

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 24th February 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.

PRESENT: Cllr Tony Ring, Town Mayor
Cllr Philip Day, Deputy Mayor
Cllr Andy Briers
Cllr Gareth Deboos
Cllr Hilary Edge
Cllr Rae Frederick
Cllr John Haywood
Cllr Jeremy Heron
Cllr Darren Loose
Cllr Gloria O’Reilly
Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine
Cllr Glenys Turner

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

C/6562 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

C/6563 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Peter Kelleher.

C/6564 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared at this time.

C/6565 POLICING MATTERS

The Town Mayor thanked the Police & Crime Commissioner, Mr Michael Lane, and Inspector Mike Minnock for giving up their time to attend this meeting.

Mr Lane gave an overview of his role, his mission being “You, your family, and your community safer” and vision “that Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton are amongst the safest places to live, work and visit, so that people are empowered to realise their life opportunities.”

Members were especially interested in reporting via 101, visibility and funding issues and there followed a discussion on these matters, with the following points being made:

Local people had been put off reporting crime due to the length of time it took to report. Mr Lane acknowledged that the system had previously been not fit for purpose. However, there had been considerable investment in this resource over the past 5 years and response times were now much improved; the average for a 101 call being 22 seconds. He said that everyone should be encouraged to report crime in order that intelligence could be built; to inform operational decisions on the frontline; and ensure that resources were directed where needed.

There had been an increase in the numbers of officers and PCSOs and the Ringwood neighbourhood policing team now had an additional 4 Police Constables and one PCSO, with 2 more PCSOs coming late summer/early autumn – this would increase visibility and it was hoped would restore confidence in the Police within the community.

It was noted that the police precept of the council tax would increase by £15 per annum (based on a band D property) in 2021/22, which represented a 7.09% increase. This funding would be spent on frontline services, enabling the recruitment of more police officers to investigate more crimes and make more arrests, keeping residents and communities safe. This increase had been fully challenged by the PCC and he and the Chief Constable could be held to account on their spending promises, with the details being fully auditable and accountable.

C/6566
MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meeting held on 27th January 2021, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

C/6567
RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Cllr Briers presented the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 3rd February 2021.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 3rd February 2021 be received.

C/6568
PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Day presented the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 5th February 2021. He updated Members on the following:

P/5796 – the whole parish had now been designated by NFDC and NFNPA and a meeting had been held with the consultants to agree next steps following a successful grant application for funds for the next stage.

P/57979 – Ringwood Rotary had raised the issue of the crocus bulbs in Pocket Park and it was hoped that these would not be disturbed during the water main diversion works.

Cllr Haywood left the meeting due to technical issues at 8.10pm.

P/5798 – Hampshire County Council had responded to the request to review the Market Place TRO, and advised that they are focussing efforts for new and amended parking restrictions at locations where there is an injury accident record or where there is a safety concern. The request was therefore a low priority for further investigation as part of a County Council funded programme of work at this time.



P/5804 – a technical briefing from NFDC on the outline planning application for land to the north of Hightown Road (21/10042) had been scheduled for all Members on 4th March. A special meeting would then be arranged for consideration of the application.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning, Town and Environment Committee meeting on 5th February 2021 be received.

**C/6569
POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Cllr Heron presented the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 17th February 2021.

Cllr Deboos commented that the RCA grant application had been submitted by the RCA Directors, rather than RCA itself.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 17th February 2021 be received.

**C/6570
SPORTS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AT LONG LANE**

The Town Clerk reported that he would be giving a presentation at Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee on 3rd March. He encouraged all Members to attend to get a better understanding of this major project and the political commitment to it.

John Haywood returned to the meeting at 20:18

RESOLVED: That the verbal report be noted.

ACTION C Wilkins

**C/6571
GRANT AID AWARDS**

It was noted that the following Grant Aid awards had been made:

Forest Forge - £500 to support continued efforts to provide a service on-line, face-to-face and via the post, which promotes community involvement and wellbeing through drama and arts activities for the residents of Ringwood.

New Forest Disability Information Service - £500 to support the costs of providing free disability related information and advice to people in Ringwood.

Ringwood Coronavirus Assistance Directors - £400+VAT for the purposes of funding the provision of carbon dioxide monitors to the four infant and junior schools in the parish. This would enable rooms to be regulated and ventilation varied, in order to manage coronavirus transmission risk.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

**C/6572
COMMUNICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED**

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The Town Mayor reported that he had made a short film for pupils at Ringwood Infant School, who had been given a project to create a virtual map of the town; to search out points of interest; research history; and include directions.

**C/6573
REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS AND STUDENT ADVISORS**

There were no reports.

**C/6574
REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

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

District Cllr Rippon-Swaine reported that Cabinet had now approved entering into a partnership with Freedom Leisure, an experienced not-for-profit company, to manage the Council’s health and leisure centres.

District Cllr Heron reported that Full Council would meet on 25th February to set council tax for 2021/22, and advised there would be no Cabinet meeting in March.

**C/6575
FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	7.00pm	Wednesday 3 rd March 2021
Planning, Town & Environment	10.00am	Friday 5 th March 2021
Policy & Finance	7.00pm	Wednesday 17 th March 2021
Staffing	7.00pm	Wednesday 24 th March 2021
Full Council	7.00pm	Wednesday 31 st March 2021

There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.28pm.

APPROVED
31st March 2021

TOWN MAYOR

County Council - February 2021 Report

Councillor Michael Thierry - Ringwood Division

For further details - telephone 07702 479095

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Hampshire County Council

BUDGET COUNCIL BRIEFING - Attended

COUNTY COUNCILLOR GRANT

County Councillor Grant to RINGWOOD TOOLS

County Councillor Grant to MENS' SHED

County Councillor Grant to IBSLEY ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Residents' Parking in West Street -

Referred to County - Response with the Deputy Town Clerk.

Parking in the Market Place on Market Day -

Referred to County Officers - Response with the Deputy Town Clerk.

Monthly Councillors' Surgery

SUSPENDED (COVID)