

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 5th February 2020 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, Moulard, Paton, Perkins & Wilson

In Attendance: Mr P Goddard, Town Clerk
Mrs R Edwards, Asst Town Clerk
Cllr Sevier (NFDC)
Cllr Bellows (NFDC)
A representative from the Salisbury Journal
Two members of the public representing the Men's Shed Association in Fordingbridge

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr White, Cllr Jackson and Cllr Heron (HCC).

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest

3. To confirm the minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 8th January 2020 and to report on any matters arising

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Earth and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the General Council meeting held on the 8th January 2020 are signed as a true record. All in favour.

No matters arising

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

The members of the public spoke about plans for a Men's Shed in Fordingbridge, quoting from the website <https://menssheds.org.uk/about/what-is-a-mens-shed/>:

“Men's Sheds are similar to garden sheds – a place to pursue practical interests at leisure, to practise skills and enjoy making and mending. The difference is that garden sheds and their activities are often solitary in nature while Men's Sheds are the opposite. They're about social connections and friendship building, sharing skills and knowledge, and of course a lot of laughter. Sheds are whatever the members want them to be. Although labelled sheds, they often aren't sheds at all. They can be empty offices, portable cabins, warehouses, garages, and in at least one case, a disused mortuary. Some Sheds are purpose-built workshops, but they rarely start out that way. Many don't have premises at all in the beginning and instead form a group that meets regularly for the social connection, company and camaraderie until they can find somewhere to kit out with tools. Many Sheds get involved in community projects too – restoring village features, helping maintain parks and green spaces, and building things for schools, libraries and individuals in need. Activities in Sheds vary greatly, but you can usually find woodworking, metalworking, repairing and restoring, electronics, model buildings or even car building in a typical Shed. Sheds typically attract older men, but many have younger members and women too. Whatever the

activity, the essence of a Shed is not a building, but the connections and relationships between its members.”

They reported that there is a great deal of support from locals and from businesses for this project which has been growing over the past eighteen months, however there is still a need for premises for a Men’s Shed in Fordingbridge. They voiced concerns that if the Ringwood Men’s Shed started first, then local support would be transferred to Ringwood instead.

The members of the public asked that the Council consider the land and premises they own and whether there could be somewhere the Men’s Shed could use. They mentioned the old toilet block in the Recreation Ground and the land behind the Town Hall.

Cllr Sevier reported that if a new site is used then planning permission will need to be considered. It would need to be somewhere that people can park their cars.

The Clerk reported that a lease for the old toilet block was drawn up with the rugby club for the club to use the old toilet block for storage. However, plans are currently being drawn up for the Pavilion which may meet the storage needs of the Rugby Club, in which case the Rugby Club may no longer need the old toilet block. The members of the public asked if it would be possible to bid against the rugby club. They said there are lots of facilities for the Sports Clubs in Fordingbridge, but nothing like a Men’s Shed. Cllr Anstey said that the Men’s Shed representatives could visit the toilet block with the Groundsman to see what state it is in. He reported that Fordingbridge Town Council supported the Men’s Shed and had always said they would support them.

The members of the public left the meeting.

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

December - Total occurrences reported: 48, 26 of which were recordable as crimes

Anti-Social Behaviour (4) 1 relating to a person seen to be tampering with a car park meter and 3 separate neighbour disputes.

Violence Against the Person (3) 1 relating to an incident at a care home and 2 domestic related.

Dwelling Burglary (2) 1 was an attempt with no access gained and 1 where an untidy search has been carried out and items stolen

Burglary Other Than Dwelling (0)

Business Burglary (1) Attempted entry to a vehicle workshop

Damage (5) 1 incident of a wing mirror being broken off of a vehicle, 1 of a car being scratched, 1 relating to an outside lamp being damaged on a business property and 2 in connection with an incident of shop items being damaged and threats being made during arrest.

Theft (0)

Theft from motor vehicles (2) 2 reports of theft of tools from the back of a van.

Suspicious Incidents (3) 1 of a van being parked up on the A338, 1 relating to a handbag and other items being found and 1 of a group of youths running down the road.

January - Total occurrences reported: 90, 35 of which were recordable as crimes

Anti-Social Behaviour (2) Report of possible drug dealing and 1 report of a car being egged.

Violence against the Person (5) 1 relating to an assault of an officer, 1 of an altercation between 2 persons known to each other and 3 domestic related incidents.

Dwelling Burglary (1) 1 incident where entry has been gained and items taken (3 arrests made and investigation ongoing)

Burglary Other Than Dwelling (0)

Business Burglary (3) 1 attempted entry to a vehicle workshop office, 2 of holiday homes being entered and items being taken and 1 of a digger being taken from an industrial estate.

Damage (6) 3 relating to damaged wing mirrors, 1 attempted entry to a car wash coin holder, 1 of a damaged lock on a multi occupancy building and 1 domestic related incident.

Theft (3) 1 incident of a credit card being used by unknown persons, 1 of lead theft from a canopy and 1 incident of shoplifting.

Theft from motor vehicles (1) 1 report of theft of tools from the back of a van.

Suspicious Incidents (11) various reports relating to persons and vehicles.

Between 25th and 30th January a number of reports were received of a male exposing himself to people on a public footpath. A 49 year old male has been arrested by local officers in relation to this and investigations are currently ongoing.

6. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

11 Jan – The Mayor officially opened the new community fridge. The Mayor thanked Fordingbridge Greener Living for their great effort.

The Mayor thanked the Council for their involvement in organising a litter pick for the Great British Spring Clean (date TBC).

The Mayor reported on the Party in the Park to celebrate VE day on Friday 8th May and thanked Councillors for their involvement in this.

The Mayor gave feedback on the new eye health check which isn't available at Fordingbridge surgery but at branches of Specsavers instead. He reported that when needed it really works.

Cllr Adams asked whether a local opticians could have a contract to provide this service, rather than parishioners needing to travel to a SpecSavers, the closest of which is in Ringwood. Cllr Earth reported that the local opticians in Fordingbridge has a scanning machine. Cllr Anstey agreed that someone else had to drive if you needed your eyes examined in Ringwood.

7. To receive a report from the County Councillor

No report received.

8. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Sevier reported that there is an electoral review for the next election of district councillors in this area. The number of District Councillors will be reduced to 49 in the New Forest which will result in an increased workload. The boundaries will change at the next election.

Cllr Bellows reported that she has taken a particular interest in planning. She and Cllr Sevier met with a planning officer regarding the local plan and all of her questions were addressed. She reported that there were issues arising from outside the area – Dorset Council is now split in two and each needs its own development plans.

Cllr Wilson asked whether the Head of Planning could answer the Clerk's questions about Sunnyside Farm and 46 Whitsbury Road. Cllr Sevier reported that the NFDC had referred 46 Whitsbury Road to its legal department. She said that the decision to grant permission to stay at Sunnyside Farm was not what she wanted. Cllr Wilson reported that in 2015 there were shipping containers only at Sunnyside Farm and no stable block; the development didn't begin until after planning permission had expired and this was unlawful development. Cllr Sevier said that the planning inspector and the legal department at the NFDC had overruled this. Cllr Wilson reported that an enforcement officer visited on Monday and will make an appointment to return.

Cllr Lewendon asked about parking, both on-road and off-road, and whether the contract will pass from NFDC to HCC. Cllr Sevier said that she wanted to join the task and finish group on this matter, it's all under negotiations regarding the Service Level Agreement, the contract runs from April – March and nothing has been decided yet. Cllr Lewendon reported that Cllr Heron (HCC) is delaying discussions about Salisbury Street parking and the obstructions caused, as a result of the responsibilities for parking enforcement being unknown going forward.

Cllr Bellows reported that she has joined a health and well-being group, working with different agencies to improve health and well-being. She thought the idea of the man-shed brilliant. Cllr Anstey reported that public support makes it easier to get public money and wondered whether the man-shed committee should publicise themselves more.

Cllrs Bellows and Sevier left the meeting.

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

- Planning Committee – 15th January 2020 – received Cllr Hale
- Amenities Committee – 22nd January 2020 – received Cllr Moulard
- General Purposes Committee 22nd January 2020 – received Cllr Wilson
- Finance & Policy Committee – 29th January 2020 – received Cllr Adams

10. To formally consider arrangements for VE Day

The Clerk reported that Cllr White is working on plans for the Party in the Park to celebrate VE day on 8th May. A meeting was held last week with representatives from the Council and Fordingbridge Events Group. There will potentially be three local bands playing. The organisers will come up with a cost and approach the Council for funding.

Cllr Wilson has asked that bunting be made by locals and hung from the catenary wires across the streets in Fordingbridge. Ian Newman has quoted the cost of hanging and taking down the

bunting as between £650 and £750. Hampshire Highways have confirmed that no special qualifications are necessary for hanging bunting, provided all the conditions of consent are met.

11. To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk reported that the neighbourhood plan is becoming a dual action plan. The first part being the official Neighbourhood Plan of Fordingbridge Town Council which will take up to two years to complete and would become an official planning document of NFDC. It could influence the development of the three strategic sites in Fordingbridge. Outside of these three sites the Council could decide how other areas could be developed, namely the Recreation Ground, the sporting facilities adjacent to Burgate School, the future of the drill hall and the possibility of creating a by-pass from the Sandleheath Industrial Site.

The second part of the plan would provide a document that the Town Council could use as a forward plan. Dialogue has been opened with the Clinical Commissioning Group and the main developers; Pennyfarthing Homes, Brian Currie, Metis Homes and Infinite Homes. Discussions involving the business community and Burgate School have begun. A local expert on planning and environmental issues will consider how heavy traffic from Sandleheath can be routed away from the town centre. The Town Council has approved a new website which will be the main means of communication with the town.

Councillors discussed the possibility of the neighbourhood plan having its own Facebook page and the need for it to be done well. The Clerk raised the need for comment to be controlled by the Council. Cllr Paton suggested that pupils at Burgate School could run the Facebook page.

12. To report on any Health & Safety issues

No issues to report.

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

Cllrs Wilson and Anstey attended the Fordingbridge Greener Living meeting; subjects included a new repair café and tree planting in Fordingbridge. Cllr Wilson took a copy of FTC's tree policy to the meeting.

Cllr Paton attended a meeting of the Twinning Association. She reported that tickets for Saturday's murder mystery evening are available for sale at £15 per person. Mayor Anstey will present prizes at the Twinning Association's AGM on the evening of 23rd April.

Cllrs Earth, Jackson, Mouland, White and Wilson attended a meeting with the Fordingbridge Events Group to discuss plans for the celebration of VE day on 8th May.

14. To note any items of correspondence

No items of correspondence to report.

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

Cllr Perkins reported that former Councillor, David Price, had been unwell in hospital recently.

15. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as Wednesday 4th March 2020 in the Town Hall

The meeting closed at 8:26 p.m.