

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL**

Held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 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 Christine Ford  
Cllr John Haywood  
Cllr Jeremy Heron  
Cllr Peter Kelleher  
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

ABSENT: Cllr Philip Day, Deputy Mayor  
Cllr Rae Frederick

### **C/6381**

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Residents who access their properties via the gravel track across Bickerley Village Green addressed the Council regarding the poor state of repair of the track. This was usually kept in reasonable repair by the Council but appeared to have been neglected this past year. Residents were grounding their cars whilst driving along the track and pedestrians, including those in wheelchairs and with pushchairs, were having great difficulty negotiating the pot holes. This track was on the route of the Avon Valley Path and was a well used right of way, giving access to the Castleman Trailway. It was noted that the track had been graded once during the year, and this had been considered to be the best option in the past. The Town Mayor said that the Council would take the residents' comments on board and consider options for improvements.

There was also an issue with vehicles parking on the track, which had been exacerbated by the removal of residents' parking at Riverside. Approximately 10 vehicles were parking here daily, making access for some residents difficult. Village Green legislation stated that the land could not be used for parking and the residents asked what could be done to prevent this. Again, the Town Mayor said this issue would be investigated.

### **C/6382**

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

**C/6383  
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none declared at this time.

**C/6384  
MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

**C/6385  
PRESENTATION OF GRANT AID CHEQUES**

The Town Mayor presented the following grant aid cheques:

- i) Poulner Junior School PTA - £750 towards the costs of an environmental area for the school children.
- ii) Avon Valley Concerts - £500 to assist with costs of updating the organisation's website.
- iii) The Rotary Club of Ringwood - £500 for Christmas Eve festivities in the Market Place.

**C/6386  
RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

Cllr Briers presented the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019 be received, and that the recommendation therein be approved.

**C/6387  
PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr Ring presented the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019 be received.

**C/6388  
POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Cllr Heron presented the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019 be received.

**C/6389**

**VISION FOR HAMPSHIRE 2050 COMMISSION OF INQUIRY**

**RESOLVED:** That Cllrs Deboos, Ring and Rippon-Swaine be appointed to attend Hampshire County Council's Parish Council briefing and workshop on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

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| <b>ACTION</b> <b>C Wilkins</b> |
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**C/6390**

**COMMUNITY AWARDS**

This item was deferred to the end of the meeting, as it was necessary to exclude the press and public as nominations for the 2020 Community Awards would be discussed.

**C/6391**

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED**

The Town Mayor reported the following:

- 1) He had attended 13 functions in the last month, and he thanked fellow councillors for their attendance at the various remembrance services.
- 2) The fireworks event had been a great success and it had raised money for future events. Cllr Rippon-Swaine expressed thanks to Cllr Day and all members of the Events Team for an excellent evening and raising funds; he congratulated them on their hard work. Cllr Ring also wished to thank the Events Coordinator and other members of the Events Team.
- 3) Final plans for the Christmas Lights Switch-On on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December were in progress. There had been an increase in entries to the Shop Window Display competition, and it was good to see retailers pulling together to support this community event. Cllr O'Reilly suggested that the winners should be issued with certificates to display in their windows.
- 4) He had attended the last community litter pick organised by Clean Up Ringwood, when there had been a positive reduction in the amount of litter. He understood that the District Council had begun to install new bins in the town centre, and he was working with the Clean Up group on a poster campaign to remind people to use them.
- 5) He had attended the inaugural meeting of what it was hoped would become a new Chamber of Commerce for the town.
- 6) He had attended a meeting of Crow Hill Residents, who were keen to be involved in development of a Neighbourhood Plan, and he hoped that both Hightown Hill Residents and A Better Ringwood would also be involved.

**C/6392**

**REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS AND STUDENT ADVISORS**

Cllr Deboos reported that a meeting had taken place of those people interested in the work of the Ringwood Environmental Action Leadership (REAL) Working Party, and a report would be presented to the next meeting of Planning, Town & Environment Committee.

Cllr Ford thanked everyone for their patience during her recent absence when she had been unwell, and particularly Cllr Deboos for driving her to meetings.

Cllr Turner had attended a meeting of Ringwood Society, when the issue of graffiti in the A31 underpass had been raised. It was suggested that perhaps this could be painted over, protected by anti-graffiti paint and kept clean. The Deputy Town Clerk reported that one of the

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projects in the District Council's Mitigation Strategy for European Sites was to improve the route of the Avon Valley Path from the town centre to Blashford Lakes, which took in this underpass. This project was now being taken forward, and she had asked whether it would be possible to include improvements to the underpass as part of the scheme.

Cllr Turner also asked about the Right of Way between Pocket Park and Stubbings Meadow, which had been diverted by the new landowner, who had created a paddock. The Deputy Town Clerk reported that a County Council officer had met the landowner on site and requested that the definitive route be reinstated, which would require the installation of gates. Cllr Haywood had attended the Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) AGM, but had nothing of consequence to report.

#### **C/6393**

#### **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

District Councillor Rippon-Swaine reported that he had attended a briefing on the Local Plan. Officers were compiling changes requested by the Inspectors, which would be subject to a period of public consultation starting in December.

District Councillor Heron reported that Cabinet on 4<sup>th</sup> December would consider, amongst other things, the Council Tax reduction scheme, financial monitoring report and setting the parish Council Tax base figures for 2020/21. He commented on the Town Mayor's report that Crow Hill Residents wished to be involved in development of a Neighbourhood Plan, stating that if areas in the National Park were included in the scope of the Plan, this would create an additional burden, as it would mean dealing with two planning authorities. It was noted that the Neighbourhood Plan boundary had yet to be considered and, even if those part of the National Park in the parish were excluded, it would still be possible for the various residents' groups to have their say.

#### **C/6394**

#### **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

|                                   |         |  |
|-----------------------------------|---------|--|
| Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces | 7.00pm  | Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2019  |
| Planning, Town & Environment      | 10.00am | Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2019     |
| Policy & Finance                  | 7.00pm  | Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2019 |
| Full Council                      | 7.00pm  | Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2019 |

#### **C/6395**

#### **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 be excluded because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

#### **C/6396**

#### **COMMUNITY AWARDS**

Members considered the Town Clerk's report (*Annex A*), noting that the decision to reintroduce Community Awards to the Annual Assembly had already been agreed by the Council.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- 1) That recipients of Community Awards be presented with professionally prepared presentation scrolls or framed certificates.



- 2) That officers investigate options and costs for an additional honours board for recipients of Community Awards and Honorary Freemen and Women.
- 3) That, in future, nominations for Community Awards be invited from councillors, and that nominations be considered by Full Council in February each year.
- 4) That up to a maximum of three Community Awards be presented each year.
- 5) That the nominations for the 2020 Community Awards be agreed.

There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.18pm.

APPROVED  
*18<sup>th</sup> December 2019*

TOWN MAYOR

## TOWN COUNCIL

27<sup>th</sup> November 2019

### Community Awards

#### 1. Introduction and reason why decision required

It was agreed at the Council meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> June that Community Awards should be re-introduced and presented at future Annual Town Assemblies (item C/6327 refers). This report presents options for carrying that decision into effect.

#### 2. Background information, options, impact assessment and risks

- 2.1 Awards were presented at the Annual Assemblies in 2011 (Elizabeth Oakenfold & Ringwood Good Neighbours), 2014 (Sid Slatter) and 2016 (Roger Bettle and Christina Edwards). The recipients in 2011 were presented with a certificate/scroll and a commemorative paperweight. Those in 2014 and 2016 received only a certificate/scroll. The minutes of the meetings constitute the only record of those presentations; there is no permanent physical record of the awards (such as an honours board) or of the citations detailing the public service that was acknowledged.
- 2.2 The Community Awards were a purely local initiative and distinct from the power to admit honorary freemen or honorary freewomen. The latter is a process regulated by statute. Ringwood Town Council has only done this once, in favour of Neville Chard in 2010. There is no permanent public record of that event either.
- 2.3 Certificates can be produced easily and cheaply in the Council office but would lack quality. Professionally prepared presentation scrolls on parchment could be arranged instead (see sample image attached) at a cost of £69 each (plus P&P).
- 2.4 With some re-arrangement, space could be made in the public parts of the reception area at the Gateway for an additional honours board. Office staff could create a loose-leaf binder of award citations at very little cost or something more formal and attractive could be commissioned professionally. The costs can be investigated if members can indicate which options, (if any) they might be prepared to support in principle.
- 2.5 Nomination arrangements. Nominations should be considered and agreed at a meeting of the full council from which the press and public have been excluded. It is recommended that this be done in March 2020. (Some councillors have indicated to officers that they have some nominees in mind.) Council could decide to seek nominations from members only in 2020 but with the aim of using the next Annual Assembly to publicize the scheme and invite public nominations in future years. Alternatively, public nominations could be invited before the meeting in March, but this would require specific publicity.

#### 3. Issues for decision and any recommendations

- 3.1 ***Should recipients of future community awards be presented with professionally prepared presentation scrolls, simple certificates and/or something else?***
- 3.2 ***Should officers investigate options and costs for an additional honours board for recipients of the community awards and/or honorary freemen and honorary freewomen of the town?***
- 3.3 ***Should nominations for community awards in 2020 be invited from councillors only or from the wider public?***

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For further information, contact:

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# FS1 Copperplate Gothic



## OXBRIDGE AND EXAMPLETOWN TOWN COUNCIL

Council  
Crest here

THE CHAIRMAN  
JOHN P. MOORE

AT A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO GRANT TO

**PETER T RECIPIENT**

THE HONORARY

## FREEDOM OF THE TOWN

WE THE COUNCIL GRANT YOU THIS HIGHEST HONOUR  
WE CAN BESTOW FOR THE VALUABLE AND DEVOTED SERVICES  
RENDERED TO THE COUNCIL,  
BY YOU FOR 32 YEARS.

DURING THAT TIME YOU HAVE SERVED  
IN MANY POSITIONS AND HELD HIGH OFFICES  
OF CLERK, COUNCILLOR AND CHAIRMAN OVER THE PERIODS  
FROM 1980 UNTIL 2012.

WE LOUDLY APPLAUD YOUR VALUABLE AND STERLING SERVICE  
WHILST THANKING YOU MOST SINCERELY.

SIGNED BY  
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

THE CLERK TO THE COUNCIL



DATED

