

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 26th May 2021 at 7.00pm

The meeting took place in a virtual environment using “Zoom” video conferencing technology and members of the public and press were given the opportunity to observe or participate in the meeting.

NOTE: Although participation in or absence from the meeting is recorded below, for legal reasons participation in this meeting by councillors does not qualify as attendance at a meeting for the purposes of the Local Government Act 1972.

PRESENT: Cllr Tony Ring, Town Mayor
Cllr Philip Day, Deputy Mayor
Cllr Andy Briers
Cllr Philip Day
Cllr Gareth Deboos
Cllr Hilary Edge
Cllr Rae Frederick
Cllr John Haywood
Cllr Jeremy Heron
Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine
Cllr Derek Scott
Cllr Glenys Turner

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Chris Wilkins, Town Clerk
Mrs Jo Hurd, Deputy Town Clerk
Cllr Michael Thierry, Hampshire County Councillor

ABSENT: Cllr Darren Loose
Cllr Gloria O’Reilly

The Town Mayor congratulated Cllr Scott on his election to the Town Council and welcomed him to his first Full Council meeting.

**C/6613
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was one member of the public present.

**C/6614
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Loose and O’Reilly.

**C/6615
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None were declared at this time. The Town Clerk reported that Cllr Scott had completed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and his Register of Interests and reminded Members that it was their responsibility to keep these up to date.

C/6616
POLICE REPORT

Inspector Mike Minnock presented his report. He said that as the country was easing out of lockdown restrictions, the Police were moving away from a focus on enforcement to the previous model of engage and explain. However, additional resources were still available for Covid patrols until the beginning of July. Additional resources had also been assigned to police events around the European Football Championships, bank holidays and school holidays in order to target local intelligence and hot spots, maintain a presence and to keep the public safe.

As expected, all Ringwood areas were seeing an increase in reported crime as we come out of lockdown, although levels were not as high as the same time last year. The number of burglaries had considerably reduced, and this was attributed to some key arrests, with 12 people currently under investigation.

Current issues of concern locally were vehicle offending, specifically catalytic converter thefts, and youth violence.

Catalytic converter theft was a national issue and operations were in progress both locally and nationally. The Neighbourhood team followed up on each theft and the number reported had reduced recently due to a key arrest. It was noted that the Police were not only targeting offenders, but were also regularly visiting scrap dealers and responding quickly to any intelligence received.

There was an increase in the number of young people in the area carrying weapons, committing assaults and antisocial behaviour, and this was sometimes linked to drug dealing and drug related harm. This was a district priority, and the Police were working with the District Council and head teachers, and bidding for funding for additional resources to address the issue.

It was noted that Cllr Kelleher had submitted questions relating to domestic abuse and that Inspector Minnock would respond in due course.

It was noted that the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner was in the process of touring various areas and was keen to understand community issues.

In response to a question regarding the importance placed on each crime type, Inspector Minnock said priorities were county wide, such as domestic abuse, hate crime, and drug related violence. However, he also set local priorities based on engagement with the public, such as attendance at these meetings.

It was noted that Carnival was hoping to proceed this year on 18 September and an event was being planned for VJ Day on 15 August, as well as the usual Fireworks and Christmas events. The Events Team would liaise with the Police on details.

Councillors commented on a road safety event for cyclists planned for 30 May. This was intended to capture cycling behaviour, educate to protect and to make cyclists aware of their impact on other road users. The impact on equestrians was noted and Inspector Minnock agreed to feed this information back to the PC who runs the events.

The issue of speeding on local roads was discussed. It was noted that the Roads Policing priorities were currently around road deaths and serious collisions. However, a Community Speed Watch initiative was being developed, with a team of volunteers trained, insured, and equipped, soon to be deployed on local roads. Inspector Minnock asked that a list of roads of concern be forwarded to Sergeant Mitchley.



The issue of theft from shops was also discussed. Inspector Minnock advised that incidents should always be reported, as they would be reviewed by the neighbourhood team. Consideration was being given to setting up a Shop Watch scheme, and this was supported.

The Councillors present noted the update provided.

C/6617

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was noted that Cllr Scott will attend a meeting of each committee as an observer and will be appointed to committees/working parties of interest at the next Full Council meeting

With regard to the minutes, it was noted that the Deputy Town Mayor closed the meeting.

The Councillors present agreed:

That the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 5th May 2021, having been circulated and amended as above, be approved and signed as a correct record.

C/6618

RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Cllr Briers presented the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meetings held on 5th May and 12th May 2021.

OS/6068 - The Town Mayor commented that there had been a discussion about parking within the cemetery. This had not been included in the minutes as it was not relevant to this item (cemetery gateway repair). The Town Clerk said he could arrange for an item to be included on a future agenda if Members wished to discuss this issue.

OS/6070 - The Town Mayor congratulated the Town Clerk on the work he had put in to preparing the vehicle and machinery replacement plan.

The Councillors present agreed:

That the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meetings held on 5th May and 12th May 2021 be received.

C/6619

PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

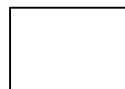
Cllr Day presented the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meetings held on 5th May and 7th May 2021.

He updated Members as follows:

P/5842 – the Steering Group had met to discuss a number of risks associated with the Neighbourhood Plan, including the review of the NFDC Local Plan Part 2, changes in national policy, and resourcing issues. It had been agreed to continue preparing the NP, although the direction and emphasis may need to change, with the four Team leads working together to move the Plan forward, without placing an inordinate burden on officers.

P/5844 – HCC was in receipt of developers' contributions to deliver both the footpath in Crow Lane (to link Beaumont Park to Hightown Road) and the surfacing of the Castleman railway east of the railway bridge. Work was in progress, but no timescales had been given.

P/5846 – the Deputy Town Clerk reported that Highways England had completed its Traffic Management Plan, although this had not yet been signed off. They were currently working on



a customer friendly version, which would be shared in July/August. Cllr Day was disappointed that, following comments made during public engagement events, the Council had not been consulted further prior to the TMP being agreed.

It was noted that the route of the SWW water pipe had been designed to cause minimum damage to the drainage system on The Bickerley, and that any interference would be reinstated.

The Councillors present agreed:

That the minutes of the Planning, Town and Environment Committee meeting on 5th May and 7th May 2021 be received.

C/6620

POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Cllr Heron presented the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meetings held on 5th May and 19th May 2021.

The Councillors present agreed:

That the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meetings held on 5th May and 19th May 2021 be received.

C/6621

SPORTS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AT LONG LANE

The Town Clerk updated Members on the project. The Football Foundation had completed a tendering exercise for the artificial grass pitch, with the price being significantly less than the architect's estimate in the original project budget. The next stage was to set up a legal framework between the Council, the Community Sports Trust and the Football Club. He hoped to present a detailed report to Policy & Finance Committee in June in the hope that Members would be able to agree to proceed to instruct solicitors. Work was progressing on the planning application with various surveys being undertaken and supporting documents prepared. It was hoped to start the tendering process for the pavilion and groundworks by the Autumn. When the tenders for all works had been agreed and awarded, and planning consent was in place, a grant application could then be submitted to the Football Foundation and a request for the release of developers' contributions submitted to NFDC.

It was noted that, although the 10-acre field had been acquired by a third party, it was expected that this would continue to be used for football as part of the development plans, and the Steering Group had agreed that there was no reason to delay the project as plans were at such an early stage.

The Councillors present noted the update provided.

ACTION C Wilkins

C/6622

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED

The Town Mayor reported:

- 1) He had met with the local MP and Police Inspector and had been assured that all concerns regarding policing have been taken seriously and acted upon.
- 2) He had written to new Police & Crime Commissioner to invite her to attend a Full Council meeting in September/October to follow up on the discussion in February 2021 with her predecessor.

--

- 3) He was due to meet Inspector Minnock with the Town Clerk to discuss using space at Ringwood Gateway for a regular and publicised Beat Surgery on a trial basis.
- 4) He had attended a meeting of Ringwood Society – it was hoped to restore the triangle of land off Castleman Way for historical purposes, as the land was previously part of the railway coal yard and included a coal bunker and railway post. Members of the Society were anxious to protect heritage and wished to see Deweys Wall repaired. A structural engineer had now looked at the wall and the report would be shared with the Council when received. The Town Mayor had also spoken to the NFDC Conservation Officer on this subject.

C/6623

REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS AND STUDENT ADVISORS

Cllr Day reported that residents concerned about speeding in Christchurch Road were preparing a petition calling for speed reduction and a formal pedestrian crossing. Cllr Rippon-Swaine advised that Christchurch Road had been surveyed by HCC about 5 years ago, resulting in the speed limit being reduced by 10mph. The Town Mayor said that he had discussed the issue of speeding with the Police and hoped that the establishment of a Speed Watch scheme would help.

Cllr Frederick said that residents of Broadshard Lane had written to HCC about speeding and the response was that nothing would be done. She had been approached by residents concerned about inconsiderate parking by the motor dealer on the junction of Salisbury Road and Northfield Road, which was making it difficult for drivers to manoeuvre.

C/6624

REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Thierry presented a written report (*Annex A*). He agreed to follow up on the footpath issues discussed earlier in the meeting. He advised that speeding is not an HCC issue and is a matter for Hampshire Constabulary. He had obtained the latest data from HCC and Highways England, but it was not known who had commissioned the recent traffic surveys – he would investigate and report back.

District Cllr Rippon-Swaine advised that he had been re-elected Chairman of the Environment and Sustainability Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

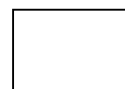
District Cllr Heron reported that both the Chief Executive and his Deputy would be retiring from NFDC this summer. It was noted that the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan had been made, with the referendum achieving a 35.7% turnout. On the issue of speeding, he said it was vital that speed limits were enforced before considering speed reduction measures. He asked if HCC supported the use of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs), which could record data giving the Police evidence of the need to enforce. County Cllr Thierry said that HCC sought to work in partnership with the Police and SIDs were available for deployment should the local Inspector request them.

C/6625

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	7.00pm	Wednesday 2 nd June 2021
Planning, Town & Environment	10.00am	Friday 4 th June 2021
Policy & Finance	7.00pm	Wednesday 23 rd June 2021
Full Council	7.00pm	Wednesday 30 th June 2021

There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 9.12pm.



APPROVED
30th June 2021

TOWN MAYOR

County Council May 2021 Report

Councillor Michael Thierry - Ringwood Division

Hampshire County Council

First Full Council Meeting at Ageas Bowl - Thursday May 27th

Final meeting of the Chief Executive who is retiring.

Conservative Party	56
Liberal Democrat	17 (-2)
Labour Party	03 (+2)
Others	02

Hampshire school reports cases of Covid variant first detected in India

COVID-19 variant first identified in India found at Court Moor Secondary School in Fleet. A further, non-Indian, case has been identified in Ringwood, with the appropriate measures being put into place.

Drivers face 44-mile detour for roadworks on small part of A338 Salisbury Road

As part of the annual programme of works being undertaken by Operation Resilience, work will shortly be undertaking carriageway resurfacing on A338 Salisbury Road, Ringwood, between the roundabout under the A31 to 150m south of Snails Lane. The works are programmed to start on 24th May 2021 and are expected to last for seven nights, during which time the road will be closed to vehicular traffic between the hours of 20:00 to 06:00hrs. The road will be open during the day. No works will take place over the weekend or bank holiday Monday.

Sections of the A31 will be potentially closed at weekends this summer due to preliminary work on the multi-million pound revamp at Ringwood. There will be five months of road closures in the area due to Highways England work, as well as some improvements by the County Council to access for walkers and cyclists.

Monthly Councillors' Surgery

Commence again on Saturday June 12th, Should any Ringwood Town Councillor or New Forest District Councillor wish to attend please contact me. Not to be 'over-loaded' there is space for one more Council attendee.