

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 3rd June 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 Hale – Chairman
Cllrs Adams, Anstey, Earth, Goldsmith, 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
3 representatives from the Men’s Shed committee
2 members of public

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Heron.

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest

3. To confirm the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on Wednesday 13th May 2020 and to report on any matters arising

Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on the 13th May 2020 are signed as a true record. All in favour.

Matters arising

Agenda item 7 – In response to a question from Cllr Jackson, the Clerk confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan group was a sub-committee which sat under the Planning Committee and therefore membership did not need to be elected at the Annual Council meeting.

Agenda item 13 – The Clerk confirmed that the planter outside the Co-op is the responsibility of the NFDC and will be repaired shortly.

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.

11. To receive a proposal from the Men's Shed Committee

This item was moved forward in the agenda.

The Men's Shed committee had submitted a proposal to the Council regarding the old toilet block in the Recreation Ground being used for a Men's Shed, and this proposal had been circulated to members.

The Pavilion will be undergoing a refurbishment and it is hoped that the plans will include sufficient storage for the sports clubs' equipment. However, if permission is not granted for the pavilion plans, then it is expected that the old toilet block would be used for storage for sports equipment instead.

Cllr Jackson thought that no decision should be made on the old toilet block until after the neighbourhood plan is complete.

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Adams and therefore **RESOLVED**: that if negotiations with the sports club don't continue for any reason, then the Council would be interested in following up on the proposal from the Men's Shed; the Men's Shed would be supported in principle. 9 in favour, 2 abstentions

Councillors agreed that the Men's Shed could put in a planning application on the old toilet block but cautioned that there could be money and time lost if the project didn't proceed for any reason.

Cllr Lewendon asked if FTC could approach NFDC Planning and ask their opinion.

Action: Clerk to ask NFDC Planning Dept. their opinion on the old toilet block becoming a Men's Shed

6. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

Cllr Hale reported that Avonway Community Centre is closed and both staff are on furlough. He said that Avonway is trying to cut their heating and electricity costs and have given credit notes to their users. Avonway are seeking quotes for the roof repairs.

Cllr Hale reported that the conservation group are allowing Bishops Pond to become a wild area.

1 member of public left the meeting.

7. To receive a report from the County Councillor

No report received.

8. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Bellows reported that many trees on the Avon Valley Path to the south of Fordingbridge had been cut down by the landowners. She said that more work is planned but that the path is safe to walk on. NFDC is in communication with the landowners about the works.

Cllr Bellows reported that a meeting has been arranged between Fordingbridge Town Council and the Chief Planning Officer after concerns about lack of communication were raised at the last meeting of FTC. Cllr Bellows emphasised that she wants to work together with Fordingbridge Town Council for the good of the Fordingbridge community.

Cllr Bellows asked what was being done about the anti-social behaviour at the Recreation Ground. She had seen reports of children catching ducks, throwing stones at ducks, people jumping off the bridges and generally running rampant in the Recreation Ground and closed play areas over the weekend.

The Clerk reported that the closure of the children's play area has been increasingly disregarded. The river access from the play area was an attraction for day-trippers in the hot weather and people have been climbing the fences and locked gates to get to the water. He said that more fencing has been ordered to allow access to the public to the waterfront while still keeping the play equipment fenced off.

The Clerk reported that the anti-social behaviour is a separate problem and a police matter. He said that the toilets have now been reopened to avoid people urinating in the Recreation Ground. Signs make it clear that the toilets will be cleaned once a day only. Enhanced PPE has been provided for staff cleaners.

Cllr Jackson asked if the local plan has been signed off. Cllr Bellows confirmed it has.

The representatives from the Men's Shed Committee and the other member of public left the meeting.

Cllr Perkins joined the meeting.

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

- Amenities Committee – 20th May 2020 – received Cllr Moulard
- General Purposes Committee – 20th May 2020 – received Cllr Wilson
- Finance and Policy Committee – 27th May 2020 – received Cllr Adams

10. To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Jackson thought that the Neighbourhood Plan could be completed within the £14000 budget (£9000 government grant and £5000 reserves) and there would be no need to employ a planning consultant. He reported that the new housing would be to the north of the town but the recreation space is currently to the south. He wanted to combine any new recreation areas to make a useful feature.

Cllr Jackson raised the matter of employment land and opportunities as many people moving to the new housing developments will be first time buyers and in need of employment.

Cllr Jackson reported on potential traffic problems caused by the new developments and suggested that Salisbury Street and Salisbury Road should become one-way roads. He said this would free up the space for a proper cycleway and footpath from Burgate Fields to the town. Cllr Lewendon asked where the traffic in the other direction would go. Cllr Jackson reported that traffic including buses, could go around the by-pass. Cllr Lewendon thought that that would put a lot of pressure on the junction to the north of Salisbury Road.

Cllr Hale liked the idea of a 20mph speed limit and more yellow lines in the town.

Cllr Moulard thanked Cllr Jackson for the work he'd put into this and was pleased that NFDC would be considering all the planning applications and facilities together as one.

12. To consider the use of surveys and general consultation

Cllr Wilson reported as a result of the forthcoming developments in Fordingbridge, new open spaces would be created. She asked that a survey of residents be conducted with the aim of firstly helping to better budget for the areas that already belong to Fordingbridge Town Council, secondly to pass on the views of residents about the areas that belong to NFDC and HCC, and thirdly to find out what people want for new open spaces to help with negotiations with developers.

Cllr Jackson thought that FTC should consult on all major issues, not just on open spaces.

It was agreed that a survey on open spaces be conducted straight away and another survey on wider issues would follow. The Open Spaces survey would be promoted on the website and via local newspapers.

Action: Clerk to update Consultation Policy for approval at the next Finance and Policy meeting

13. To report on any Health & Safety issues

The Clerk reported that the toilets at the Recreation Ground have been reopened. Cllr Anstey asked that the lifebuoy housing be checked at least once a day at the weekends when the weather is good. He reported that we still await the replacement of lifebuoy number 4. Following feedback from RoSPA, Cllr Anstey suggested that the Council considers permanently fencing off the children's play area from the river.

Action: Clerk to ensure lifebuoy 4 replaced and all lifebuoy housing frequently checked

Cllr Wilson reported that vegetation at the SANG was growing over the edge of the raised walkway but contrary to residents' concerns on Facebook, she said there was no Giant Hogweed growing there. She reported however that there was Hemlock Water Dropwort and Hemlock, both of which are toxic.

Action: Asst Clerk to post on Facebook that some British plants can be poisonous

Cllr Goldsmith raised the matter of the speed of the traffic in the High Street and cars not stopping at the zebra crossing. It was agreed to find out from the local police whether a Speedwatch team of volunteers could be set up in Fordingbridge. Cllr Goldsmith said he'd volunteer.

Action: Clerk to contact police regarding the setting up of a new Speedwatch group.

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

Nothing to report.

15. To note any items of correspondence

The Clerk said that several reports of anti-social behaviour at the Recreation Ground had been received.

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

The Clerk reported that a meeting with head of planning at NFDC, Claire Upton-Brown, had been arranged for the following week. Cllr Heron and another (non-Council) member of the Neighbourhood Plan committee, will also be invited to attend.

Cllr Lewendon asked if the wording regarding filming and recording of meetings could be emphasised on the agenda for reasons of security.

Cllr Hale thanked the Clerk for keeping the Council informed of visitors to the Recreation Ground and thanked the Asst Clerk for setting up the Zoom meetings.

17. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as Wednesday 1st July 2020

The meeting closed at 8:48p.m.