

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 28th July 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 8.00pm*)
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 Steve Rippon-Swaine
Cllr Derek Scott
Cllr Glenys Turner (*until 8.43pm*)

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

**C/6643
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of public present.

**C/6644
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

All members were present.

**C/6645
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None were declared at this time.

**C/6646
POLICE REPORT**

There was no report from the Police.

Cllr Day expressed disappointment that there was no report from the Police following some issues with reporting crime via 101 and follow up with the neighbourhood team, which he had discussed with the local Inspector. He asked that a representative attend at the earliest opportunity to explain how the reporting system works.

C/6647

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

C/6641 - Cllr Kelleher had raised the issue of Tetra Pak recycling and Cllr Rippon-Swaine agreed to follow up on this this. This had been omitted from the minutes, and it was agreed to amend the minutes in this regard.

Cllr Rippon-Swaine commented that HCC was not minded to deal with this type of recycling until 2025.

The Councillors present agreed:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 30th June 2021, having been circulated and amended as above, be approved and signed as a correct record.

C/6648

PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Day presented the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 2nd July 2021.

He updated Members as follows:

P/5866 – work is continuing apace on the Neighbourhood Plan. The next step would be consultation on Town Centre proposals.

P/5868 – a Members briefing meeting will be held on 2 August with officers from NFDC on land to the north of Hightown Road (21/10042). Representatives of Taylor Wimpey are continuing discussions with NFDC and are expected to attend the Committee meeting in either September or October.

P/5869 – water main diversion works will begin in Bickerley Gardens on 2 August for 7 weeks. There is no detail yet on how works in Mansfield Road will be managed. An update will be provided to the next Committee meeting on 6 August.

P/5870 – work on Market Place improvements and refurbishment of the Human Sundial have commenced. It was noted that the grounds team had done a superb job clearing the unmade section of Castleman Trailway east of the old railway bridge. The Crow Stream annual clearance had been scheduled for 9 September.

The Councillors present agreed:

That the minutes of the Planning, Town and Environment Committee meeting on 2nd July 2021 be received.

C/6649

RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Cllr Briers presented the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 7th July 2021.

The Councillors present agreed:

That the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 7th July 2021 be received.

**C/6650
POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Cllr Heron presented the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 21st July 2021.

The Councillors present agreed:

That the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 21st July 2021 be received.

**C/6651
CURRENT MEETING ARRANGEMENTS**

The Town Clerk reminded Members that it had been agreed at the Annual Meeting in May that all meetings before 29 September should be held in a virtual environment, as informal gatherings of members and officers at which officers will brief and advise members on relevant council business and members shall express their collective wishes.

Members considered whether this arrangement should now come to an end, with a return to meetings in person. It was noted that:

- It was not yet possible to facilitate hybrid meetings, but investigations were ongoing and it might be possible to do this in future.
- Resources were not currently available to source and arrange alternative venues.
- Weddings were now being held in the Forest Suite, up to a maximum of 30 people.
- A risk assessment would need to be carried out prior to any meetings taking place in the Forest Suite, and measures put in place to ensure a safe environment.
- Every Member must have an opportunity to attend an in-person meeting to avoid automatically ceasing to be a member for non-attendance in a 6-month period.
- The Full Council meeting scheduled for 29 September was intended to be an in-person meeting.

The Councillors present agreed to recommend to officers their collective preference as follows:

That the status quo be retained and all council meetings be held virtually until 28 September.

ACTION C Wilkins

**C/6652
CHRISTMAS TREE**

The Town Clerk reported that the Committee had approved a budget of up to £6,000 in September 2020 for a Christmas Tree, which was to be funded from the Events Reserve. The Finance Manager had interpreted this as a decision for one year only, and therefore no equivalent provision had been included in this year's budget. If there was a desire to have a tree in Market Place this year, a decision was needed as to how much to spend and how it should be funded, and he outlined the options for this.

Cllr Heron declared a personal interest as a member of his family had provided a quotation for a Christmas tree.

Members agreed that this should be a recurring item in the budget, and it was necessary to include for dressing and undressing the tree. It was felt that it should be possible to cover the cost by income generated from events (for example from sponsorship, ticket sales and

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concessions), but it was necessary to approve a budget so that expenditure could be committed prior to receipt of any income.

Cllr Briers left the meeting at 8.00pm.

Heron proposed a budget of up to £6,000 to be funded from the general reserve and recurring annually – will need to increase precept next year unless events income has exceeded expectations

The Councillors present agreed to recommend to officers their collective preference as follows:

1. That a budget of up to £6,000 for a Christmas Tree be approved, as a permanent addition to the revenue budget (and to be increased in future years as necessary to meet the costs of purchase, delivery, installation, dressing, undressing, removal and disposal of a display size tree);
2. That the Christmas Tree be funded from the general reserve in 2021/22;
3. That when setting the next (and subsequent) budgets, regard be given to income generated by events and the events reserve with a view to agreeing appropriate transfers to/from such reserve to manage the effect on the precept.

ACTION C Wilkins

C/6653

SPORTS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AT LONG LANE

The Town Clerk reported that the planning application was nearing completion and it was hoped this would be submitted to NFDC the following week. The architect would then switch focus to the tendering process for the pavilion and groundworks, in readiness for a grant application to be submitted to the Football Foundation late autumn. Currently the project is on track to proceed and start work next Easter, with the new facilities being ready for the 2022 football season.

The Councillors present noted the update provided.

ACTION C Wilkins

C/6654

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED

The Town Mayor reported:

- i) He thanked the Police for moving on travellers from Picket Post within a day, and added that he would be meeting local Police to discuss the Speed Watch scheme.
- ii) He had attended the re-opening of the Trinity Church Day Centre.
- iii) He commented on an incident that took place at the Cemetery whilst the gates were closed for a funeral and the car park was unavailable at school pick up time. It was hoped to liaise further with the school to improve communication with parent/carers, and the possibility of new signage was also considered.
- iv) Round Table had created a new Street Library in Poulner.
- v) A new service from Yellow Buses between Christchurch and Ringwood had been launched; it was hoped this would encourage more visitors to the town.
- vi) The first Eco Fair was scheduled for 11 September.
- vii) Donna Jones, Hampshire PCC, would attend Council in either October or November.

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viii) Ringwood School will try to generate interest in the student advisor scheme when the new term begins.

C/6655

REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS AND STUDENT ADVISORS

Cllr Day reminded Members of the rededication of the War Memorial taking place on 15 August; all are welcome to attend. Ringwood Society will be embarking on a project to restore railway corner (junction of Castleman Way and Hightown Road).

Cllr Edge commented on the Summer of Play programme at Carvers, and in particular the table tennis coaching on Tuesday 10 August with professional coach Matt Ware. A landlord In Kings Arms Lane had raised the issue of residents putting bin bags out too early, which was attracting rats – the Town Mayor agreed to follow up on this.

Cllr Turner left the meeting at 8.43pm.

Cllr O'Reilly was concerned about the forthcoming Bournemouth Water works in Mansfield Road and safety of pedestrians crossing the road. Cllr Heron said he had been reassured that a temporary crossing would be installed when required.

C/6656

REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

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

District Cllr Rippon-Swaine had attended a meeting on Green Infrastructure. Cllr Deboos mentioned a possible overlap with work on the Neighbourhood Plan. In response to a question on Green Belt, it was noted that a comprehensive review had been carried out prior to Local Plan Part 1 and it was unlikely that further review would be necessary in the short term.

District Cllr Heron reported that the water main diversion would go through Furlong Short Stay Car Park necessitating an exit from the front half of the car park to Mansfield Road. He said that the suspension of the Garden Waste scheme was due to a shortage of HGV drivers, which was a national issue. The Council was however maintaining its statutory responsibility for collection of waste.

C/6657

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

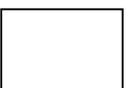
Planning, Town & Environment	10.00am	Friday 6 th August 2021
Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	7.00pm	Wednesday 1 st September 2021
Planning, Town & Environment	10.00am	Friday 3 rd September 2021
Policy & Finance	7.00pm	Wednesday 22 nd September 2021
Full Council	7.00pm	Wednesday 29 th September 2021

There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 9.07pm.

APPROVED
29th September 2021

TOWN MAYOR

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Chairman's initials



County Council July 2021 Report

Councillor Michael Thierry - Ringwood Division

Hampshire County Council.

Following the May County Election, several changes have taken place.

Some departments have been spilt and additional Executive Members appointed.

There is a new Executive member-only for County Highways.

The Chief Executive has retired. Caroline Williamson, replacing.

An in-house appointment.

Complying with government instruction virtual meetings of the County Council and committee meetings have ceased. Pre-Covid meeting arrangements are now in place.

The County is facing severe budget restraints.

Local issues

The County casework continues.

The problem of speeding through the town exercises residents. Dealing with speeding is a matter for the police. Education and Enforcement!

Monthly Councillors' Surgery

Next surgery is on Saturday August 14th, commencing at 10.00am at the Scout Hut, Southampton Road.

Cllr Michael Thierry - 01425 479095