

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 8th May 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, Goldsmith, Hale, Lewendon, Mouland, Paton, Perkins, Wilson and White

In Attendance: Mrs R Edwards, Asst Town Clerk
A representative from the Salisbury Journal
A representative from the Footpath Society
A representative from the Fordingbridge Greener Living group
1 member of public

1. To elect the Town Mayor for the forthcoming year

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

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

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

Cllr Perkins proposed Cllr Hale as Deputy Mayor and it was seconded by Cllr Wilson 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 Cllr Jackson.

4. To receive any Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. To confirm the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 3rd April 2019 and to report on any matters arising.

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Perkins and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd April 2019 are signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Minute No. 14 – Cllr Lewendon reported that the SANG boardwalk has been partially resurfaced. He didn't know whether the height will be reduced or railings added.

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

No matters raised.

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 (4 + Chairman & Vice Chairman)

See Appendix A for Committee Membership for the year 2019-20.

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 2019-20.

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

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

The assistant clerk read out the following crime report for April.

	April
Anti-Social Behaviour	5
Violence against person	7
Dwelling Burglary	1
Other Burglary	0
Business Burglary	2
Damage	8
Theft	2
Theft from Vehicles	0
Suspicious Incidents	8

11. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

The Mayor is pleased for the town and the Councillors that there was an election and thanked everyone for their enthusiasm and commitment in putting their names forward. He reported that many local Councils up and down the country were unable to generate this level of interest and that it speaks volumes for the town of Fordingbridge and the character of those who put themselves forward. He said that at the start of this new Council year, there is the added motivation that every Councillor was elected to assist in the running of the town and making changes for the better.

The Mayor reported that District Councillors state their plan (manifesto) for their term in office and asked what the Town Council is planning to do for the town and for those who voted. He said to look to the individual sub-committees. He observed that it was noticeable during the election process that the public did not know who the Councillors were nor what they do. He also thought that even within the Council, there may be uncertainties as to what Councillors do in their limited spare time.

The Mayor said that one of the roles of a Town Councillor is to raise issues and report concerns. However, this can also be done by the public under the agenda item "To receive any matters raised by members of the public". He reported that the Council remains non-political. "Ask not what your Council can do for you, ask what you (the Councillor) can do for your Council and the Town."

Unlike in the political arena, every Councillor has equal status and a voice that will be listened to. He mentioned, for transparency purposes, that the Mayor will have deciding vote. The Mayor advised Councillors to enjoy the new term but not to forget that they have been elected to make a difference in the town.

12. To receive a report from the County Councillor

No report received.

13. To receive a report from the District Councillors

No report received.

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

Extraordinary Amenities Committee – 3rd April 2019 – received Cllr Anstey

Planning Committee – 10th April 2019 - received Cllr Hale

Finance & Policy Committee – 24th April 2019 - received Cllr Adams

Planning Committee – 1st May 2019 - received Cllr Lewendon

15. To consider a Skate Park Opening Ceremony

A skate park opening jam will be held on Saturday 1st June 2019 12 noon – 4pm. Councillors discussed beginning this event with an official opening and inviting all those who had been instrumental in making this happen.

It was proposed by Cllr Adams and seconded by Cllr Earth and therefore RESOLVED: to hold an official opening of the Skate Park. All in favour.

16. To consider a street market in Fordingbridge

Cllr Anstey invited a representative of the Fordingbridge Greener Living group to speak.

The Fordingbridge Greener Living group started as a Facebook forum for sharing ideas on how to live in a more environmentally sustainable way. The group has 160 members and is growing. Initiatives such as collecting empty crisp packets for recycling through Terracycle have begun and more are planned. Other ideas include community composting points and training members to become master composters, with the knowledge to help others with their composting. Also a twice annual clothes swish swap, a community fridge and repair cafes. The group would like Fordingbridge to become known as a place for living more sustainably.

The possibility of a street market in the town was raised; a place where local growers could sell their produce, perhaps initially in the summer months only. Cllr Matcham (NFDC) confirmed last year that NFDC and HCC had no objections but that the Town Council would need to initiate the process.

Cllr Adams expressed concern that a street market could take trade away from shopkeepers in the town. Cllr Perkins thought it could be beneficial for shopkeepers as more people would be drawn to the town.

It was proposed by Cllr Perkins and seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore RESOLVED: to work to reinstate a street market in Fordingbridge. 10 in favour, 1 abstention.

A new working party was formed to implement this, comprising of Cllrs Mouland, Paton, Perkins, White and Wilson. Cllr Wilson volunteered to go to the Fordingbridge Greener Living Group's meetings.

17. To report on any Health & Safety issues

Cllr Anstey reported that he will continue in his role as safety ambassador for the Council. This is a time consuming role and involves reviewing, amending and researching risk assessments for events held in the Recreation Ground.

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

Cllr White attended the Fordingbridge Events Group meeting about the Summer Festival. He reported that the plans for the festival are going really well.

Cllr Wilson attended the allotment committee meeting. She reported that the allotment judging will be done by outside judges and cups will be awarded for the winners.

19. To note any items of correspondence

Following complaints on Facebook about the parking on Salisbury Street and subsequent obstruction to traffic and danger to pedestrians, a local resident has started a petition calling on Fordingbridge Town Council and New Forest District Council to implement 24 hour parking restrictions along Salisbury Street and to provide a safe space for deliveries (Delivery Only Bay). Cllr White has previously reported that the fire truck had struggled to get past parked cars to respond to a call from Pembridge House. This matter will be discussed as an agenda item at the General Council meeting on 5th June, which Cllr Edward Heron (HCC) is expected to attend.

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

The Assistant Clerk reported that in the run up to the elections, the office was contacted by voters wishing to find out more about candidates standing for election. She reminded members that the office isn't able to send out information on candidates due to having to adhere to the rules on purdah and that individual candidates should be canvassing in future elections. There was also the logistical difficulty of the office not having contact details for every candidate standing.

Cllr Perkins reported that he'd received continuous complaints about the car park today. A large section is closed due to the car park redevelopment, people can't find space to park, and he'd had the worst day's trading in over ten years. Cllr Wilson asked that in light of the disruption to the town, Fordingbridge be given free parking days.

Action: Clerk to write to NFDC and ask for free parking.

21. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as Wednesday 5th June 2019

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

APPENDIX A

2019-20

Members of the Council may be contacted via the Town Council Office on 01425 654134 or town.clerk@fordingbridge.gov.uk

Members of the Town Council

Cllr Paul Anstey – Town Mayor
Cllr Edward Hale – Deputy Mayor
Cllr Malcolm Adams
Cllr Patricia Earth
Cllr Nobby Goldsmith
Cllr Mike Jackson
Cllr Alan Lewendon
Cllr John Mouland
Cllr Diane Paton
Cllr Brian Perkins
Cllr Anna Wilson
Cllr Pete White

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr. A. Lewendon
Cllr J Mouland
Cllr. D. Paton
Cllr. B. Perkins
Cllr. P. White
Cllr. P. Anstey) ex-
Cllr. E. Hale) officio

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Cllr. M. Adams
Cllr P. Earth
Cllr L. Goldsmith
Cllr M. Jackson
Cllr. A. Wilson
Cllr. P. Anstey) ex-
Cllr. E. Hale) officio

FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE

All members of the Council

PLANNING COMMITTEE

All members of the Council

STAFF & REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

Cllr M. Adams

Cllr A. Lewendon

Cllr. B. Perkins

Cllr A. Wilson

Cllr. P. Anstey) ex-

Cllr. E. Hale) officio

TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Cllr P. Earth

Cllr L. Goldsmith

Cllr A. Lewendon

Cllr. A. Wilson

Up to 1 other member of the Council

REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Burgate School Community Management | Cllr D. Paton |
| • Footpath Officer | Ruth Croker |
| • Fordingbridge Hospital Stakeholder Group | Cllr Lewendon |
| • Fordingbridge Sports Club | Cllr J. Mouland |
| • FCAVG | Cllr E. Hale |
| • HALC | Cllr P. Anstey & <i>Vacancy</i> |
| • NFALC | Cllr P. Anstey & <i>Vacancy</i> |
| • N F Consultative Panel | <i>Vacancy</i> |
| • NPA Quadrant meetings | <i>Vacancy</i> |
| • Passenger Transport | Cllr A. Lewendon |
| • Twinning Association | Cllr D. Paton |
| • Victoria Rooms Committee | Cllr E. Hale |
| • Youth Action Group | Cllr D. Paton & Cllr P. White |