

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 26th March 2025 at 7pm at Ringwood Gateway, The Furlong, Ringwood

PRESENT: Cllr Rae Frederick (Chairman)
Cllr Philip Day
Cllr Andrew Briers
Cllr Luke Dadford
Cllr Gareth DeBoos
Cllr Mary DeBoos
Cllr Janet Georgiou
Cllr John Haywood
Cllr Peter Kelleher
Cllr James Swyer
Cllr Michael Thierry

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Chris Wilkins, Town Clerk
Mrs Jo Hurd, Deputy Town Clerk
District Cllr Jeremy Heron
District Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine
District Cllr Richard Frampton

ABSENT: Cllr Ingrid De Bruyn
Cllr Glenys Turner
Cllr Becci Windsor
District Cllr Nigel Linford

C/7316 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of public present.

C/7317 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs DeBruyn, Turner and Windsor, and District Cllr Linford.

C/7318 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

C/7319 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 26th February 2025, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

C/7320 RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

It was noted that the meeting of Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee scheduled for 5th March 2025 had been cancelled.

**C/7321
PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr Day presented the minutes of the Planning Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 7th March 2025.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning, Town and Environment Committee meeting held on 7th March 2025 be received.

**C/7322
STAFFING COMMITTEE**

Cllr Haywood presented the minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 12th March 2025. He highlighted the point that most of the employment policies in place for Council staff are non-contractual.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 12th March 2025 be received.

**C7323
POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Cllr M DeBoos presented the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 19th March 2025.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 19th March 2025 be received.

**C/7324
COMMITTEE COMPOSITION**

Members considered changes to the composition of council committees, sub-committees, working parties or panels.

Cllr Haywood resigned from the Events Management Sub-Committee, but said he would continue to volunteer at events.

Cllr Dadford resigned as the Council's representative on Ringwood Society.

Although not present at the meeting, Cllr Windsor had indicated her wish to step down from Planning, Town & Environment Committee and Policy & Finance Committee.

RESOLVED: That the changes to membership and representation be noted.

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| ACTION N Vodden |
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**C/7325
GRANT AID AWARDS**

RESOLVED: That Grant Aid awards of £500 to Youth Riders, £400 to Friends Of Ringwood Infant Schol (FORIS), £500 to Greening Ringwood, £800 to Ringwood District Girl Guides and £500 to Ringwood Round Table be noted.

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C/7326

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED

The Town Mayor reminded members to contact the Town Clerk if they wish to attend the training session on 9th April 2025 in relation to local government reorganisation and devolution.

C/7327

REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County and District Councillor Thierry reported:-

- The Chief Executive of HCC is leaving after 40 years' service (4 yrs as Chief Executive);
- HCC is changing how it calculates how much people pay for care and support at home from 95% to 100%;
- Planning & Infrastructure Bill the MP commented that councillor led planning committees tend to approve more applications than officer determination processes;
- He had intervened in the Thriving Market Place project and hoped for a briefing from HCC officers in the near future.

District Cllr Haywood reported on local government reorganisation and is actively working on the Stillwater Park case highlighted by residents at a previous meeting.

District Councillor Richard Frampton had recently been appointed to Ringwood East, Bransgore, Burley & Sopley. He introduced himself and was familiar to some as he had previously been a Town Councillor.

District Councillor Rippon-Swaine talked through his written report (*Annex A*). It was noted that he had recently celebrated 25 years of presidency of Ringwood Society. Cllr Day asked for support to encourage Planning Officers to have regard to compliance with Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan policies when determining planning applications.

District Cllr Heron reported on local government reorganisation and how challenging the timescales for implementation (set by the government) will be. The changes will have a significant impact and NFDC needs to look carefully at what it's investing in, what's deliverable and what's not worth pursuing. Plans and projections will impact on budgets, which may need to be reallocated and invested to support communities, where some services may be passed down.

C/7328

REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS

Cllr Day attended a meeting of Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley (EH&I) Parish Council when the Snails Lane planning application had been discussed. The Council is working with EH&I on its response and this will be considered by Planning, Town and Environment Committee at its meeting on 4th April. He attended a celebration recognising 50 years of New Forest District Council and 1st anniversary of the Chairman being in office. He also attended Ringwood Society's excellent AGM and commended it on the work it does, making reference to the reinstated railway signage, lamp and bench on Castleman Way. He thanked society members for their efforts and in particular Cllr M DeBoos who successfully secured grant funding.

Cllr G DeBoos attended NFDC's Planning Committee meeting on 12th March 2025 in relation to application 24/10919, where the officer stated 6.5 sq.m. floor area for a bedroom was compliant but would not be according to NDSS. In view of this and the misunderstanding of RNP Policy R10, he had asked for a meeting with the Chairman of NFDC Planning Committee

who had declined, so he has now asked for a meeting with the leader. He also attended a SW Quadrant meeting and reported that the Forestry Commission is looking to introduce charges for its car parks.

Cllr Haywood EH&I Parish Council had formed a working party of councillors and residents of Snails Lane to develop comments on the Snails Lane planning application, to meet NFDC's deadline for submissions of 11 April.

Cllr Dadford has been liaising with NHS Blood Donation regarding a venue in Ringwood. This had appeared promising but unfortunately the proposed venue was unable to meet all requirements and this had reached a dead end.

Cllr Kelleher reported he attended the Empty Bowls fundraiser event with Ringwood Food Bank at Ibsley, which was well supported. In his role as Flood Warden, he had met with Dr Peter Street. Many residents on Crow Hill have cleared the ditches outside their homes and there are some signs of improvement at the bottom of the hill. The ditch in Wrights field has also been cleared. Barrack Lane and Charles's Lane are full of potholes and there are other issues needing attention. The County Councillor offered to assist in identifying HCC's local engineer.

**C/7329
FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

Forthcoming Meetings – to note the following dates:

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| Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces | 7.00pm | Wednesday 2 nd April 2025 |
| Planning, Town & Environment | 10.00am | Friday 4 th April 2025 |
| Policy & Finance | 7.00pm | Wednesday 23 rd April 2025 |
| Full Council | 7.00pm | Wednesday 30 th April 2025 |

**C/7330
EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED: That, in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public were excluded because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted (*Confidential minutes - Annex B*).

**C/7331
LEGAL MATTERS**

The Town Clerk reported on ongoing legal matters

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk's verbal report be received.

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| ACTION C Wilkins |
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**C/7332
COMMUNITY AWARDS**

Members considered nominations for Community Awards.

RESOLVED: That one Community Award be presented at the Annual Town Assembly.

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There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.04pm.

APPROVED
30th April 2025

TOWN MAYOR

RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

26th March 2025

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

NFDC PLACE & SUSTAINABILITY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL Meeting 13 March 2025.

(Recommendations to NFDC Cabinet to meet in April 2025.)

1. Climate Change Adaptation.

- Panel to note a Report on the need for climate adaptation within the New Forest and to highlight what actions could be taken by residents and the Council to adapt to a changing climate.
- Adapt to seasonal changes, e.g. warmer, wetter winters and hotter and dryer summers, more intense and frequent storms and extreme weather events.
- Four Key Hazards: Flooding, Coastal Erosion, Heatwaves & Air Quality.
- Those living in certain areas or with certain conditions may be more vulnerable: e.g. ageing population, Under 5's, health conditions, low incomes.
- Focus on key information and actions for a range of stakeholders, residents, officers & councillors.
- Next steps to include sharing action guides internally and externally and update the climate adaptation webpage.

2. UK Share Prosperity Fund 2025/26.

- Report to Panel showed Total Fund available and spent for 2025-26 was £326k, which included £13k administration.
- Capital Projects (£113k) approved included Noticeboards to improve wayfinding to local businesses & destinations and replacement of public litter bins at end of life to align to new waste collection service.
- Revenue Projects (£200k) approved included the NEET Support Programme & NF Apprenticeship Hub.

3. New Waste Collection Update.

- Ringwood Depot to introduce new system of wheelie bin collection from October 2025.
- Use your postcode to check the start date and the type of service allocated to your property at newforest.gov.uk/FindYourPhase.
- All properties to receive an explanation letter prior to commencement of the service. Details and criteria can be viewed at newforest.gov.uk/AssistedCollections.