

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 13th May 2020 at 7.30pm
Held remotely using appropriate technology in accordance with The Local Authorities and Police and Crimes Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (“the 2020 Regulations”) which came into force on 4th April 2020.

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

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

In Attendance: Mr Paul Goddard, Town Clerk
Mrs R Edwards, Asst Town Clerk
Cllr Anne Bellows, (NFDC District Councillor)
A representative from the Salisbury Journal
A representative from the Footpath Society

1. To elect the Town Mayor for the forthcoming year

Cllr Lewendon proposed Cllr Hale as Town Mayor and it was seconded by Cllr Earth
Cllr Mouland proposed Cllr White as Town Mayor and it was seconded by Cllr Anstey
There were no other nominations
Cllrs **RESOLVED:** to elect Cllr Hale as Town Mayor for the forthcoming year by six votes to five.
Cllr Hale accepted the office of Mayor and took the Chair.

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

Cllr Adams proposed Cllr Wilson as Deputy Mayor and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon
Cllr White proposed Cllr Mouland as Deputy Mayor and it was seconded by Cllr Paton
There were no other nominations
Cllrs **RESOLVED:** to elect Cllr Wilson as Deputy Mayor for the forthcoming year by seven votes to four.
Cllr Wilson accepted the office of Deputy Mayor.

3. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Perkins.

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 6th May 2020 and to report on any matters arising.

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Mouland and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 6th May 2020 are signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Minute No. 12 – The Town Clerk confirmed that he had written to Pennyfarthing Homes regarding the gates and the handrails at the Whitsbury Road SANG.

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)
- Transport Committee

See Appendix A for Committee Membership for the year 2020-21.

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

- Burgate School Community Management
- Footpath Officer
- Fordingbridge Hospital Stakeholder Group
- Fordingbridge Sports Club
- FCAVG
- HALC
- NFALC
- N F Consultative Panel
- NPA Quadrant meetings
- Passenger Transport
- Twinning Association
- Victoria Rooms Committee
- Western Escarpment Steering Group
- Youth Action Group

See Appendix A for representatives of outside bodies for the year 2020-21.

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)
- Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM)
- Hampshire Playing Fields Association
- Community First New Forest
- Go New Forest

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Adams 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

No report was received

11. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

Cllr Hale thanked Cllrs for the honour of electing him as Mayor. He acknowledged that it has been a difficult year for the town but said he was proud of the way the town had been dealing with the current situation. The Council needs to continue to work with other organisations and bodies to help the town. Cllr Hale identified four particular matters that he would like to see progressed during the forthcoming year: The Neighbourhood Plan, the Pavilion refurbishment, reviewing the Christmas Lights now the current contract has finished and the location of the Town Councils staff as he felt it important that the staff should be together.

12. To receive a report from the County Councillor

No report received.

13. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Bellows congratulated Cllr Hale on his appointment as Mayor. She had not prepared a formal report but did want to report the dangerous condition of the planter outside the Co-Operative.

Action: Town Clerk to write to the Co-Operative re the planter

14. To agree the Pavilion refurbishment

Cllr White proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Mouland and therefore RESOLVED: to proceed with the single storey extension and refurbishment of the changing rooms. All in favour. The Town Clerk advised that it was hoped the project could go out to tender and the work commence in late Summer.

15. To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Jackson expressed disappointment that the District Council seemed only interested in achieving housing numbers. The Town Council should be looking to influence matters such as pathway and leisure spaces. Whilst the Town Council may be too late to benefit from the uplift in CIL the process will allow the Council to engage with residents and that is still very valid. Cllr Jackson will call the Steering Group together to look at how to proceed and will report back. Cllr Wilson commented on the footpath and cycle ways and said it was time for the Council to be firm and make it clear to the District Council what the residents of the town want and suggested one larger area of open space, the T'Railway and for footpaths to be upgraded. Cllr Jackson commented on the lack of opportunity for commercial sites as the primary focus was to provide housing and referred to a proposed meeting with the head of planning at the NFDC. Cllr Bellows acknowledged the comments and said that she would liaise with the head of planning to arrange a meeting. Cllrs discussed the importance of obtaining a survey of residents to obtain their views regarding open spaces and footpaths which could then be presented to the NFDC. Cllrs discussed the best way to obtain residents' views including survey platforms and an interactive element to the Town Council's new website. Cllrs also discussed obtaining some plans so that the Council and residents can clearly see the overall development proposed and could consider what they wanted regarding open spaces and footpaths. Cllrs agreed that Cllr Jackson should proceed to ask BrightSpace architects to prepare some plans for consideration.

16. To report on any Health & Safety issues

The Town Clerk reported on the planning taking to place to reopen the Information Office safely including preparing a risk assessment and obtaining quotes for screening. Cllr Paton asked whether the NFDC would contribute to the cost of screening given the Town Council provides NFDC services. The Clerk reported that the NFDC were not in a position to make a contribution. Cllr Hale suggested that this could be considered in more detail at our next General Purposes committee meeting.

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

Nothing to report.

18. To note any items of correspondence

The Town Clerk referred to correspondence received from a representative of the Men's Shed group which had previously been circulated to Cllrs. The Clerk had told the representative that he would formally raise it at this meeting and advised that he would provide a full response. Cllrs discussed whether the group felt the old toilet block was a viable option and if not whether they could propose alternative sites for a shed. The Assistant Clerk referred to correspondence regarding the re-opening of the skate park which suggested that government guidance had changed and the park could re-open. Cllrs agreed that this should be looked into but felt that it would be difficult to ensure that government guidelines were being adhered to if the skate park re-opened.

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

Cllrs expressed thanks to Cllr Anstey for the all the work that he had undertaken over the last two years as Mayor.

20. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as Wednesday 3rd June 2019

The meeting closed at 8.42pm.

APPENDIX A

2020-21

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

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

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

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Cllr. M. Adams
Cllr P. Earth
Cllr L. Goldsmith
Cllr M. Jackson
Cllr. A. Lewendon
Cllr. A. Wilson) 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 P. Earth

Cllr. A. Wilson) 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 |
| • Fair Trade | Cllr D Paton |
| • Footpath Officer | Ruth Croker |
| • Fordingbridge Greener Living | Cllr A. Wilson |
| • Fordingbridge Hospital Stakeholder Group | Cllr Lewendon |
| • Fordingbridge Sports Club | Cllr J. Mouland |
| • FCAVG | Cllr E. Hale |
| • HALC | Cllr P. Anstey & Vacancy |
| • NFALC | Cllr P. Anstey & Vacancy |
| • N F Consultative Panel | Vacancy |
| • NPA Quadrant meetings | Cllr P. Anstey |
| • Passenger Transport | Cllr A. Lewendon |
| • Twinning Association | Cllr D. Paton |
| • Victoria Rooms Committee | Cllr E. Hale |
| • Western Escarpment Steering Group | Vacancy |
| • Youth Action Group | Cllr D. Paton & Cllr P. White |