

## Fordingbridge Town Council

### Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall

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

#### **Present:**

Cllr Fulford – Chairman of meeting

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

#### **In Attendance:**

Mrs H Richards – Town Clerk

Cllr A Sevier – New Forest DC

Cllr E Heron – Hampshire CC

1 Member of the Public

#### **1. To receive an apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Connolly, Anstey & (G) Wilson & Cllr Bellows (NFDC)

#### **2. To receive any Declarations of Interest**

No Declarations Received

#### **3. To confirm the minutes of General Council meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2015 and to report on any matters arising**

Cllr Heron proposed and it was seconded by Cllr (A) Wilson and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2015 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

*Cllr Paton and Cllr Heron entered the meeting*

There were no matters arising.

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

There were no members of the public present at the time of this item.

*1 Member of the public entered the meeting*

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

The Chairman read out the written report provided by Insp. Stokes (See Appendix A) and summarised the following alert received through Hampshire Alert regarding Operation Midas.

- Officers from New Forest, Dorset & Wiltshire Police working together to target travelling criminals operating across the 3 force areas
- 58 vehicles stopped, 6 seized (no tax/insurance); 8 fixed penalty notices for traffic offences; 2 arrests (theft of mobile phone & suspicion of possession

with intent to supply controlled drugs) & a number of people received warnings or vehicles were prohibited for committing traffic offences.

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

Mayor absent and no written report however the Clerk reported on the following events attended by the Mayor during August:

- 7<sup>th</sup> Fordingbridge Art Exhibition Opening & Awards
- 17<sup>th</sup> Christmas in Fordingbridge Meeting
- 20<sup>th</sup> Alderholt Solar Park Briefing
- 24<sup>th</sup> Ringwood Foodbank Fordingbridge Distribution Centre Launch
- 24<sup>th</sup> Bygone Days
- 29<sup>th</sup> Motto Guzzi Rally

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

Cllr Heron updated the meeting following the report at the General Council meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> August that the local traffic management agency meetings would cease, Hampshire CC have now released the programme for 15/16 which includes provision for further Traffic Management measures required at Burgate Fields.

Cllr Perkins requested information on the announcement to further cut Fire Resources in Fordingbridge (Hampshire generally) & could Hampshire CC reassure residents that sufficient cover would be provided.

Cllr Heron responded by advising that Hampshire Fire & Rescue are a separate organisation to the County Council and would urge everyone to view the proposals. The proposals to make cuts had partly arisen following successful education for Fire Prevention which has seen a dramatic fall in the number of fires. However there has been a rise in other incidents such as Road Traffic Accidents which require different resources. Cllr Perkins also understood that retained fire fighters would be lost in the cuts.

Discussion then took place regarding funding cuts to the Police and the Chairman reported on a consultation received through Hampshire Alert – Members agreed that it would be appropriate for Members to respond individually rather than as the Council.

Cllr Fulford reported that she has met with the former manager of the Sure start Centre, Rosie Wilcox, who finished at the centre on Monday. Rosie would be employed on a casual basis to help with Outreach & Post Natal services.

Cllr Heron then reported that Hampshire CC were preparing the next round of spending cuts for year 2016-17 of £98m over the following 3 years, however following the spending review, savings required may rise further. It will be necessary for more universal services to focus on targeted users and identify key users.

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

Cllr Sevier reported that Cllr Bellows had given birth to a baby girl last week. Works to replace the culvert along the footpath from Falconwood Close had commenced but were delayed due to the bad weather – the footpath is currently closed. Cllr (A) Wilson reported that this closure could cause problems for the school children walking to school now that the schools had returned.

*Cllr Sevier and Cllr Heron left the meeting.*

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

- Planning – 12th August 2015 ) received by Cllr Fulford
- Finance & Policy – 26<sup>th</sup> August 2015 ) received by Cllr Fulford

There were no recommendations contained within the minutes.

**10. To report on any health & safety issues**

Cllr (A) Wilson reported that metal plates had been provided to protect verges at Downwood Close from vehicle tracks relating to the culvert works on the footpath – these plates are protruding onto the highway creating a danger to vehicles (no safety warning lights are in position) Town Clerk to report to New Forest DC.

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

6<sup>th</sup> August Cllr Hale reported on a meeting of the Victoria Rooms Trustees at which time it was confirmed that the Western Downland School would be performing a Pantomime during the winter months at the Victoria Rooms

25<sup>th</sup> August Fordingbridge Conservation Volunteers concerns raised regarding Ash Tree die-back, considering replanting of trees at Bishops Pond, free tree packs available containing 50 trees of various species

Cllr Lewendon

30<sup>TH</sup> August Awards Presentation at Motto Guzzi Rally. Organisers would like to hold future events in Fordingbridge but cannot at present afford to run the event. If the Council were able to provide improved shower facilities, this could save the group a rental charge of £8,000.

Cllr Anstey

The Clerk read out the written report provided by Cllr Anstey:

10th Aug. I attended the Sports Club meeting (minutes received) John has not included an update on the car park repair (in the minutes), I sent him an email (25Aug15) which read I can confirm that the Council have an allocation of money in excess of £500 for the repair of the Rec car park. The required repair specification will be drawn up and will go out to tender.

11th Aug. Attended Hockey Club meeting. I raised the matter of hockey equipment (goal post) left in the compound and asked them to remove or get rid. A couple of days later Andy informed me that he had already got rid of the wood which had rotted away and had cut up the metal posts.  
I sent email (25Aug15) to hockey that read, " Update on the hockey goals, which we established had been in the Rec compound for 16+ years. The good news is the problem has been solved, the wood was rotten and has been thrown away and the Council would look to make good use of the metalwork."

### **12. To propose a Member to sit on the Staff & Remuneration Committee**

The Chairman and Cllr Lewendon confirmed that this item had previously been dealt with at the Annual General Council meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015, when it was resolved that Cllr Lewendon would sit on the Staff & Remuneration Committee.

### **13. To note any items of correspondence**

The Clerk reported on the following items of correspondence:

Ringwood Foodbank - letter of thanks had been sent to the Mayor for attendance at the launch of the Ringwood Food Bank and extending an invitation to members to visit once the bank was operational on 7<sup>th</sup> September.

Hampshire Police – Have your say on what Community Policing Priorities should be (survey) – Members agreed to respond individually.

### **14. To receive a report from the Clerk and any other relevant business**

The Clerk reported that following complaints regarding speeding along Normandy Way, the Police had agreed to deploy a Speed Data Recorder in the next few weeks.

Members discussed whether signs could be provided to reduce speed on the estate – "20 is plenty" – Cllr Fulford confirmed these are only provided near to schools although poster display may be an option.

Cllr Perkins raised a concern that grass cutting crews had been deployed in Fordingbridge (New Forest DC) on the same day as rubbish collections resulting in the grass being partially cut around the piles of rubbish – following a complaint to Cllr Sevier the grass cutting crew returned the following day to complete the cuts.

The Clerk also reported that a pre-contract meeting had taken place that morning with Proludic, the supplier of the new Play Equipment at the Recreation Ground – works are scheduled to start week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

### **15. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015.**

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

## APPENDIX A

**Report on any matters under Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act**  
Inspector R Stokes – August 2015

**ASB** (Anti Social Behaviour) in the past month there have been 8 reports, one relate to the homeless lady who I understand has now left Fordingbridge, 3 relate to a nuisance male in the Co-Op, 1 relating to youths congregating in Downwood Close, patrols have not located anyone yet, 1 re nuisance in Roundhill near the toilets, 1 relating to the travellers at the Rugby field who as you know were moved on swiftly and 1 relates to unwanted Facebook attention.

**VAPI** (Violence Against the Person Injury) there have been 2 reports this month 1 is a fall out between friends, 1 is a dog bite where a DBC (Dog Behavioural Contract) has been put in place meaning the dog will be muzzled when out in public in future.

**Dwelling Burglary** - I am happy to report for the second month running they have not been any reported Dwelling Burglaries in the Fordingbridge area, however there was 1 high value one at Hale, this is part of a series of similar offences across Dorset, Wiltshire and Hampshire and progress is being made with suspects.

**BOTD** (Burglary Other Than Dwelling) there have been 4 in the past month, none in Fordingbridge itself, 2 in Blissford where garden tools were stolen from one and nothing from the other, 1 in Hyde where 3 cycles were stolen and 1 at Sandy Balls were staff are suspected of stealing cash.

**Damage** - 1 report of damage to fencing around a paddock in Burgate.

**Theft** - there have been 6 reports, 4 relate to four males stealing from Southampton Road garage, 1 relates to theft of a charity box from the Co-Op the suspect has been identified and paid the money back and received a community resolution.

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

**Suspicious Incidents** - there have been 5 reported, 1 relates to a group of kids on the roof of the old Social club, 1 relates to possible deer poaching (not confirmed), 2 relate to the homeless couple and the final one was kids playing "knock down ginger" (showing my age with that one!!! )

Crime in the Fordingbridge and surrounding villages remains relatively low, however one victim is one too many so any crime prevention house holders can do is going to be of benefit. Encourage them to sign up to Hampshire Alerts and to report any suspicious activity on 101.

Please can you remind your councillors to spread the word about the Community Priorities survey the link is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NFWestCP>.