed buildings. Tenders are due to be returned to Sheerin Bettle by 12 noon on 17th January 2019. Arrangements will be made with the new Town Clerk for the opening of tenders. A tender evaluation process will then take place; a report will be prepared on the evaluation with a recommendation to the Finance & Policy Committee on the 30th January 2019.

Cllr Perkins proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore **RESOLVED**: to waive the Financial Regulations for the Town Hall tendering process. All in favour.

Cllr Perkins asked which five contractors had been selected.

Action: Asst Town Clerk to ask Buildings Manager

12. To report on any Health & Safety issues

Nothing to report.

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

Cllr Earth reported that Margaret Bailey had died on Monday 31st December. Margaret was one of the Founding Members of the Fordingbridge Twinning Society.

Cllr Hale reported that Rumpelstiltskin will be performed at the Victoria Rooms on Friday 4th January at 7pm and that tickets are still available from Fordingbridge Bookshop.

Cllr Lewendon

- attended the Public Transport meeting at Lyndhurst on 6th December and reported on the results of the public survey and the savings agreed at the Executive Member Decision Day on 29th October 2018. Please see Appendix A.

14. To note any items of correspondence

A letter was received from Nicky Jenkins, Chair of Fordingbridge Events Group thanking the Council for their help in making the Christmas in Fordingbridge evening on 30th November so amazing.

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

The Asst Clerk reported that Cllr Malcolm Connolly has resigned from the Council. As the vacancy has arisen within six months of the date when the Councillor would have retired following the Council's next "ordinary" election there is no opportunity for electors to request that the vacancy is filled by an election. The Council may, if it wishes, co-opt to fill the vacancy for the period until then, but is under no obligation to do so. The Council decided not to co-opt a member to fill the vacancy. Cllr Anstey thanked Cllr Connolly for his support over the years, he is a difficult act to follow and would be missed.

The Asst Clerk reported that the new Town Clerk, Paul Goddard, is due to start work on Monday 7th January.

16. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as Wednesday 6th February 2019

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

What did respondents say

- 72% used the bus every week
- 56% had a concession
- 33% had their own car
- Most journeys were for shopping, leisure or health (53%)
- Weekday use was 50% greater than Saturday use
- If a choice, they will prefer fewer journeys to fewer days (72%)
- They will prefer a bus to a bookable service (55%)
- They will be willing to pay 50p per trip with a bus pass (54%)
- They did not want to see concessions cease on Dial-a-Ride or Taxishare (52%)
- They use our travel guides in print or online (61%) but go elsewhere for rail information

The savings agreed at the Executive Member Decision Day on 29 October 2018

Local Buses	£449,000
Taxishares – cap trips at 125% of current levels	£150,000
Ferries	£130,000
Travel Guides and Maps	£30,000
Real Time Passenger Information	£38,000
Other Public Transport and Contract Support comprising:	£243,000
Contract efficiency savings negotiated with Community Transport sector retaining existing service levels	£74,465
CT Grants Scheme, transfer grant for Yelabus service to CT operating budget, cease grants for community rail (funded by NIF budget)	£20,000
Discontinue Good Neighbours Support service contract	£5,000
Revise annual CT vehicle replacement contributions to reflect new operating model	£50,000
Replace stakeholder forums with countywide event and remove other back office costs	£9,235
Remove CT budget underspend	£75,000
Recover admin costs for minibus fleet insurance and MiDAS training materials	£7,000
Increased Wheels to Work user charges	£2,300
Concessionary Fares - Dial-a-Ride and Call and Go discount for concessionary passholders at 25%	£60,000
Total	£1,100,000