

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7.00pm at Ringwood Gateway, The Furlong, Ringwood.

PRESENT: Cllr Andy Briers  
Cllr Philip Day  
Cllr Gareth Deboos  
Cllr Hilary Edge  
Cllr Rae Frederick  
Cllr John Haywood  
Cllr Jeremy Heron  
Cllr Peter Kelleher  
Cllr Darren Loose  
Cllr Gloria O'Reilly  
Cllr Tony Ring  
Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine  
Cllr Derek Scott (*from 7.24pm*)  
Cllr Glenys Turner

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

There were 5 members of public present.

### **C/6783**

#### **ELECTION OF THE TOWN MAYOR**

There were two candidates put forward for the position of Town Mayor; Cllr Deboos and Cllr Heron.

Cllr Day requested the vote be by ballot and Members voted in favour of this.

Cllr Heron requested a recorded vote. Members voted as follows:

For Cllr Heron: Cllrs Briers, Edge, Heron, Loose, Ring, Rippon-Swaine (6)

For Cllr Deboos: Cllrs Day, Deboos, Frederick, Haywood, Kelleher, O'Reilly, Turner (7)

Cllr Deboos was duly elected as Town Mayor.

**RESOLVED:** That Cllr Deboos be elected as Town Mayor for the ensuing year.

Before taking the Chair, Cllr Deboos said that Cllr Ring had been a fantastic Mayor for the previous three years and thanked him for everything he had done for the town.

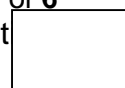
Cllr Ring expressed his sincere thanks to councillors and officers for all the help and guidance they had given him during his term of office.

*Cllr Deboos took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.*

### **C/6784**

#### **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY THE TOWN MAYOR**

Cllr Deboos read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Town Clerk.



**C/6785  
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Town Clerk reported that no apologies for absence had been received.

**C/6786  
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**C/6787  
APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR**

There were two candidates put forward for the position of Deputy Town Mayor; Cllr Day and Cllr Frederick. Cllr Day announced that, as he had served as Deputy Town Mayor for nearly five years, he felt it was time to step aside.

Cllr Frederick was duly appointed as Deputy Town Mayor.

**RESOLVED:** That Cllr Frederick be appointed as Deputy Town Mayor for the ensuing year.

**C/6788  
DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY THE DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR**

Cllr Frederick read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Town Clerk. The Town Mayor congratulated her on her appointment.

**C/6789  
COMMITTEE AND WORKING PARTY MEMBERSHIP**

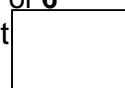
Members considered appointments to Standing Committees and Working Parties. Standing Orders provide for Councillors to be appointed for a four-year period (2019 to 2023), subject to amendments being possible at each Annual Meeting.

Cllr Ring said that he did not wish to be appointed to any committees at this time, as he would be focussing on family, social and business commitments and would be unavailable to attend meetings. However, he hoped to be in a position to do so in the future. He would continue to do the best he could for his ward and would attend Full Council meetings.

*Cllr Scott joined the meeting at 7.24pm*

Cllr Day asked that Cllr Ring attend meetings of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee when possible to hear Members' views so that he could represent the towns' interests at NFDC Planning Committee meetings.

- RESOLVED:**
- 1) That the following Members be appointed to the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee for the remainder of period of office: Cllrs Briers, Day, Deboos, Edge, Frederick, Haywood, Kelleher, Loose, O'Reilly and Turner;
  - 2) That the following Members be appointed to the Planning, Town and Environment Committee for the remainder of period of office: Cllrs Briers, Day, Deboos, Edge, Frederick, Kelleher, O'Reilly, Scott and Turner;
  - 3) That the following Members be appointed to the Staffing Committee for the remainder of period of office: Town Mayor, Chairman of Policy and Finance Committee, Cllrs Haywood, O'Reilly and Turner;



4) That it be noted that Cllr Loose and Cllr Briers (deputy) are the Council's representatives on the Sports Development at Long Lane Steering Group.

**C/6790**

**ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING**

At 7.29pm, it was

**RESOLVED:** That the meeting be adjourned until the end of the individual meetings of Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee and Planning, Town & Environment Committee, in order to allow Members to elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman and make appointments to sub-committees and working parties.

On resumption of the meeting, at 7.39pm:

**C/6791**

**APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Meetings of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee and the Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee had been held during the adjournment.

At the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee, Cllr Briers was elected as Chairman and Cllr Loose elected as Deputy Chairman.

At the Planning, Town and Environment Committee, Cllr Day was elected as Chairman and Cllr Frederick elected as Deputy Chairman.

The Chairmen of both Committees were automatically appointed to the Policy & Finance Committee, along with the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) That the following Members be appointed to the Policy and Finance Committee for the remainder of period of office: Cllrs Briers, Day, Deboos, Frederick, Haywood, Heron, Kelleher, O'Reilly, Rippon-Swaine and Turner; and
- 2) That the updated list of membership of committees be noted (*Annex A*).

**C/6792**

**ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING**

At 7.45pm, it was

**RESOLVED:** That the meeting be adjourned until the end of the meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee, in order to allow Members to elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman.

On resumption of the meeting at 7.46pm:

At the Policy and Finance Committee meeting, during the adjournment, Cllr Heron was elected as Chairman and Cllr Rippon-Swaine elected as Vice Chairman.

**C/6793**

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

**C/6794**

**FUTURE MEETING ARRANGEMENTS**

The Town Clerk reminded Members that the legal power for Council meetings to be held remotely ceased in May 2021. The Council decided to extend this temporarily by devising and adopting the procedure of granting enhanced delegated decision-making powers to officers and meeting remotely only to indicate to the officers how members are “minded” on relevant business. From May until December 2021 this applied to all meetings but since then has only applied to committees, with Full Council reverting to meeting in person from January. This was a temporary and proportionate response to the continuing public health situation and it was never envisaged to be a long-term standing arrangement. The situation had now changed and it would be difficult to make a case to justify continuing the existing arrangement on public health grounds. It was however noted that there had been benefits in greater public participation and reduced travel and expenses. He stated that the Council has no inherent power to decide how to conduct its affairs, which are governed by Parliament, and it would be contrary to the spirit of the Local Government Act 1972 to continue to meet remotely. As things stood, the existing arrangement would automatically lapse today.

Some Members were keen for the existing arrangement to continue for the following reasons:

- Covid is still very active as a virus and it would be safer for all to meet remotely;
- Improved democracy by making it possible for a greater number of public to attend;
- It would allow councillors to attend and participate even if they were not well enough to attend in person;
- Savings in time and travel, a more effective way of operating;
- Members would comply with the law of attendance at Full Council meetings.

Other Members were concerned that there was a risk “decisions” made at remote meetings could be challenged as unlawful; that every item discussed by committees could be reasonably requested to be discussed at Full Council; and that remote meetings were not in the spirit of the legislation.

It was noted that meeting remotely had been particularly beneficial for meetings of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee when considering planning applications for the strategic sites. However, it would be possible to hold remote public consultation meetings in a similar manner, with observations being agreed at formal meetings of the Committee.

Cllr Turner proposed that the existing arrangements to allow remote committee meetings be extended until the end of September 2022. This was seconded by Cllr Rippon-Swaine. Members voted 6 in favour and 7 against, with one abstention, so the proposal failed.

**RESOLVED:** That it be noted that the temporary arrangements to allow committees to meet remotely had now lapsed.

<b>ACTION</b> <b>C Wilkins</b>
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**C/6795**

**REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

**RESOLVED:** That Members be appointed as representatives on Outside Bodies as shown in *Annex B*, for the remainder of the period of office.

**C/6796**

**RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

Cllr Briers presented the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

**C/6797**

**PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr Day presented the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

He made the following comments:

P/5998 – The recommendation to Policy & Finance Committee had been deferred pending further information.

P/6000 – Planning Application 21/10042 for land north of Hightown Road was unlikely to be considered by NFDC before September. It was hoped to arrange a briefing with NFDC Planning Officers prior to a public consultation meeting and formal reconsideration by the Committee.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022 be received.

**C/6798**

**POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Cllr Heron presented the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

F/6039 – He was delighted to report that the Council had been successful in purchasing land at Forestside Gardens for the people of Ringwood. The Town Clerk confirmed this was at a cost of £27,000 plus a buyer's premium and expenses; a full report would be presented to Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee in June.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022 be received

**C/6799**

**DELEGATION OF ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REVIEWS**

The Town Clerk explained that it was customary for Policy & Finance Committee to review governance documents on an annual basis, with documents being ratified by Full Council. This meant that documents could be brought forward throughout the year, giving Members sufficient time to consider them.

**RESOLVED:** That annual governance reviews be delegated to the Policy & Finance Committee.

<b>ACTION</b> C Wilkins
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**C/6800**

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED**

The Town Mayor had nothing to report.

**C/6801**  
**REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Ring wished to bring to the new Town Mayor's attention that discussions were ongoing with Carnival and Rotary regarding a memorial bench in remembrance of Michael Lingam Willgoss.

Following discussions with Hampshire Constabulary and the Police and Crime Commissioner Cllr Edge had been successful in arranging an opportunity for Members to go on patrol with local Police to see how they work and ask questions. She asked Members to contact the office if they were interested.

Cllr Day congratulated Hampshire Constabulary and NFDC for their prompt action in dealing with the unauthorised encampment on Carvers Recreation Ground. He thanked Cllr Heron and others who had also been involved.

Cllr Haywood had attended a NFALC meeting, when a presentation on the NFDC Waste Strategy was received. It was noted that NFDC had committed to address every town and parish council on this subject.

Cllr Turner had attended the annual parish tree meeting at NFDC. It was noted that NFDC had a 2 for 1 tree replacement policy on NFDC land. There is no legislative power to insist on replacement trees as part of the planning process, but replacement is encouraged.

**C/6802**  
**REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Heron reported that NFDC was working to clear the unauthorised encampment from the long stay car park as swiftly as possible. Cabinet on 1<sup>st</sup> June would be considering the New Forest National Part Partnership Plan and adoption of the Air Quality Assessments in New Development SPD.

County Councillor Thierry provided a written report (*Annex C*).

**C/6803**  
**FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**


Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	7.00pm	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2022
Planning, Town & Environment	10.00am	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
Policy & Finance	7.00pm	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2022
Full Council	7.00pm	Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2022

There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.31pm.

APPROVED  
29<sup>th</sup> June 2022

TOWN MAYOR

**A**

	RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL				
	<b>COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2022-23</b>				
	<b>FULL COUNCIL</b>	<b>PLANNING, TOWN &amp; ENVIRONMENT</b>	<b>RECREATION, LEISURE &amp; OPEN SPACES</b>	<b>POLICY &amp; FINANCE</b>	<b>STAFFING COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Chairman</b>	Cllr Gareth Deboos	Cllr Philip Day	Cllr Andy Briers	Cllr Jeremy Heron	
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	Cllr Rae Frederick	Cllr Rae Frederick	Cllr Darren Loose	Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine	
<b>Members &amp; Ex officio Members</b> (NB Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor are entitled to be ex officio members of all committees)	Cllr Andrew Briers Cllr Philip Day Cllr Hilary Edge Cllr John Haywood Cllr Jeremy Heron Cllr Peter Kelleher Cllr Darren Loose Cllr Gloria O'Reilly Cllr Tony Ring Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine Cllr Derek Scott Cllr Glenys Turner	Cllr Andy Briers Cllr Gareth Deboos Cllr Hilary Edge Cllr Peter Kelleher Cllr Gloria O'Reilly Cllr Derek Scott Cllr Glenys Turner	Cllr Philip Day Cllr Gareth Deboos Cllr Hilary Edge Cllr Rae Frederick Cllr John Haywood Cllr Peter Kelleher Cllr Gloria O'Reilly Cllr Glenys Turner	Cllr Andy Briers Cllr Philip Day Cllr John Haywood Cllr Peter Kelleher Cllr Gloria O'Reilly Cllr Glenys Turner	Town Mayor Chairman of P+F Cllr John Haywood Cllr Gloria O'Reilly Cllr Glenys Turner
<b>Ex-Officio Members</b>				Cllr Gareth Deboos Cllr Rae Frederick	
<b>Student Advisors</b>					

**RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Representatives on Outside Bodies 2019-23 – From 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019 – confirmed at**  
**Annual Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

<b>ORGANISATION / POSITION</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
New Forest Association of Local Councils (NFALC)	Cllr John Haywood Cllr Jeremy Heron	Two councillors needed. Representatives from every town and parish council in New Forest district are invited to meet quarterly to consider reports from NFDC and NFNPA and other issues of mutual interest
Flood Wardens	Cllr Gloria O'Reilly	Two councillors needed to join two co-opted volunteers: Norman Light and Peter Street. Invited to attend meetings of the Flood Action Working Party, held as required (but not usually more than twice a year) Cllr Deboos resignation was noted by FC on 24.11.21
New Forest Business Partnership	Cllr Jeremy Heron Cllr Tony Ring	Appointed at FC 26.6.19, Meeting 11.7.19
New Forest Consultative Panel	Cllr John Haywood	One councillor needed
New Forest National Park Authority - South West Quadrant	Cllr Gareth Deboos	One councillor needed Representatives from every town and parish council in the SW quadrant of the National Park are invited to meet quarterly to consider relevant National Park issues and initiatives
Ringwood Twinning Association	Cllr Gareth Deboos 2 vacancies	The Mayor is President <i>ex officio</i> Two other councillors are needed. Organizes exchange visits and fund-raising.
A31 Development meeting/forum	Cllr Gareth Deboos Cllr Philip Day	Town Mayor and Chairman of PT&E represent the Town Council at meetings with National Highways to consider issues relating to the A31 Improvement Scheme. District and County Councillors also attend.
The Ringwood Society	Cllr Rae Frederick Cllr Glenys Turner	Two councillors needed. Monthly meetings to monitor planning applications and discuss local development issues.
Tree Warden	Cllr Glenys Turner	One councillor needed. Works with Town Clerk and other staff on tree management issues especially those involving members of the public.
Western Escarpment Conservation Area Steering Group	Cllr Gareth Deboos	One councillor needed. Representatives from every town and parish council in this Conservation Area on the edge of the National Park are invited to meet quarterly to consider relevant National Park issues and initiatives
Gateway Project Board	Cllr Andy Briers	One councillor appointed. Last recorded meeting in Jan. 2017.
Ringwood United Charities	Cllr John Haywood Cllr Jeremy Heron Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine	Three councillors have been appointed but their status is unclear. If they are trustees, it is doubtful this is a valid appointment procedure. If financial oversight is still needed, would the annual report to the Town Assembly and/or the P&F committee suffice?



# County Council - May 2022 - Report

Councillor Michael Thierry - Ringwood Division

## Queen Elizabeth Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

I congratulate Ringwood Town Council facilitating and bringing together all the people involved in the preparation, planning and implementation of what will be a magnificent public event to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. Ringwood, rightly has a reputation for producing some of the finest public events in the area and the Queen Elizabeth Platinum Jubilee celebrations will certainly be one to remember.

## Hampshire County Council & New Forest District Council

Attended all meetings of both District and County as scheduled.



### Hampshire County Council - New Leader - Rob Humby

At the Annual Full Council Meeting Cllr Rob Humby was elected Leader of Hampshire County Council.

At the same meeting Cllr Edward Heron was promoted to be the executive member for Transportation. (Hampshire Highways).

Cllr Humby speaking at the meeting said:

I'm truly honoured to be elected to this position and recognise it's a great privilege to lead one of the premier councils in the country.

Born and bred here in Hampshire, I've lived and worked in the county all my life. Also, as a County Councillor for almost a decade, I'm deeply committed to Hampshire's communities, and passionate about doing the best for the people, businesses and places that make Hampshire a great county.

My vision for Hampshire is to maintain our county as a successful, prosperous, and attractive place to live, work, study, play and visit - balancing economic success with care for the environment, for the benefit of generations to come.

Our robust economy and stunning landscapes are important factors in what makes Hampshire so special - and enabling a thriving economy and supporting a flourishing environment are key to bringing prosperity to all of Hampshire's communities.

As County Council Leader, serving the people of Hampshire is, and always will be my most important duty - and I look forward to working positively and constructively with all our partners and local communities for the benefit of everyone in our wonderful county.

## Monthly Councillors' Surgery

The May MP and Councillor surgery was held at the Conservative Club in Christchurch Road, Ringwood. Sir Desmond Swayne, Cllr Anne Seviars, Cllr Jeremy Heron, Cllr Derek Scott and myself attending.

## Ringwood Casework

**Confidential local matters raised by residents.**

## County representation at Parish Council Meeting

Ellingham Parish Council & Annual Meeting

Sopley Parish Council & Annual Meeting