

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 30th March 2022 at 7.00pm at Ringwood Gateway, The Furlong, Ringwood.

PRESENT: Cllr Tony Ring, Town Mayor
Cllr Philip Day, Deputy Mayor
Cllr Andy Briers (*until 9.00pm*)
Cllr Hilary Edge
Cllr Rae Frederick (*from 7.05pm*)
Cllr John Haywood
Cllr Jeremy Heron
Cllr Peter Kelleher
Cllr Darren Loose
Cllr Gloria O'Reilly
Cllr Derek Scott
Cllr Glenys Turner

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

ABSENT: Cllr Gareth Deboos
Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine

The Town Mayor expressed condolences to family and friends of Michael Lingam-Willgoss – a very sad loss to the town.

C/6749 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were 17 members of the public present, all of whom were in attendance for agenda item 14 (Land at Forestside Gardens).

Three residents of Forestside Gardens spoke in support of the Council purchasing the green area within the estate. They outlined the history of the site and noted that residents had come together over 10 years ago to fund its maintenance. They had also planted trees, which were now protected by a Tree Preservation Order. Many residents enjoy the use of this green lung, which looks attractive and is a safe place for children to play.

The implored the Council to purchase the land so that it could be retained as a public amenity in perpetuity and to give residents peace of mind.

Cllr Frederick joined the meeting at 7.05pm.

One of the residents noted that Ringwood was underserved by public open space and also that the land was as cheap as it ever would be due to a developer overage.

C/6750 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Deboos and Rippon-Swaine.

C/6751
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Kelleher declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 14 (Land at Forestside Gardens). The Town Clerk reported that Cllr Kelleher had previously applied for a dispensation to speak on this item, which had been granted until the end of his current term of office and allows Cllr Kelleher to take part in the debate but not to vote on the matter.

For the benefit of the members of public present, agenda item 14 was taken next.

C/6752
PURCHASE OF LAND AT FORESTSIDE GARDENS

The Town Clerk advised that the land was being offered for sale by public auction again. The Council had previously agreed in principle to try to purchase the land but had been outbid on the last occasion.

Cllr Heron had previously supported the purchase and stated that land such as this would ordinarily have been allocated as public open space but, at the time the estate was built, was left in private ownership to avoid maintenance costs. This was an opportunity to protect the land for future generations by bringing it into public ownership.

Cllr Day had previously voted against the purchase as it appeared clear that the prospect of anyone obtaining permission to develop the land was highly unlikely. He was of the opinion that the valuation should reflect its use as open space, as not a development plot.

Cllr Kelleher, a resident of Forestside Gardens since 1999, explained that there had been several attempts over the years by developers to build on the site. He said the Council was now in a position to support the community to correct a wrong and give residents peace of mind, rather than having the threat of development hanging over them.

RESOLVED: That the principle of renewing efforts to purchase land at Forestside Gardens be approved.

C/6753
MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

C/6733 - The Town Mayor reported that residents of The Bickerley had contacted him to say that, although the new no parking signs had initially been successful in prevent parking, as there had been no agreement to leaflet cars, some were now returning.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.

C/6754
RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Cllr Briers presented the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 2nd March 2022.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 2nd March 2022 be received.

C/6755
PLANNING, TOWN AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Day presented the minutes of the Planning, Town and Environment Committee meeting held on 4th March 2022.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning, Town and Environment Committee meeting held on 4th March 2022 be received.

C/6756
STAFFING COMMITTEE

Cllr Haywood presented the minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 16th March 2022.

S/0073 – It was noted that Policy & Finance Committee would need to agree a budget to engage consultants.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 4th March 2022 be received.

C/6757
POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Cllr Heron presented the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 23rd March 2022.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 23rd March 2022 be received, with the exception of F/6016.

C/6758
COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND DELEGATED POWERS

Members considered a recommendation from Policy and Finance Committee to adopt updated committee terms of reference (*Annex A*) (F/6016 refers).

RESOLVED: That the updated committee terms of reference be approved.

ACTION	C Wilkins
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C/6759
COUNCIL STRATEGY

The Town Clerk reported that during recent discussions about possible improvements to the project report, it had been agreed that Members would rather officers spend time developing a strategy. This had been discussed previously, but at the time Members were not in favour of the complex documents proposed.

He circulated a different form of strategy document – strategy on a page – which had been commended to him by a resident with experience of strategic planning within organisations. This was a more graphical representation of a strategy showing where we are today, where we want to be in the future and outlining the vision and steps to get there using themes and priority areas for development. He gave an example of how a strategy for the Council might look.

Members were in favour of the approach and it was agreed that a meeting should be arranged to discuss this further.

Members thanked the Town Clerk for his work on this to date.

RESOLVED: That Members give consideration to the draft strategy document circulated, and the Town Clerk arrange a meeting to enable further discussion.

ACTION	C Wilkins
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C/6760
MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

Members considered the Finance Manager's report (*Annex B*).

It was noted that Members do not have to accept any agreed increase or to claim the allowance at all. Cllr Day indicated that he would continue not to accept any increase, as he had done since 2018.

RESOLVED: That Members Allowances be increased by 1.75% in line with the pay award granted to officers, and that this be backdated to 1st April 2021.

ACTION	C Wilkins
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C/6761
SPORTS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AT LONG LANE

The Town Clerk reported that the Scrutiny Panel had met to scrutinise timeline, budget and risk register. It was hoped that the Football Foundation would approve the grant application in April, resulting in the project being fully funded.

RESOLVED: That the verbal report be noted.

C/6762
COMMUNICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED

The Town Mayor reported:

- i) Discussions had taken place with Ringwood School regarding an alternative to the student advisor scheme. A meeting would be arranged at the School prior to the summer holidays to discuss this further, and it was hoped that there would be engagement with other schools to give councillors the opportunity to explain to students how the Council works and listen to their views.
- ii) He had attended Ringwood School citizenship day.
- iii) He had attended the opening of Men's Shed new premises in Strides Lane; this was a very successful organisation keen to continue to be involved in community activities
- iv) He had attended the planting of a community tree (English Oak) at Greyfriars. Cllr Turner had hoped there would be a Covid memorial tree – it was noted this could be discussed at the next Carvers Working Party meeting.
- v) He had met the A31 Project Manager regarding peak time traffic in Eastfield Lane/Southampton Road, which was now being looked at in more detail.

C/6763
REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS

Cllr Day – noted that hidden paintings in the Parish Church being unveiled on 2nd April; he had attended an event in support of Ukraine and a meeting arranged by Churches Together regarding hosting families and individuals.

Cllr Frederick – thanked councillors who had responded to recent correspondence about the Ringwood Greening campaign. She commented on a development by NFDC in Christchurch Road, in which they appeared to be in breach of planning consent with regards to the render and painting – Cllr Heron agreed to follow this up.

Cllr Edge – asked if there was any news on a Police drop-in. It was noted that there had been no attendees at the recent event held in Gateway and the Town Mayor was working with the local Inspector to improve publicity. A longer term solution was also being investigated.

C/6764
REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

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

District Councillor Heron reported Cabinet would be held on 6th April, the agenda for which included adoption of a new Parking Standards SPD and introduction of S106 Monitoring Charges. He suggested that all Members read and comment on the proposed Waste Strategy.

C/6765
FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Planning, Town & Environment	10.00am	Friday 1 st April 2022
Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	7.00pm	Wednesday 6 th April 2022
Planning, Town & Environment	7.00pm	Wednesday 13 th April 2022
(Special Meeting to discuss Planning Application 21/11723 - land off Moortown Lane		
Policy & Finance	7.00pm	Wednesday 20 th April 2022
Full Council	7.00pm	Wednesday 27 th April 2022

ACTION C Wilkins

C/6766
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 (*Annex D*).

C/6767
PURCHASE OF LAND AT FORESTSIDE GARDENS

Following a decision by Members earlier in the meeting, that the Council should express an interest in purchasing the land, further discussions took place.

The Town Clerk reported that a virtual auction would be held on 19th May and reminded Members of the previously approved bid.

Cllr Briers left the meeting at 9.00pm.

Members agreed that the meeting continue beyond 9.00pm.

Following a vote, it was

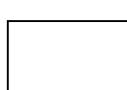
RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk make further enquiries in relation to the purchase of the land at Forestside Gardens and proceed as instructed.

ACTION	C Wilkins
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There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 9.11pm.

APPROVED
27th April 2022

TOWN MAYOR



RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL**TERMS OF REFERENCE****PLANNING, TOWN AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

1. To undertake within the overall policies and approved budgets of the Council the following duties and functions:-
 - i) Responding on behalf of the Council to all consultations on applications for development under Planning legislation, provided that where an application would have a significant effect on the character of the town such application shall be referred by the Committee with its recommendations to the Council for determination.
 - ii) Determination of responses on behalf of the Council in respect of all applications relating to the preservation, felling or other works with respect to trees and tree preservation orders.
 - iii) Determination of the Council's response to any appeal against a planning decision by the District Council including the preparation of submissions to be made to an Inspector.
 - iv) Determination of any responses to be made by the Council in relation to applications for licenses issued by the District Council including those relating to entertainment premises, justices licenses, taxi and private hire licensing and street collections.
 - v) Acting as the consultee in respect all matters relating to the built environment, roads and highways, car parking, traffic management, footpaths, traffic regulations and bus shelters provided that where any proposals in relation to these matters would have a significant impact on the character of the town the Committee shall make recommendations to the Council.
 - vi) To be responsible for all matters relating to the provision and control of street lighting.
2. To advise the Council on its responses to be made in relation to:-
 - i) Hampshire structure plan.
 - ii) New Forest District local plan.
3. To advise Policy and Finance Committee on planning and environment issues in relation to the New Forest National Park and the Town Plan for Ringwood.

RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL
PLANNING, TOWN AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 1) The primary purpose of the Committee is to exercise on behalf of the Council all its powers, duties and functions with regard to the matters listed in paragraph 2 below. In exercising this function, the Committee shall:
 - a) be bound by all relevant policies adopted by the Council and subject to the Council's budget and system of budgetary controls; and
 - b) supervise the work of relevant officers and hold them to account.
- 2) The matters within the Committee's remit are the following: -
 - a) Responding on behalf of the Council to all consultations on applications for development under Planning legislation, provided that where an application would have a significant effect on the character of the town such application shall (where relevant deadlines for comments allow) be referred by the Committee with its recommendations to the Council for determination.
 - b) Determination of responses on behalf of the Council in respect of all applications relating to the preservation, felling or other works with respect to trees and tree preservation orders.
 - c) Determination of the Council's response to any appeal against a planning decision by the local planning authority including the preparation of submissions to be made to an Inspector.
 - d) Determination of any responses to be made by the Council in relation to applications for premises licenses issued by the District Council.
 - e) Acting as the consultee in respect all matters relating to the built environment, roads and highways, car parking, traffic management, footpaths, traffic regulations and bus shelters provided that where any proposals in relation to these matters would have a significant impact on the character of the town the Committee shall (where relevant deadlines for comments allow) be referred by the Committee with its recommendations to the Council for determination.
 - f) To be responsible for all matters relating to the provision and control of street lighting
 - g) Oversight of the preparation of any Neighbourhood Plan, Neighbourhood Development Order or any similar document or process which the Council may decide to approve, sponsor or undertake
 - h) Measures (whether taken by the Council or any other person or agency) to protect the built environment from flooding or mitigate the effects of flooding and oversight of any Flood Emergency Plan

- i) Acting as the consultee on planning, environment and management issues in relation to the New Forest National Park
- 3) The Committee shall also have the following subsidiary functions:
- a) To advise the Council on its response to climate change and other threats to the environment, the well-being of people in Ringwood or the town's economy.
 - b) To advise the Council on its responses to planning policy documents affecting the civil parish of Ringwood or any part of it and proposed by any competent authority.
 - c) To consider and make recommendations to the Policy & Finance Committee on the use of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) or other developer contributions received by the Council.

DELEGATED POWERS

The following powers are delegated to the Committee to enable it to discharge its functions:

- i. To give any instruction, direction or guidance relating to any matter within its remit to any officer which the Council could lawfully have given and which is either consistent with the delegation of powers to officers or has been requested by the officer concerned;
- ii. To approve the submission of a comment or response in the name and on behalf of the Council to any relevant authority on any matter which falls to be considered or determined by the Committee within its terms of reference above;
- iii. To approve on behalf of the Council any contractual or expenditure commitment for a matter within its remit that is within approved budgets and not inconsistent with decisions delegated to officers; and
- iv. To authorise on behalf of the Council the use of funds held in any earmarked reserve relating to a matter within its remit PROVIDED that:
 - A. "use" in this context shall include spending funds, committing funds to future expenditure or putting funds at risk of being called upon to meet a contractual or expenditure commitment;
 - B. The CIL reserve shall not be considered as being within the Committee's remit in this context; and
 - C. In any single financial year commencing on 1st April no more than 50% of the reserve balance at the start of that year may be used.

Approved on: [date]

RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL**TERMS OF REFERENCE****RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

1. To undertake, within the overall policies and approved budgets of the Council, the following powers, duties and functions:-
 - i) Management, control and development of all playing fields, sports grounds, open spaces, play areas, skate parks and other leisure and recreational facilities.
 - ii) Management and control of the Council's statutory and non-statutory allotments.
 - iii) Management and control of the Cemetery and closed churchyard.
 - iv) Maintenance of public seats and bus shelters.
 - v) Maintenance of flowerbeds, tubs, troughs and fence railing planters and any other areas held by the Council on lease or license.
 - vi) Management of any fishing rights owned by the Council.
 - vii) Implementation of a recreational strategy for the town.
 - viii) Promotion of the provision of community buildings, including where appropriate, the allocation of grants.
 - ix) Protection of rights of way and public footpaths.
 - x) Recommending fees and charges to Policy and Finance Committee.
 - xi) Determination of any Tenders to be submitted for ground works and ground maintenance for other public bodies.
 - xii) Determination of the Terms and Conditions, including the level of commuted payments, for the transfer of open space land to the Council.
2. To advise the Council on its recreational, open space, cemetery and allotment strategies and once adopted to implement those strategies.
3. To advise the Policy & Finance Committee on Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces issues in relation to the New Forest National Park and the Town Plan for Ringwood.
4. To advise the Council on Bye-laws with respect to open space and once adopted to ensure compliance with those Bye-laws.
5. To undertake the Council's functions in relation to flooding and to liaise with other public bodies on flood prevention schemes and other initiatives.

RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 1) The primary purpose of the Committee is to exercise on behalf of the Council all its powers, duties and functions with regard to the matters listed in paragraph 2 below. In exercising this function, the Committee shall:
 - a) be bound by all relevant policies adopted by the Council and subject to the Council's budget and system of budgetary controls; and
 - b) supervise the work of relevant officers and hold them to account.
- 2) The matters within the Committee's remit are the following: -
 - a) Management, control and development of all playing fields, sports grounds, town or village greens, public open spaces, play areas, skate parks and other leisure and recreational facilities (including the development and implementation of recreational strategies relating to them).
 - b) Management and control of the Council's statutory and non-statutory allotments.
 - c) Management and control of the Cemetery and closed churchyard.
 - d) Maintenance of public seats and bus shelters in the ownership of the Council.
 - e) Maintenance of flowerbeds, tubs, troughs and fence railing planters and any other public spaces owned by the Council or managed by it by virtue of any lease, licence or other arrangement.
 - f) Management of trees and tree safety on all sites owned or managed by the Council.
 - g) Maintenance of rights of way and public footpaths (insofar as this task is undertaken by Council staff in respect of land owned or managed by the Council, under the Parish Lengthsman Scheme or otherwise).
 - h) Management of the public services delivered from Carvers Clubhouse now or in future (but not including matters relating to the management of the building as a capital asset)
 - i) Management of such youth services as are provided by the Council from time to time
 - j) The programme of public events provided by the Council including oversight of their management, the town centre Christmas illuminations and any display tree or trees
 - k) Management of any fishing rights owned by the Council.
 - l) Recommending fees and charges relating to facilities or services within its remit to the Policy and Finance Committee.
 - m) Determination of any Tenders to be submitted for ground works and ground maintenance for other public bodies.
 - n) Determination of the Terms and Conditions, including the level of commuted payments, for the transfer of open space land to the Council.

- o) Monitoring the Council's inventory of vehicles, machinery and infrastructure and overseeing any plans for its replacement
- 3) The Committee shall also have the following subsidiary functions:
 - a) To advise the Council on its recreational, open space, cemetery and allotment strategies and once adopted to implement those strategies.
 - b) To advise the Policy & Finance Committee on Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces issues in relation to the New Forest National Park.
 - c) To advise the Council on Bye-laws with respect to open space and once adopted to ensure compliance with those Bye-laws.

DELEGATED POWERS

The following powers are delegated to the Committee to enable it to discharge its functions:

- i. To agree on behalf of the Council changes to the Job Description and the Person Specification for the role of Events Manager (but not changes to the Terms and Conditions of the employment of any officer);
- ii. To give any instruction, direction or guidance relating to any matter within its remit to any officer which the Council could lawfully have given and which is either consistent with the delegation of powers to officers or has been requested by the officer concerned;
- iii. To approve on behalf of the Council any contractual or expenditure commitment for a matter within its remit that is within approved budgets and not inconsistent with decisions delegated to officers; and
- iv. To authorise on behalf of the Council the use of funds held in any earmarked reserve relating to a matter within its remit PROVIDED that:
 - A. "use" in this context shall include spending funds, committing funds to future expenditure or putting funds at risk of being called upon to meet a contractual or expenditure commitment; and
 - B. In any single financial year commencing on 1st April no more than 50% of the reserve balance at the start of that year may be used.

Approved on: [date]

RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL**TERMS OF REFERENCE****POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

1. To advise the Council on its Corporate Policies and Strategies.
2. To advise the Council on the budget proposals of all Committees and the level of the precept to be levied each year.
3. To be responsible for all aspects of the financial administration of the Council including arrangements for preparation of the accounts, audit of accounts and for ensuring preparation of, and compliance with, the Council's financial regulations.
4. To advise the Council on the level of allowances to be payable to Councillors.
5. To be responsible for authorising legal proceedings in relation to contentious matters, subject to the likely costs associated therewith being included within the Council's budget.
6. To advise the Council on responses to be made to:-
 - i) New Forest District Council corporate plans and policies.
 - ii) The strategy for the New Forest.
 - iii) The New Forest National Park.
 - iv) The structure of Local Government, including proposals for Regional Government.
 - v) Hampshire County Council's corporate plans and policies.
 - vi) All other consultation documents where responsibility for responding is not otherwise allocated to another Committee.
7. To advise the Council on Community Awards.
8. To be responsible for advising the Council on Standing Orders in respect to the Conduct of Meetings, Code of Conduct for members and all similar documentation relating to the overall administration of the Council's affairs.
9. To undertake within the overall policies and approved budgets of the Council the following duties and functions:-
 - i) Determination of applications for grant aid submitted to the Council.
 - ii) Determination of fees and charges for services provided by the Council.
 - iii) Determination of subscriptions to be paid by the Council.

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- iv) All matters relating to the preparation of the Council's accounts and the implementation of appropriate audit procedures.
 - v) Maintenance and development of IT facilities for the Council including the development of the Council's web-site.
 - vi) Development of the Council's public relations and its interface with the community.
 - vii) All matters relating to Ringwood Festival and Carnival Committees.
 - viii) Management and development of CCTV.
 - ix) Management and development of markets, including the Farmers Markets.
10. To exercise all the powers, duties and functions of the Council and of any Committee where in the interest of the town, it is essential for decisions to be taken notwithstanding the fact that ordinarily the matter would have been referred to another Committee or Council for determination.

RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL**POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE****TERMS OF REFERENCE**

- 1) The primary purpose of the Committee is to exercise on behalf of the Council all its powers, duties and functions with regard to the matters listed in paragraph 2 below. In exercising this function, the Committee shall:
 - a) be bound by all relevant policies adopted by the Council and subject to the Council's budget and system of budgetary controls; and
 - b) supervise the work of relevant officers and hold them to account.
- 2) The matters within the Committee's remit are the following: -
 - a) Advising the Council on the budget proposals of all committees and the level of the precept required for each year
 - b) Monitoring income and expenditure against budget and, when deemed necessary, either making recommendations to the Council for or approving any or all of the following:
 - i) revisions to budget figures;
 - ii) movements between budget headings;
 - iii) transfers to or from reserves.
 - c) Overseeing all other aspects of the financial administration of the Council including arrangements for the preparation of accounts, audit of accounts, its system of financial controls and their effectiveness, the management of financial risk, banking arrangements, investments and treasury management and the preparation of and compliance with the Council's Financial Regulations.
 - d) Overseeing the Council's formal policies, Standing Orders, strategies and governance documents, undertaking periodic reviews of these and, when deemed necessary, either making recommendations to the Council for or approving changes to them.
 - e) Advising the Council on the level of allowances to be payable to Councillors
 - f) Overseeing all Council business of a legal nature including:
 - i) the acquisition or disposal of any freehold or leasehold interests in land;
 - ii) the granting or acquisition of any licences for the occupation of land (whether for the purposes of holding a fair, market or event of any kind or otherwise);
 - iii) the conduct of any dispute, claim or proceedings of any kind.
 - g) Overseeing the management of the Council's assets (save for those included within the remit of any other committee) and the Council's insurance needs and arrangements
 - h) Managing the Council's Grant Aid scheme

- i) Reviewing the Council's scale of fees and charges annually (or at such other intervals as are thought fit) and determining changes to these
- j) Reviewing the Council's subscriptions annually (or at such other intervals as are thought fit) and determining renewals or cancellations of them
- k) Reviewing the Council's contracts, service level agreements and other legal arrangements with other parties annually (or at such other intervals as are thought fit) and, where necessary and practicable, giving guidance or directions about their variation, termination or renewal
- l) Advising the Council on responses to be made to any plans, policies or strategies proposed or published by New Forest District Council, New Forest National Park Authority, Hampshire County Council, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England or any other competent authority where such response has been requested or is appropriate having regard to the powers and functions of the Council
- m) Overseeing the management of the Council's office functions including the Information Service, IT hardware and software, the Council's website and official social media accounts, data protection policies and arrangements, publication scheme and freedom of information responsibilities.
- n) The exercise of any other power, duty or function of the Council that may lawfully be delegated to a committee, where this is judged to be in the interests of the town and necessary without delay, notwithstanding the fact that ordinarily the matter would have been referred to another committee or the Council for determination.

DELEGATED POWERS

The following powers are delegated to the Committee to enable it to discharge its functions:

- i. To give any instruction, direction or guidance relating to any matter within its remit to any officer which the Council could lawfully have given and which is either consistent with the delegation of powers to officers or has been requested by the officer concerned;
- ii. To approve on behalf of the Council any contractual or expenditure commitment for a matter within its remit that is within approved budgets and not inconsistent with decisions delegated to officers;
- iii. To authorise on behalf of the Council the use of funds held in any earmarked reserve PROVIDED that "use" in this context shall include spending funds, committing funds to future expenditure or putting funds at risk of being called upon to meet a contractual or expenditure commitment;
- iv. To revise the Council's budget or approve a virement between budget headings;
- v. To approve changes to any Council policy, governance or strategy document (except Standing Orders or Financial Regulations);
- vi. To approve the initiation of any legal proceedings in the name of the Council or any steps in connection therewith; and

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- vii. To authorise the execution of any deed, agreement, notice or other instrument on behalf of the Council.

Approved on: [date]

DRAFT

REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL – 30th March 2022
MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 New Forest District Council have increased their basic members allowances by 1.75 % from the 1st of April 2021 in line with the National Local Government pay award. This has an impact on the recommended basic allowance paid to members of Town and Parish Councils within the District.

2. MEMBERS ALLOWANCES – FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 For 2020/21 and for the year to date, Ringwood Town Council paid a basic members allowance of £769.60 per annum. Currently twelve members are in receipt of the allowance.
- 2.2 The District Council have just announced that their allowance is now £6,718 per annum and the recommended allowance for this Council is 12.5% of the District Council allowance, or £839.75. This would represent an increase of 9.1%.
- 2.3 The Town Council does not have to accept the increase, and need not adhere strictly to it, but 'must have regard to' the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel when setting any allowance it has chosen to pay.
- 2.4 If the full increase is applied, spend will increase by £841.80 in 2021/22 which would exceed the revised budget. The budget was based on a more modest increase in line with the predicted pay award for staff. Note that this will also exceed the approved budget for next year before any 2022/23 increase is applied.
- 2.5 An increase of 1.75%, in line with the increase awarded to staff, would increase total costs by £162 per year and bring the basic allowance up to £783.07 per annum, which is within the current budget provision and will allow a further modest increase in 2022/23.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the members allowance be increased by 1.75% per annum in line with the pay award granted to officers.

For further information please contact:

Rory Fitzgerald, Finance Manager or

Tel: 01425 484723

rory.fitzgerald@ringwood.gov.uk

For further information please contact:

Chris Wilkins, Town Clerk

Tel: 01425 484720

Chris.wilkins@ringwood.gov.uk

County Council March 2022 Report

Councillor Michael Thierry - Ringwood Division

Michael Lingam-Willgoss

I pay deep tribute to the community service of Michael Lingam-Willgoss, indeed the 'voice of Ringwood'. Michael made a significant contribution to Ringwood life in a number of areas, Ringwood Carnival, Christmas Eve community carol singing, the Pedal Car Race, Ellingham Show, Michael was the entertaining commentator at all these events, speaking with interest, knowledge and good humour. The Mayor and I were privileged to attend the private Funeral Service yesterday. Our thoughts are with his beloved family.

Hampshire County Council & New Forest District Council

Attended all meetings of both District and County as scheduled.

Hampshire County Council - Operation Resilience

Works are currently programmed for Lindford Road, Poulner, from Gorley Road to Butlers Lane - 7th April 2022, 7:30am to 6.00pm for up to one day. During this time the road will be closed to through traffic. The road will be open outside of these hours.

Hampshire County Council - Ukrainian conflict

The County Council's Leader has set aside an initial £100,000 to provide any immediate assistance required by Ukrainians arriving in the county and County teams are poised to mobilise quickly to provide care and any other help, when the need arises.

Monthly Councillors' Surgery

The March MP and Councillor surgery was held. Sir Desmond Swayne, Cllr Ann Savier (Fordingbridge), Cllr Derek Scott (Ringwood) and myself in attendance,

A number of local and national issues were raised by people attending the surgery.

Ringwood Casework

Site visits on behalf of constituent undertaken.

Southampton Road with Cllr Tony Ring (Local congestion issue)

 Daniel Kitteridge (Highways England) in attendance

Eastern & Western Service Areas with Cllr Stephen Rippon-Swaine (Controlled parking review)

 John Sorrell (HCC) and David Hurd (NFDC) in attendance

Lumby Drive (Possible Enforcement action)

West Street/A31 (Restoration programme of tree screening)

Ringwood footpath concerns referred to County Footpaths

 Cllr Gloria O'Reilly and local resident

County representation

Ellingham Parish Council Meeting

Avon Valley Concerts

I have no further comment to make.