

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 18th December 2019 at 7.00pm at Ringwood Gateway, The Furlong, Ringwood.

PRESENT: Cllr Tony Ring, Town Mayor
Cllr Andy Briers
Cllr Gareth Deboos
Cllr Hilary Edge
Cllr Rae Frederick
Cllr Jeremy Heron
Cllr Peter Kelleher
Cllr Gloria O'Reilly
Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine
Cllr Glenys Turner

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

ABSENT: Cllr Philip Day, Deputy Mayor
Cllr Christine Ford
Cllr John Haywood
Cllr Darren Loose

C/6397 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

C/6398 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Town Clerk reported that apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Day, Ford and Loose.

C/6399 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none declared at this time.

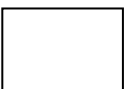
C/6400 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meeting held on 27th November 2019, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

C/6401 RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Cllr Briers presented the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 4th December 2019.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 4th December 2019 be received.



**C/6402
PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr Frederick presented the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 6th December 2019.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 6th December 2019 be received.

**C/6403
POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Cllr Heron presented the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 11th December 2019.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 11th December 2019 be received.

**C/6404
JANUARY 2020 MEETING OF PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Members considered changing the scheduled date of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee from 3rd to 10th January 2020.

It was noted with thanks that HCC Children's Services had booked the Forest Suite for 10th January but had agreed to move their meeting to the First Floor Meeting Room.

RESOLVED: That the January meeting of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee be moved to 10th January 2020.

ACTION J Hurd

**C/6405
DATA PROTECTION**

The Town Clerk reported that he had received advice from New Forest District Council in relation to the processing of personal data by the Town Council and declaration of interests by Members.

It had been established that Members are obliged to disclose relevant non-pecuniary interests as, under the Code of Conduct, they are subject to the common law principle of integrity. This would apply to planning applications and would therefore be sufficient to provide a lawful basis for processing planning applicants' names. Officers would now resume the inclusion of applicants' names in the monthly list of planning applications to be considered.

The advice from New Forest District Council was as follows:

"...non-pecuniary interests should be declared in relation to planning applications. In addition, Members are required to comply with the principle of integrity. Any Member considering a planning application needs to ensure that they are not taking decision which are likely to obtain material benefit for themselves, their families or their friends. There will be circumstances where Members should declare a personal relationship with an applicant or

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developer and they then need to judge if the closeness of that relationship means that there is likely to be a risk of public perception of pre determination or bias in which case they should not participate in the discussion of that application.

We encourage our Members to err on the side of caution in respect of interests and declare them even if they wouldn't preclude them from voting.

Each matter will require the Members to exercise their judgement. However, in the example ... of a relative or good friend (rather than a mere acquaintance), common law rules on pre-determination and bias would suggest it would not be appropriate for the Member to vote on that particular matter."

In addition, the Town Clerk advised that the reasons for participation or otherwise would need to be expressly set out at the meeting and it should be recorded in the Minutes on what basis the matter was considered

Cllr Heron advised that he applied the "cup of tea rule", in that if he felt comfortable enough to have a cup of tea in the applicant's house, he would not participate in the discussion.

The Town Mayor asked for written guidelines to be prepared, to make clear to Members when non-participation might be advised.

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

ACTION C Wilkins

**C/6406
COMMUNICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED**

The Town Mayor reported the following:

- 1) He had attended several Christmas functions on behalf of the Council. He mentioned Ringwood School's collection for the Danny Cracknell Homeless Appeal and said that he had been immensely impressed by the attitude of the students involved.
- 2) The new Christmas lights had been very well received universally.
- 3) It was planned to hold a town event to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day on 8th May 2020. Further details would be forthcoming in the New Year.

**C/6407
REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS AND STUDENT ADVISORS**

Cllr Edge reported that there had been a recent spate of theft and drugs drops in local shops and asked if this was due to a lack of police presence or if it was the time of year. The Town Mayor had held discussions with the Police and had received a report on activities from the local Sergeant. He asked Cllr Edge to provide him with a written report that he could then discuss with the Police.

**C/6408
REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Rippon-Swaine reported on the Health and Leisure Task and Finish Group, saying that the search for a partner to manage the leisure centres was progressing, for which there had been extreme interest. Consultation would take place in the New Year.

C/6409

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	7.00pm	Wednesday 8 th January 2019
Planning, Town & Environment	10.00am	Friday 10 th January 2019
Policy & Finance	7.00pm	Wednesday 15 th January 2019
Full Council	7.00pm	Wednesday 29 th January 2019

There being no further business, the Town Mayor wished everyone a Very Happy Christmas and closed the meeting at 7.26pm.

APPROVED
29th January 2019

TOWN MAYOR