

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 8th January 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, Jackson, Lewendon, Mouland, Paton, Perkins, White & Wilson

In Attendance: Mr P Goddard, Town Clerk
Mrs R Edwards, Asst Town Clerk
Cllr Bellows (NFDC)
A representative from the Salisbury Journal
One member of the public

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Sevier (NFDC) and Cllr Herron (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 4th December 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 General Council meeting held on the 4th December 2020 are signed as a true record. All in favour.

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

No report received.

6. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

[Cllrs Perkins and White joined the meeting]

The Mayor commented on the responsibility of the Chair to run forums that make decisions and the importance of preparation by attendees to allow debate and to make decisions.

The Mayor attended the following:

6th December – Afternoon Tea at the Town Hall. The Mayor thanked all those involved in organising the event.

9th December – The NW Quadrant meeting

11th December – A meeting to consider the refurbishment of the Pavilion

17th December – The Day Centre Christmas lunch

21st December – A meeting at ‘The Branch’

The Mayor noted the passing of Dr Edgar Moss, a lead figure in the community who was involved with the Fordingbridge Society.

7. To receive a report from the County Councillor

No report received.

8. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Bellows informed the meeting that she is now sitting on the NFDC Environmental Committee which is considering the impact of fireworks and bonfires (particularly those burning waste) and the ensuing impact on the environment.

Cllr Sevier had provided a brief report in response to questions raised by town councillors. The Clerk reported that Cllr Sevier was happy to provide input regarding a Neighbourhood Plan and provided Cllr Sevier's thoughts regarding doctors and transport concerns. Regarding planning conditions, the Clerk summarised Cllr Sevier's views that it was for the applicant to ensure that planning conditions were adhered to and if these are not met anyone can report that to the NFDC. Each matter will be considered on its own merits. An applicant will be notified of any conditions and any matters that should be considered should be reported to the NFDC in advance of the setting of those conditions. If conditions are not met then this may have implications when selling the property. Cllr Wilson said that enforcement was in place for a reason and if planning is not enforced it will impact on public confidence.

Cllrs discussed putting the conditions of planning applications on the Town Council website. Cllr Bellows advised that the NFDC published all it was required to on its website and that it was working on keeping interested parties informed. With the Neighbourhood plan progressing, the Town Council should continue to ask questions of the NFDC planning department as the Town Council has relevant local knowledge. Cllr Hale noted that the Town Council report planning decisions but does not look at the detail of the conditions. Cllrs discussed the process of monitoring and enforcement of planning conditions. Cllr Anstey noted the resource issue of the NFDC and said that the monitoring of conditions should be put on a planning committee agenda.

Action: Clerk to put on planning agenda to discuss

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

- Planning Committee – 11th December 2019 – received Cllr Hale

10. To ratify decisions made at Finance & Policy (28th August 2019) to approve the revised Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore RESOLVED: to ratify the decisions made at Finance & Policy (28th August 2019) to approve the revised Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. All in favour.

11. To agree alternative plans for S106 Funds in the event that the March deadline cannot be met.

The Clerk reported that progress was being made to utilise the allocated s106 funds on the refurbishment of the Pavilion but suggested that, in the event that it was not possible to proceed with those plans, it would be prudent to agree an alternative use of those funds at the Recreation Ground. Cllrs discussed using the funds for play equipment, a new multi-use games area or to improve the car park. Cllrs agreed that play equipment would be the preferred alternative use of funds, followed by improving the car park. Cllr Moulard commented that if it was not possible to utilise the s106 funds to refurbish the Pavilion then it might be possible to use CIL funds for that purpose.

12. To discuss arrangements for VE Day

Cllrs discussed the nature of events to mark the anniversary of VE Day both on 8th May 2020 and on the following Sunday (10th May 2020). Cllrs noted that a service was proposed for the Sunday and discussed whether there should be a parade and road closure. Cllrs did not feel there was an appetite for a parade but felt that a service with the laying of wreaths would be appropriate to mark VE Day on the Sunday. On 8th May Cllrs discussed having an event potentially organised in conjunction with the Fordingbridge Events Group. Cllr White suggested having a picnic in the park event at the Recreation Ground. Cllrs also discussed referencing VE Day when the tree trunk in the Recreation Ground was carved.

13. To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Jackson updated Cllrs regarding his meetings with architects, developers and the NFDC in relation to a Neighbourhood Plan. He also updated Cllrs regarding the first meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan committee and talked about the need for an updated website to incorporate the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Jackson also spoke about the opportunity to move forward and to widen the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan to incorporate a total plan for the future of the town. Cllr Anstey thanked Cllr Jackson for the work that he has undertaken to progress the Neighbourhood Plan.

14. To report on any Health & Safety issues

No issues to report.

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

Cllr Moulard attended the meeting on 11th December 2019 regarding the refurbishment of the Pavilion.

16. To note any items of correspondence

The Clerk noted as correspondence a report from a member of the public that was involved in the Christmas event road closure that had previously been circulated to Cllrs.

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

Cllr Paton suggested that the Lengthsman should cut back the undergrowth under the bridge by West Street.

Cllr Moulard referred to the fallen tree at the Recreation Ground. Cllr Anstey reported that the tree was being dealt with and had been reported to the Environment Agency and the Council will inspect the site.

18. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as Wednesday 5th February 2020 in the Town Hall

The meeting closed at 8:16 p.m.