

**FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at 7.30pm in the Victoria Rooms**

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

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

**In Attendance:** Mr P Goddard, Town Clerk  
Mrs R Edwards, Asst Town Clerk  
Cllr Edward Heron (HCC)  
Cllr Ann Servier (NFDC)  
Cllr Ann Bellows (NFDC)  
Katy Griffin, Salisbury Journal  
18 members of the public

Mayor Anstey welcomed the newly elected Councillors, Councillor Ann Bellows (NFDC) and Cllr Mike Jackson (FTC) to their first General Council meeting at Fordingbridge Town Council. He reminded the public that although this would be a meeting held in public, it was not a public meeting, although the meeting would take issues raised by members of the public in a timely manner.

**1. To receive any apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Paton.

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

Cllr Adams declared an interest in agenda item 9 – To receive an update on parking in Salisbury Street as he owns property in Salisbury Street. Cllr Adams stated he would remain in the meeting but not speak.

**3. To confirm the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on Wednesday 8th May 2019 and to report on any matters arising**

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Mouland and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019 are signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

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

No matters raised.

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

The Assistant Clerk read the following report from the neighbourhood policing team.

### **Total occurrences reported: 65 , 32 of which were recordable as crimes**

**Anti-Social Behaviour (6).** 4 ASB reports relating to community impact all in connection with a neighbour dispute, 1 personal from an assisted living property and 1 relating to the benches at Round hill car park

**Violence Against the Person (6)** 3 relating to the same incident of a fight between persons known to each other, 2 were domestic related and 1 connected to a mental health episode.

**Dwelling Burglary (1)** Items taken from inside a premises, no signs of entry to a locked and secure dwelling.

**Burglary Other Than Dwelling (3)** Ride on mower and quad bike taken from secure barn (Mower located in a van close by), power tools taken from a garage and a mountain bike a alloys taken from a shed

**Business Burglary (0)**

**Damage (3)** 1 of a rear car windscreen being smash, 1 of a hole in an outer window pane and 1 was domestic related

**Theft (2)** 1 relating to a phone and purse being taken while from a local water park and 1 of an attempted theft of copper pipe.

**Theft from motor vehicles (0)**

**Suspicious Incidents (4)** 2 separate incidents of suspicious vehicles driving around, 1 of an apparent drug dealer in the area and 1 of a possible rogue trader

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

The Mayor reported that it had been a good month for Fordingbridge and detailed the recent achievements in the town.

- The car park is now finished and the lines painted
- Scaffolding has gone up at the Town Hall
- Skate Park opening ceremony was a great success
- Museum is now reopened with touch screens
- Funding meeting regarding changing rooms at the Recreation Ground
- Parking meeting with NFDC regarding parking on Salisbury Street, Fordingbridge.
- Re-enactment of the Haywain painting organised by the Events Committee. The Mayor thanked the Events Committee for organising this.

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

Cllr Edward Heron reported that Hampshire County Council is carrying out a consultation caeled Balancing the Budget, open from 5<sup>th</sup> June – 17<sup>th</sup> July; looking for ways to make savings and considering which areas need to be prioritised.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/balancing-the-budget>

Hampshire County Council is asking for residents' and stakeholders' views on ways to balance its budget, in response to growing demands on council services and continuing pressures on local government funding.

By April 2021, the County Council will be facing an anticipated budget shortfall of £80 million. With less money available and growing demand for council services, decisions will need to be made about what it can and cannot provide in the future. It is required by law to deliver a balanced budget and therefore cannot plan to spend more than is available.

The County Council would like to hear your views on the following options for balancing its budget, as well as any alternatives that the public may wish to propose:

- introducing and increasing charges for some services
- encouraging central Government to make legislative changes
- generating additional income
- continuing to use the County Council's reserves prudently
- reducing and changing services
- increasing Council Tax
- changing local government arrangements in Hampshire.

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

Cllr Ann Sevier had no report to give but said she was willing to answer questions. Cllr Wilson raised concerns about the land adjoining Marl Lane and Puddleslosh Lane. She reported that an enforcement notice was put on Sequoia Farm a year ago but that nothing had changed. The land in between Lone Star Ranch and Sequoia Farm is heavily populated with buildings; there is a mobile home and shipping containers on the land and people live on site. There is an article 4 notice on the fences and gates. Penny Farthing builders have the option to buy this land.

Cllr Sevier will report these concerns to the Enforcement Officer.

### **9. To receive an update on parking in Salisbury Street**

A petition has been created by a member of the public regarding the parking along Salisbury Street and the obstruction this causes to traffic, especially the larger vehicles such as lorries and the X3 bus, and the resultant danger to pedestrians. Ten years ago his car was crushed between two lorries on Salisbury Street. More recently a motorbike rider was knocked off his bike and a lady was almost knocked over on the zebra crossing. He is concerned that someone will lose their life on this street in a similar way to the three year old boy who died on a zebra crossing in Wareham. He stated that the petition is not against Fordingbridge Town Council, but rather he wanted Fordingbridge Town Council's support in implementing changes.

Cllr Anstey reported that there had been a meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> June regarding parking on Salisbury Street and attended by the petition creator, Fordingbridge Town Council, New Forest District Council and Hampshire County Council.

Statements and questions followed from the floor.

1. Salisbury Street needs the current parking restrictions enforced. There are vehicles which park on double yellow lines.
2. Traffic wardens regularly check the cars parked in the car park, why not also check the streets for illegal parking at the same time? Cllr Heron responded that the wardens do indeed do both. He reminded the meeting that the District Council undertakes regular patrols and that wardens must wait five minutes before being allowed to issue a ticket. If the public have specific examples of regular or persistent illegal parking, then please email Cllr Heron [edward.heron@hants.gov.uk](mailto:edward.heron@hants.gov.uk) pictures with date and time stamps that also show the restriction markings. Information that a vehicle regularly parks somewhere contravening the restrictions is of use as enforcement officers can monitor the location at the times advised, simply sending pictures of vehicles that may or may not be contravening a restriction is of little practical use.
3. The residents of the new houses behind the old butcher's shop on Salisbury Street bought their houses on the understanding they could park along the road.
4. The new development has been poorly managed. Simply painting double yellow lines on the road pushes the problem elsewhere. Cllr Anstey advised that the development was approved by NFDC, the Town Council has no responsibility for parking. Cllr Heron responded that even if NFDC hadn't approved the development, it would have had to be approved on appeal. The developers must consider parking issues. There is a 20 hour wait limit in the car park.
5. Salisbury Street should be a one-way only road.
6. A resident of the new development on Salisbury Street wants the 20 hour car park limit lifted. She has received four parking tickets as a result of accidentally going over the 20 hours and as a result, no longer uses the car park. She reported that she has received verbal abuse when parking on other residential streets. She asked whether there could be a residents' parking permit system for the few it affected. Cllr Heron responded that there would be no residents' permits. He also reported potential problems with 24 hour parking as people could live in their cars in the car park.
7. A resident of the Salisbury Street development reported that most residents don't actually park on the road. She thought the main problem occurred on a Wednesday evening when a choir rehearsed at the URC, also throughout the week customers park outside the Chinese takeaway on the corner.
8. Could the delivery times be restricted along Salisbury Street so lorries are not allowed to deliver during busy periods? The organiser of the petition reported that there were planning restrictions in place to prevent deliveries before 7am, however between 7am and 8am was a peak time for traffic and pedestrians. Tesco have been willing to adapt previously.

Cllr Anstey thanked the public for raising these issues.

15 members of the public left the meeting at the end of this agenda item.

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

- Amenities Committee – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019 – received Cllr Moulard
- General Purposes Committee – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019 – received Cllr Wilson

- Finance & Policy Committee – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019 – received Cllr Adams

### **11. To agree a response to the Gambling Act Policy Consultation**

Cllr Anstey proposed a response to the consultation saying that Fordingbridge Town Council is happy with the statement. This was agreed by members.

Action: Town Clerk to submit response to the Gambling Act Policy Consultation.

### **12. To report on any Health & Safety issues**

Cllr Anstey reported that the Whippets Camp are set up and organised for their annual camp which begins tomorrow.

The Town Clerk reported that Ellis Whittam will carry out a Health and Safety review on 17<sup>th</sup> June.

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

Cllr Moulard attended the Rugby Club AGM

Cllr Perkins visited Forres Sandle Manor School

Cllr Wilson attended the Fordingbridge Greener Living introductory meeting. She reported that the new community fridge had been delivered to the library. There are eleven volunteers who will collect food from the Co-op and place it in the fridge. Anyone who uses the food bank will be able to take food from the community fridge.

Cllr Hale attended the following meetings

15<sup>th</sup> May – day centre meeting. Cllr Hale reported that the day centre is low on members.

16<sup>th</sup> May – Victoria Room Trustee meeting. There are new bookings.

21<sup>st</sup> May – Fordingbridge Conservation Group volunteer meeting. The trees at Bishops Pond have rot and fungus growing. There will be an open day on 25<sup>th</sup> August.

Cllr Anstey attended the following meetings

20<sup>th</sup> May - Avonway AGM

21<sup>st</sup> May - Forres Sandle Manor school      Visits (new Head Jody Wells)

23<sup>rd</sup> May - Fordingbridge Museum      (New touch screen, funded by Co-Op)

24<sup>th</sup> May - Meeting with NFDC (RUF & FA)      (Funding for pavilion / changing rooms)

1<sup>st</sup> June - Open Skatepark

1<sup>st</sup> June - Sandy Balls (Away Resorts)      (Invitation to Launch of new site)

4<sup>th</sup> June - Meeting NFDC      (Parking Salisbury Street)

4<sup>th</sup> June - Fordingbridge Rugby AGM

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

A Facebook message was received regarding the lack of signage to the car park. It was reported that the small signs are easy to miss and many visitors are unaware there is a car park in Fordingbridge.

The Clerk read an email raising concerns over road safety in the High Street in Fordingbridge. The correspondent reported several near misses involving the pedestrian crossing and has serious concerns over people's safety. He asked whether a pelican crossing might be considered instead.

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

The Town Clerk gave an update on the Town Hall works. The scaffolding has been completed and the clock faces removed.

Cllr Adams reported that there will be a service to commemorate the ending of the First World War on 28<sup>th</sup> June at 11am where the new memorial stone will be unveiled.

Cllr Perkins asked about the new car park signage that he understood was going to be put up as part of the car park redevelopment. Cllr Ann Sevier will follow this up with NFDC and reported that the aim is to reduce the number of cars entering the car park at Roundhill by directing vehicles along the High Street instead. Cllr Adams and Lewendon thought it better to direct traffic via Roundhill to avoid extra traffic on the High Street. Cllr Sevier will find out from NFDC which way they intend to direct traffic.

Cllr Perkins reported that The Fig Tree Café in Fordingbridge is due to close imminently due to loss of business. This was blamed on the recent closure of the bridge for roadworks, followed immediately by the car park redevelopment which discouraged a lot of people from driving into Fordingbridge. Cllr Wilson asked if free parking days could be given to encourage people to use local businesses. Cllr Sevier (NFDC) reported that there would be no free parking days.

Cllr Jackson highlighted the Fordingbridge Festival on 20<sup>th</sup> July. Fordingbridge Town Council will take a pitch to promote the Council.

**16. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as Wednesday 3rd July 2019**

The meeting closed at 8.21pm.