

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 30th June 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 – *until 8.02pm*
Cllr Gareth Deboos
Cllr Hilary Edge – *from 7.03pm*
Cllr Rae Frederick
Cllr John Haywood – *from 7.02pm*
Cllr Jeremy Heron
Cllr Peter Kelleher
Cllr Darren Loose
Cllr Gloria O'Reilly
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
Cllr Joshua Kidd, New Forest District Council

C/6629 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was one member of the public present.

C/6630 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All members were present.

C/6631 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared at this time.

C/6632 POLICE REPORT

There was no report from the Police.

*Cllr Haywood joined the meeting at 7.02pm.
Cllr Edge joined the meeting at 7.03pm.*

C/6633
MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was noted that the reason for low attendance at the meeting on 24th June was due to Covid restrictions limiting the number of people able to attend in person.

The Councillors present agreed:

That the minutes of the meetings held on 26th May 2021 and the Extraordinary Meeting on 24th June 2021, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

C/6634
RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Cllr Briers presented the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 2nd June 2021.

OS/6076 - It was noted that Party in the Park scheduled for 15th August had now been cancelled.

The Councillors present agreed:

That the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 2nd June 2021 be received.

C/6635
PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Day presented the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 4th June 2021.

He updated Members as follows:

P/587 - Works in Mansfield Road had been delayed following backing up of traffic on to the A31 westbound carriageway. He and the Town Mayor had met with representatives of Bournemouth Water – they would be reconsidering traffic management arrangements before recommencing work in September. In the meantime, work had commenced on The Bickerley. The Town Mayor would be liaising with the Site Manager and would keep Members up to date.

P/5859 - Cycle parking in Market Place would be discussed further at the next meeting.

P/5860 - NFDC had refused the Snails Lane and Christchurch Road planning applications – he welcomed these decisions and thanked the District Councillors for their part in this.

The Councillors present agreed:

That the minutes of the Planning, Town and Environment Committee meeting on 4th June 2021 be received.

C/6636
POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Cllr Heron presented the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 23rd June 2021.

It was noted that most of the meeting had been given over to discussion of the sports development project at Long Lane. This delivered great promise with much improved facilities and an artificial pitch, at a cost that was affordable to the Council.

The Councillors present agreed:

That the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 23rd June 2021 be received.

C/6637

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

The Councillors present agreed:

That Cllr Scott be appointed to the Planning, Town and Environment Committee.

C/6638

SPORTS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AT LONG LANE

The Town Clerk reported that the Community Sports Trust and Football Club were very pleased with the outcome of the Policy & Finance Committee. Arrangements were proceeding apace but there were no substantive developments to report since that meeting. It was expected that the planning application would be prepared over the summer and tendering would take place in the autumn, and in the meanwhile the project team would be pressing ahead with the finer details of the legal arrangements. Progress would continue to be reported on a monthly basis.

The Councillors present noted the update provided.

ACTION C Wilkins

C/6639

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED

The Town Mayor reported:

- i) The new Police & Crime Commissioner Donna Jones had indicated that she would be happy to attend a Council meeting and it was hoped this could be arranged for September or October.
- ii) He had been liaising with the Police regarding setting up a Speedwatch Scheme, and volunteers were now being sought. Cllr Frederick agreed to contact residents in Broadshard Lane in this regard.
- iii) Arrangement for improved Police Beat Surgeries were in hand.
- iv) He had arranged to meet regularly with the Bournemouth Water Site Manager and would keep members updated.
- v) He thanked Men's Shed for their work refurbishing the Acorn Seat at Friday's Cross.
- vi) He had attended the RACE AGM and thanked the organisers and volunteers for all the work they did. There was a full program of activities planned to address climate change concerns.

C/6640

REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS AND STUDENT ADVISORS

Cllr Day thanked and congratulated the grounds team for work carried out recently on the main town roundabout and around Gateway.

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Cllr Haywood had attended the New Forest Consultative Panel on 3 June, which had discussed recovery of curlews in the New Forest; management of forest fires; and oversight of properties with agricultural ties.

Cllr Turner raised the issue of domestic violence and the European Football Championship and wished to know if there were any plans locally to ensure people were safe. The Town Mayor agreed to raise this with Sergeant Mitchley.

Cllr O'Reilly had received a complaint from neighbouring businesses about rooks getting into rubbish bags. It was noted that the rooks were nesting in the trees around Gateway Square, but appeared to have moved away from more traditional roosts. Cllr Turner had written to Countryfile on this subject.

**C/6641
REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

County Cllr Thierry presented a written report (*Annex A*).

District Cllr Rippon-Swaine reported on the work of the Environment and Sustainability Overview and Scrutiny Panel. On the subject of the draft waste strategy, it was noted that there were four active Defra consultations: deposit return scheme; extended producer responsibility; waste prevention; and consistency in collection. The Panel was also considering a Draft Green infrastructure strategy and Draft Guidance for Outdoor Play Space. Cllr Scott commented that councils should do more to encourage residents to wash recyclable items before disposal to avoid contamination which prevents successful recycling. It was noted that Ringwood had gained plastic free status and that a lot of work was being carried out by RACE and others on waste prevention and recycling.

District Cllr Heron reported that the next Cabinet meeting would be held on 6 July. He suggested a possible use of CIL funds to improve the main town roundabout where it was being eroded by large vehicles overrunning. Cllr Day agreed to put this forward as an addition to the project list at the next PT&E Committee. He added that he would be proposing revisiting the reversal of Meeting House Lane, which he felt had led to increased congestion at peak times. Members agreed that there was a need to look at traffic flow around the town centre as a whole – the current arrangement meant that there was only one entry into the town centre and if this was blocked for any reason, the whole town could be cut off.

Cllr Briers left the meeting at 20:02

**C/6642
FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

It was agreed to include an item on the agenda for Council on 28 July to consider the current arrangements for meetings and whether it would be possible to return to face to face meetings. It was noted that virtual meetings had enabled greater public participation and it was hoped that government would consider making remote meetings a permanent option for councils in future.

Planning, Town & Environment	10.00am	Friday 2 nd July 2021
Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	7.00pm	Wednesday 7 th July 2021
Policy & Finance	7.00pm	Wednesday 21 st July 2021
Full Council	7.00pm	Wednesday 28 th July 2021
Planning, Town & Environment	10.00am	Friday 6 th August 2021

There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.16pm.

APPROVED
28th July 2021

TOWN MAYOR

County Council June 2021 Report

Councillor Michael Thierry - Ringwood Division

Hampshire June Covid report covering the Covid period.

2,800 recorded Covid deaths for the County

480 Care Homes in the County

5,463 Deaths - 967 from Covid

Home visits have continued

Not all Ringwood residents deaths are recorded in the County figures.

Ringwood residents passing away for whatever reasons are recorded in the area where they died. It may be impossible to accurately obtain the Ringwood figures and the New Forest.

Local issues

The County casework has included taking up issues for Ringwood Town Councillors.

To mow or not mow grass verges. Some residents demand a cut others advocate leaving grass verges to nature to support wildlife.

Work on some footpaths is progressing. (Moortown footpath)



Complaint about parking on the unadopted road crossing the Bickerley Village Green. Better access for wheel-chairs and mobility scooters required,

Monthly Councillors' Surgery

Next surgery is on Saturday July 9th, 0.00am at the Scout Hut, Southampton Road.

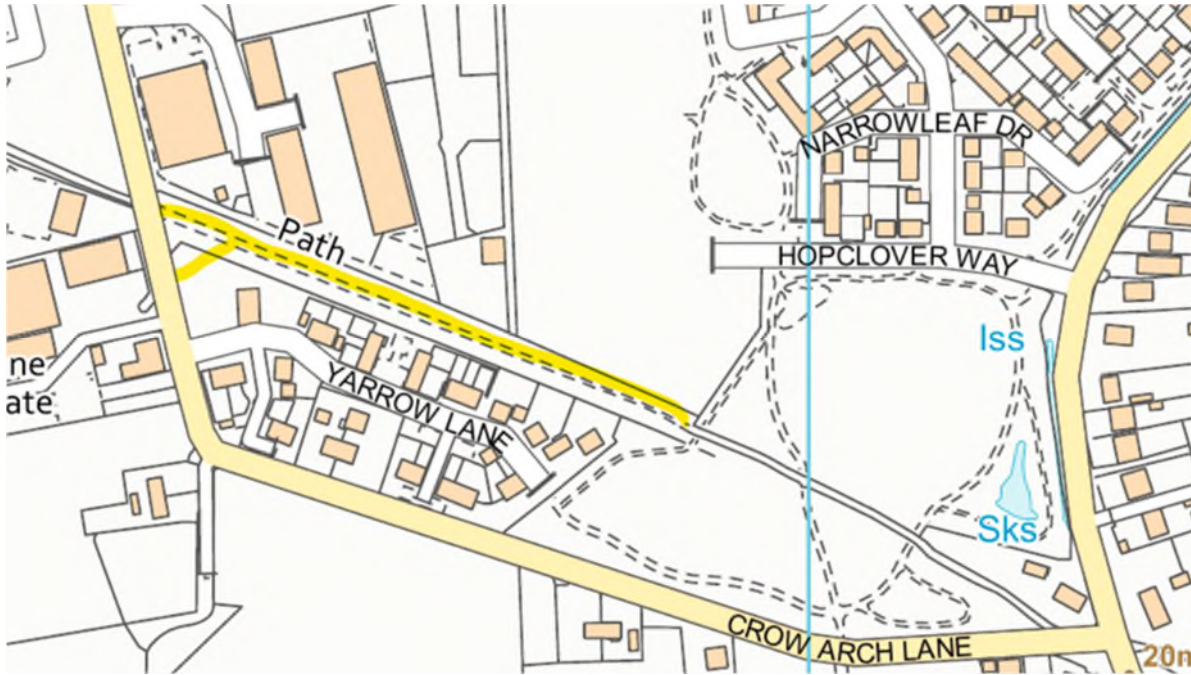
Cllr Michael Thierry - 01425 479095

1) Footpath to link Beaumont Park to Hightown Road (path to run from north east corner of site



Strategic Transport Client Project Manager Jakub Styszynski has taken over progressing the £50,000 scheme and has had an initial meeting with NFDC Case Officer Jim Bennett.

2) **Surfacing of Castleman Trailway (east of railway bridge)**



In July 2020 Hampshire Countryside Service secured dedication of this section by the third party as a Public Bridleway to connect the existing Castleman Trail to phase 3 of Beaumont Park and Crow Arch Lane.

Hampshire Countryside Service took receipt of the developer contributions in June 2021 in order to design and to construct the section of the Castleman Trail in the railway cutting to link the Bridleway/Cycleway to Crow Arch Lane. The spur linking the Trail through the new development at Yarrow Lane has recently been constructed by the Developer, but has been built without the Technical Approval of the Highways Developments Agreements Team and the necessary a legal agreement or inspection by HCC Engineers. The HDA Team therefore await submission of a suitable designs by Vistry’s Engineering Consultants and for audits verifying that the section constructed fits with rest of development and connects to the Trail.

Once the dedication of additional Bridleway Rights are added to the Public Footpath to the east and connection through Yarrow Way, then the Public Right of Way will be added to the Definitive Map.

Ringwood Town Council were contracted by the Countryside Service to undertake vegetation clearance to improve accessibility along the section of trail and access to completed sections on Embankment Way during summer 2021. An application will be made to HDA for approval of designs in coming months and construction of the asphalt Bridleway/cycleway is programmed for March/April 2022.



Before

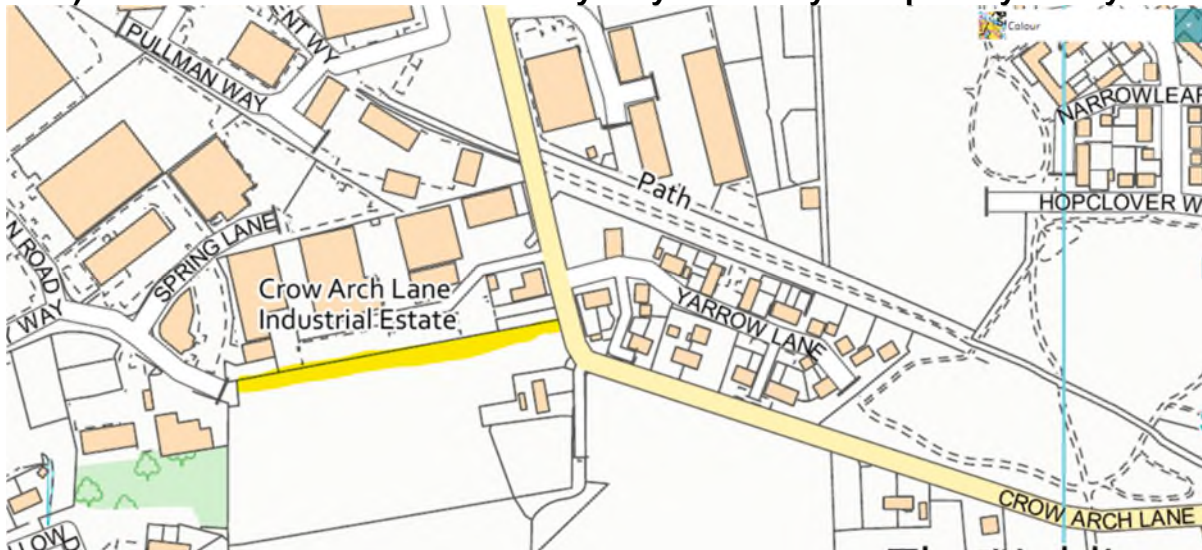


After clearance undertake on our behalf by RTC



Link from Yarrow Lane constructed by Vistry

3) Crow Arch Lane – to Wellworthy Way Boundary Footpath/cycleway



HCC Property Services have been in discussions with the developer Vistry/Linden since Spring 2020 regarding the detailed design of the footway/cycleway across HCC land to link Crow Arch Lane to the edge of the land.

The County Council has provided detailed feedback to the Developer regarding the 2 design proposals submitted to date to the Senior Development Surveyor, in order to bring the proposal up to specification and meet Highway Authority guidance current standards. There have been issues with detailed design specification, levels and costs that the Senior Development Surveyor is working with the Developer to resolve.

These discussions are ongoing with a revised design proposal, access licence and indemnification of, and/ or the meeting of commuted costs and professional fees all still to be agreed. The County Council is obliged under the terms of an easement with Linden to facilitate the works, but for the route to be designed and constructed by Linden to the boundary at no cost to HCC as landowner.

NFDC have a residential land allocation to the south of the HCC land which will require a vehicular link from the residential development through to Christchurch Road via Wellworthy Way. It is hoped that development of this site would provide the opportunity for the Local Planning Authority to secure the cycleway to connect across the Morrish builder's land boundary to the east and link to Wellworthy Way and Christchurch Road.

4) Footpath at Moortown/Hampshire Hatches

The repair to the path adjoining the bridge at Hampshire Hatches Lane was arranged by Hampshire Countryside Services and completed a few weeks ago. Photos were taken on 15 June.



