

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 26th October 2022 at 7.00pm at Ringwood Gateway, The Furlong, Ringwood.

PRESENT: Cllr Gareth Deboos, Town Mayor
Cllr Rae Frederick, Deputy Mayor
Cllr Andy Briers
Cllr Philip Day
Cllr John Haywood
Cllr Jeremy Heron
Cllr Peter Kelleher
Cllr Darren Loose (*from 7.04pm*)
Cllr Gloria O'Reilly
Cllr Derek Scott
Cllr Glenys Turner

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Chris Wilkins, Town Clerk
Mrs Jo Hurd, Deputy Town Clerk

ABSENT: Cllr Hilary Edge
Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine
Cllr Tony Ring

C/6855 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Two members of the public were in attendance. One commented on the positioning of the new sign on The Bickerley; it was noted that this had been designed primarily as a welcome sign and Members felt the position was therefore appropriate.

Cllr Loose joined the meeting at 7.04pm.

Another member of the public stated that a car had been left on one of the gravel tracks across The Bickerley throughout the summer and asked if it could be removed.

C/6856 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apoloiges for absence had been received from Cllrs Edge, Ring and Rippon-Swaine.

C/6857 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none declared at this time.

C/6858 GRANT AID AWARDS

Grant aid certificates were presented to Crowe Women's Institute; awarded £600 to help fund insulation of the hall, and Citizen Advice New Forest (CANF); awarded £1,000 towards service costs.

The Chief Officer of CANF thanked the Council for its support, which was much appreciated and vital given the huge demands placed on the service by the cost of living crisis. She updated Members on work carried out by CANF in the Ringwood area and highlighted a joint project with the Food Bank, where an experienced advisor is working with clients to find solutions to problems and help achieve more secure homes and incomes. They also support the Food Larder that visits the Leisure Centre every Friday, and have a scheme to help people with energy bills. They will continue to work with partners to offer help to local people.

C/6859
POLICE REPORT

Inspector Darren Ord presented the Neighbourhood Policing Team's quarterly report (*Annex A*) and ran through the statistics. As requested on a previous occasion, he had produced some information to show the number of reported crimes over a longer period of time, which he agreed to forward after the meeting. He commented on 101 response times in September, noting that 33,311 calls had been received with an average 9 minute answering time. The Force recognises that the service needs improvement and, whilst they were experiencing difficulties with recruitment, encouraged the use of the online system to report crime (<https://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>).

It was noted that the number of crimes had increased across the country this year and locally there was a rise in vehicle offences and violence with injury. However, there had been a significant drop in residential burglaries and shoplifting following targeted campaigns.

Officers were congratulated on the recent success of Operation Patch leading to a reduction in antisocial behaviour in the town centre

It was agreed to arrange a meeting to discuss parking on The Bickerley access tracks; Cllr Heron volunteered to attend with the Town Clerk.

C/6860
MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 28th September 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.

C/6861
RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Cllr Briers presented the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 5th October 2022.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 5th October 2022 be received.

C/6862
PLANNING, TOWN AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Day presented the minutes of the Planning, Town and Environment Committee meetings held on 7th October 2022.

He made the following comments:

P/6066 – he congratulated the Neighbourhood Plan team and thanked them for manning the current exhibition, for which there had been positive feedback.

P/6068 – it was expected that the A31 roadworks would be completed in time for the Winter Wanderland event on 27 November; a completion date was expected to be announced by the end of October.

P/6071 – he congratulated Cllrs Turner and Kelleher who attended the last NFDC Planning Committee and persuaded councillors to refuse an application contrary to officer recommendation.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning, Town and Environment Committee meeting held on 7th October 2022 be received.

C/6863

STAFFING COMMITTEE

Cllr Haywood presented the minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 19th October 2022.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 19th October 2022 be received.

C/6864

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Cllr Heron presented the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 19th October 2022.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 19th October 2022 be received.

C/6865

STRATEGY ON A PAGE

Members considered a draft Council strategy for 2022 to 2026 prepared by the Town Clerk following comments from councillors (*Annex B*).

The Town Clerk explained the strategy in detail and said that it was intended to be a living document to guide future planning and budget setting.

Members agreed the three areas of focus: improving facilities, services and green spaces; using events to support the local economy; and better serving and communicating with the public.

It was agreed to add adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan in Year 1.

Cllr Day was concerned that the aim to recruit local businesses for events might not be achievable and wished to discuss this in more detail with the Events Sub-Committee. However, other Members felt it was important to move forward with a Strategy, noting that it was not an irrevocable commitment, would be reviewed regularly and could be updated and changed when necessary.

RESOLVED: That the Council Strategy 2022 – 2026, as amended, be adopted.

ACTION C Wilkins

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C/6866

SPORTS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AT LONG LANE

Cllr Loose reported that work on the artificial turf pitch was underway and gave credit to the Town Clerk for pushing the project forward.

The Town Clerk reported that the first key stage had been certified and a claim had been submitted to the Football Foundation for reimbursement. It was expected that the artificial turf pitch would be complete in February, after which work on the pavilion and other aspects of the project would begin.

RESOLVED: That the verbal report be noted.

C/6867

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED

The Town Mayor reported on his engagements over the previous three months.

He noted the sad loss of Jacqui Terry, who was a Town Councillor from 2007 to 2017 and wife of a previous Town Mayor, Brian Terry. A letter of condolence had been sent on behalf of the Council.

He thanked the volunteers involved in the Community SpeedWatch scheme and noted that he and the Deputy Town Mayor had attended a meeting with officers from NFDC to discuss options. An update report would be prepared for a future meeting of Planning, Town & Environment Committee.

C/6868

REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

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

District Councillor Heron reported on items being considered by Cabinet on 2nd November, two of particular relevant to Ringwood (Update on S106 Developer Contributions and Update on Community Infrastructure Levy). The introduction of Public Space Protection Orders was proposed across the Forest.

C/6869

REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS

Cllr Frederick reported that a new location was being considered by the SpeedWatch team following a concern raised by member of public

Cllr Turner reported that concern had been raised by residents regarding the felling of an apparently healthy tree in Anson Close. This was on land owned by NFDC and she had written to ask for an explanation.

Cllr O'Reilly asked why the information boards in The Danny Cracknell Pocket Park had been removed. It was noted they were in need of replacement and this was in hand.

Cllr Haywood commended the report from SPUD following their work with young people on the Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan (RNP). He thanked the RNP volunteers for all the work they had done to date, which was now starting to bear fruit.

He felt there was some misunderstanding in the community about the future of cricket at Carvers and hoped this would be addressed at the next Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee meeting.

Cllr Scott reported that he had yet to hear from members of the Ringwood & District Twinning Association what they understood its purpose to be; this detail would help inform developing a larger membership.

**C/6870
FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	7.00pm	Wednesday 2 nd November 2022
Planning, Town and Environment	10.00am	Friday 4 th November 2022
Policy & Finance	7.00pm	Wednesday 17 th November 2022
Full Council	7.00pm	Wednesday 24 th November 2022

There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.36pm.

APPROVED
30th November 2022

TOWN MAYOR



Ringwood Quarterly Report



Ringwood South

	Current 90 days	Previous 90 days	Difference
1b Violence with Injury	24	15	10
1c Violence without Injury	59	54	8
2a Rape	1	2	-1
2b Other Sexual Offences	4	4	0
3a Robbery of Business Property		1	-1
3b Robbery of Personal Property	2	1	1
4a1 Burglary Residential (including outbuildings)	1	7	-6
4a2 Burglary Business and Community	8	7	1
4b Vehicle Offences	16	12	4
4c Theft from the Person	1	4	-3
4d Bicycle Theft	3	1	2
4e Shoplifting	8	23	-15
4f All Other Theft Offences	7	16	-9
5a Criminal Damage	16	19	-3
5b Arson		0	
6a Trafficking of Drugs	1	1	0
6b Possession of Drugs	6	2	4
7 Possession of Weapons Offences		1	-2
8 Public Order Offences	28	40	-11
TOTAL	188	211	-19

	Current 90 days	Previous 90 days	Difference
Residential Burglary (Excl Sheds/Garages)		1	-1





Ringwood Quarterly Report



Ringwood North (Poulner)

	Current 90 days	Previous 90 days	Difference
1b Violence with Injury	10	9	1
1c Violence without Injury	16	24	-6
2a Rape		2	-2
2b Other Sexual Offences	2	3	-1
3a Robbery of Business Property		0	
4a1 Burglary Residential	2	5	-3
4a2 Burglary Business and Community			
4b Vehicle Offences	5	4	1
4c Theft from the Person	2	2	0
4d Bicycle Theft		0	
4e Shoplifting	1	2	-1
4f All Other Theft Offences	7	7	1
5a Criminal Damage	4	7	-3
5b Arson	1	0	1
6a Trafficking of Drugs		1	-1
6b Possession of Drugs	1	0	1
7 Possession of Weapons Offences		1	-1
8 Public Order Offences	3	3	0
TOTAL	54	70	-1

	Current 90 days	Previous 90 days	Difference
Residential Burglary (Excl Sheds/Garages)	1	2	-1





Ringwood Quarterly Report

Current Operations/Areas of Focus

Op PATCH is a local operation focusing on anti-social behaviour in Ringwood town, which was founded due to increasing reports of anti-social behaviour around the Meeting House Lane area. This operation will also aim to tackle other issues of anti-social behaviour around Ringwood, which is especially important as we enter the summer holidays. It will allow us to utilise additional resources, target our patrols, and deal with offenders more robustly using standard police powers (such as stop searches under Section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act), and additional powers that can be granted by the local inspector in response to specific incidents (such as Dispersal Orders under Section 35 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act).

Op POT is a local operation which aims to target the issue of non-dwelling burglaries in Ringwood & surrounding areas. As part of this operation we are able to utilise additional resources (such as specially trained Roads Policing officers and dog units) in order to respond to live incidents. Locally, as a neighbourhood team, we endeavour to attend all reported incidents of non-dwelling burglaries in order to carry out a CCTV scope of the area and house-to-house if appropriate to do so.

Successes/Outcomes

Ringwood Police have had a busy few months across the board as a team. Some of our successes have included:

- 3rd October-9th October saw a National County Lines intensification week across the country during which the Ringwood team executed a warrant on an address under Section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act where drugs and drug related paraphernalia were seized. We also carried out increased patrols, including in plain clothes, in & around town to target hotspot areas and anyone involved in drug related harm in the community, as well as visits to vulnerable members of our community to ensure correct support is in place.
- The team worked an extra shift to cover the Ringwood Carnival and during this shift were able to arrest a male who had been wanted for a period of time for outstanding offences, as well as offences committed on the day, and the suspect has since been remanded in prison until a court date can be held.
- **Op Keoman** – the team spent time patrolling forest car parks, and working with specialist units on off-road motorcycles to target beauty spot car parks around the Ringwood area. Theft from vehicles



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Ringwood Quarterly Report

is unfortunately an issue we see every year, primarily during the summer, so this operation was excellent for targeting/deterring offenders, and helping motorists protect their property & vehicles by giving crime prevention advice, 'no valuables' cards, and drawstring bags for carrying valuables.

- During late shifts we have put together local operations looking to target ongoing anti-social behaviour across the area we cover, which is reflected in reports as an issue that is causing a lot of concern for residents in Ringwood. As part of this, we have also sought to issue banning letters on behalf of businesses, community resolutions, and begun on longer-term background work to target particular individuals involved.
- Regular Community SpeedWatch sessions have been attended to support volunteers in the Poulner and Hightown areas, which have been well supported, and have a lasting impact by providing a very visible deterrent in the local area, and education towards speeders.
- We have also attended numerous community events to which we've been invited such as a visit to Greyfriars pre-school, a fraud event hosted by HSBC prior to their closure, a joint school visit with Hampshire Fire & Rescue service, and several community coffee mornings to chat with residents about their concerns and offer crime prevention advice.

Changes in the Neighbourhood Team

Ringwood Town: PCSO 17944 Jas Sparshott & PC 27650 Amy Waddington

Poulner: PCSO 16158 Louise Griffiths-Grozier & PC 28252 Rob Soutar

Sergeant: PS 1266 Rob Ford

Inspector: Insp 1904 Darren Ord



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Ringwood Town Council – Strategy 2022-2026

VISION

Our Council tightly focussed on helping our market town to thrive by improving the things that matter most to Ringwood residents, businesses and visitors

Y3 – 2025-26

Identify gaps in open space provision and options to fill them

Y2 – 2024-25

Complete new grounds department facility
Agree management plan for every open space

Y1 – 2023-24

Complete football pavilion and other facilities
Complete Columbarium
Agree strategic plan for Carvers
Complete our Neighbourhood Plan

Improving our facilities, services and green spaces

Y3 – 2025-26

Y2 – 2024 -25

Work with NFDC and local businesses to inaugurate a new event specifically to support town centre businesses

Y1 – 2023-24

Recruit local businesses to provide stalls at events in place of businesses from out of town

Using events to support the local economy

Y3 – 2025-26

Y2 – 2024-25

Y1 - 2023-24

Explore options for working with NFDC and other local councils to fund a publicity officer post

Work with NFDC to re-define and communicate the information service

Better serving and communicating with the public

THE FUTURE

Ringwood Town Council is

- Known for organizing great events, providing oversight of planning applications, Looking after valued green spaces and being a good employer.
- The first point of contact for all local public services in Ringwood
- Proactively engaging local people about issues that matter to them
- providing valued support to Ringwood businesses and the local economy

TODAY

Ringwood Town Council is known for organizing great events, providing oversight of planning applications, looking after valued green spaces and being a good employer

ENABLERS and DISRUPTORS

Skills of councillors and staff - We will encourage more training and improve our performance management processes. **Events Management Sub-Committee. Volunteers. Neighbourhood Plan**

Budget pressures and inflation – We will review our budgetary control and management of reserves

County Council October 2022 Report

Councillor Michael Thierry - Ringwood Division

Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan - Partial Update Regulation 18 Draft Plan Consultation

Hampshire County Council and its partner Authorities, Southampton City Council, Portsmouth City Council, New Forest National Park Authority and South Downs National Park Authority (collectively known as the Hampshire Authorities), are working to produce a partial update to the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (the Plan) which will guide minerals and waste decision making in the Plan Area up until 2040.

The partial update to the Plan will build upon the currently adopted Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (2013), eventually providing new and updated policies based on up-to-date evidence of the current levels of provision for minerals and waste facilities in the Plan Area. Importantly, the partially updated Plan aims to establish the future levels of provision required to meet national and regional policy targets and objectives. It will set out an updated vision of how this will be achieved and provide details of strategic sites that we propose will deliver the vision.

The Hampshire Authorities will be inviting feedback from statutory consultees, stakeholders, communities, local organisations and businesses on the Draft Plan.

The Draft Plan Consultation will begin in November 2022 and will be run for 12 weeks.

The following documents are made available for decision making processes only and are not yet subject to consultation. For all correspondence please refer to the democratic processes in your respective minerals and waste planning authority.

Two new sites proposed are very local to Ringwood namely Copley Wood and Midgham Farm. One of the existing sites - Bleak Hill Quarry at Hamer Warren is now proposed for hazardous waste landfill.

New Forest National Park

In her annual report to the National the Chief Executive Alison Barnes noted:

The Policy team continues to support local communities in producing neighbourhood plans. Ringwood Town Council is currently liaising with both the National Park Authority and New Forest District Council on their emerging neighbourhood plan. This will cover the whole of Ringwood Parish and seeks to enhance habitat and species connectivity between the Avon Valley and the New Forest.