

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on Wednesday 2nd May 2018 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall

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

Present: Cllr M Connolly – Chairman
Cllrs Adams, Lewendon, Anstey, Paton, Fulford, Wilson, Earth, Hale & Perkins

In Attendance: Mrs H Richards, Town Clerk
Mrs R Edwards, Assistant Town Clerk
Ruth Croker, Footpath Officer
Cllr Sevier, (NFDC)
Katy Griffin, Salisbury Journal
2 Members of the public

1. To elect the Town Mayor for the forthcoming year

Cllr Connolly proposed Cllr Anstey as Town Mayor and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore **RESOLVED:** to elect Cllr Anstey as Town Mayor for the forthcoming year. All in favour.

Cllr Perkins entered the meeting

Cllr Adams gave thanks on behalf of Members, to Cllr Connolly for his service as Mayor over the past 9 years.

Cllr Anstey, sign his acceptance of office as Mayor and took the Chair.

2. To elect the Deputy Mayor for the forthcoming year.

Cllr Paton proposed Cllr Hale as Deputy Mayor and it was seconded by Cllr Earth and therefore **RESOLVED:** to elect Cllr Hale as Deputy Mayor for the forthcoming year. All in favour.

3. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs White & Price & Cllr Matcham (NFDC).

4. To receive any Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

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

No matters raised

6. To confirm the minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 4th April 2018 and to report on any matters arising.

Cllr Adams proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the General Council meeting held on 4th April 2018 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

There were no matters arising.

7. To elect membership of the following committees:

- Amenities (5 + Chairman & Vice chairman)
- Finance & Policy (Full Council)
- General Purposes (5 +Chairman and Vice Chairman)

- Planning Committee (Full Council)
- Staff & Remuneration Committee (3 + Chairman & Vice Chairman)

See Appendix A for Committee Membership for the year 2018-19.

8. To confirm representatives of the following outside bodies and agree arrangements for reporting back:

- Footpath Officer
- Burgate School Community Management
- Fordingbridge Hospital Stakeholder Group
- Fordingbridge Sports Club
- FCAVG
- NFALC
- NF Consultative Panel
- NPA Quadrant Meetings
- Passenger Transport
- Twinning Association
- Victoria Rooms Committee
- Youth Action Group

See Appendix A for representatives of outside bodies for the year 2018-19.

9. Review of Council's membership of other bodies

- Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC)
- Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC)
- New Forest Association of Local Councils (NFALC)
- Hampshire Playing Fields Association
- Community First New Forest

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Connolly and therefore **RESOLVED**: to continue membership of the bodies listed above. All in favour.

10. To consider appointing a Tree Warden

Following the recent distribution of an email from Nik Gruber, Senior Tree Officer, NPA, the Chairman spoke of the importance of this role, although appreciated that the role may involve a high time commitment. Cllr Wilson agreed to contact the Tree Officer to seek further details of the role.

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

No report received for April. The Clerk reported on correspondence received through the Hampshire Alert service which gave thanks for the support of activities undertaken by Hampshire Constabulary.

Cllr Fulford reported that local residents living in the vicinity of St. Mary's Church had received letters regarding Anti-Social Behaviour in the area and requesting that any incidents are reported to the Police using the 101 facilities.

12. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

Cllr Anstey spoke about his decision to stand for the role of Mayor after careful consideration of whether he could continue to make the commitment required to be a member of the Town Council.

He stressed that times had changed, with increased responsibilities and associated workload falling on the council – he stated that this could not all fall on officers but should be

shared by Members. Cllr Anstey asked members to consider if they are able to make the commitment required to remain as members of the Council and should be prepared to undertake a larger more proactive role (not purely attending meetings). He appreciated that everyone has busy lives and time commitment was difficult, however asked that Members should consider this now, even if they do not intend to stand for election in 2019.

13. To receive a report from the County Councillor

County Councillor not present.

14. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Sevier began by thanking Cllr Connolly for the good service that he has given during his time as Town Mayor. As a local council chair herself, Cllr Sevier spoke of her understanding of Cllr Anstey's speech regarding the commitment required of Members.

Cllr Sevier then reported on the following:

- Whitsbury Road Development damage to verge – NFDC Planning have investigated and on-site parking has now been provided for construction traffic and deliveries
- Sequoia Farm – End of 3-year temporary permission for mobile home (last week) – Planning Enforcement now dealing with case
- NF Waterpark – New Homes, Planning investigating
- Fordingbridge Club – demolition works, Planning Enforcement have issued stop notice as pre-commencement archaeological conditions have not been met

Cllr Wilson queried the timescale for removal of the now unauthorised mobile home at Sequoia Farm – Cllr Sevier responded that the Enforcement process could be lengthy

The Clerk reported that following the previous discussion with District Councillors regarding the re-design of the Town Centre car park, she had met with NFDC officers and confirmed that it was the intention to hold a public exhibition in the Town Hall (organised by NFDC) of the re-design. Dog bins and dog fouling had also been discussed with officers and discussions would be ongoing.

Cllr Perkins mentioned that better directional signage was required for the car park.

Cllr Sevier & 1 Member of the public left the meeting

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

- Planning Committee 14th March 2018 & 11th April 2018 – received Cllr Fulford
- Finance & Policy Committee 25th April 2018 – received Cllr Connolly

16. To consider the request from the Festival Committee regarding free parking.

The Clerk reported on correspondence received requesting that the Council apply to New Forest DC for free parking on the day of the Summer Festival, 21st July. The Clerk also read out an email received from David Tree who organises many events in the town including the craft and food markets at the Town Hall. Mr Tree requested that the Town Council consider asking New Forest DC for free parking on all Saturdays during December to encourage Christmas shoppers into the town. NFDC allocate 4 days free parking during the year, 3 days of which are fixed and one which can be flexible if the Town Council request an alternative.

Members discussed the requests, at which time some members considered that the Festival day was better use of the free parking opportunity, others felt that festival visitors would not

spend money in the town centre but would merely walk over to the festival at the recreation ground.

Cllr Anstey proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Perkins to request NFDC to allow free parking on the day of the Summer Festival 21st July 2018.

Cllr Fulford proposed that a request should be made to NFDC for free parking on Saturday 15th December 2018 – there was no seconder to this proposal

It was therefore **RESOLVED**: to request NFDC to allow free parking on the day of the summer festival, 21st July 2018. 8 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention.

Members also agree that the Town Clerk should write to enquire about free parking on all Saturdays during December (cost implications).

17. To report on any Health & Safety issues

The Health & Safety Ambassador, Cllr Anstey reported on receipt of further documents from Ellis Whittam, namely Health & Safety Policy, Handbook and Report containing actions.

He stressed the importance for all Members to sign up to this agreement and the responsibility on the Council (all Members as a Corporate Body). The minimum requirement should be that all Members sign to acknowledge reading and accepting the document and the responsibilities contained therein. Clerk to re-issue Policy Statement.

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

Cllr Hale reported on the AGM of the Victoria Rooms Trust and confirmed that they had broken even financially. Concern had been raised regarding the ability to continue and the potential loss of the facility due to the age of the trustees.

Cllr Hale also reported on a visit on the 24th April from a conservationist regarding wildlife inhabitants at Bishops Pond. Members of the FCAVG were now debating what action, if any, should be taken at the pond. Graham Long had also expressed concern over proposed tree works (recommended in the NFDC annual tree survey) and would contact the Town Council.

Cllr Earth reported on attendance at the Twinning AGM on 26th April and the presentation by Philippa Duckworth regarding an exhibition at the museum.

Cllr Connolly confirmed that the Twinning event was very well attended, with the Town Hall at capacity.

Cllr Fulford reported on (her) proposed attendance at a Neighbourhood Planning event in May which will provide more information on how to approach the process. She also reported that the member of public who had been present earlier at this meeting, had recently moved to the area but had been involved in preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan in her previous area.

19. To note any items of correspondence

There were no items of correspondence to report.

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

The Clerk gave thanks to Cllr Conolly for his support (as Chairman) since her appointment and invited everyone at the meeting to join Cllr Connolly for a drink after the meeting.

Cllr Perkins reported that he had spoken with the NFDC Street Cleaning operative regarding the emptying of dog waste bins.

- 21. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as Wednesday 6th June 2018**