

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 31st July 2019 at 7.00pm at Ringwood Gateway, The Furlong, Ringwood.

PRESENT: Cllr Tony Ring, Town Mayor
Cllr Philip Day, Deputy Mayor
Cllr Gareth Deboos
Cllr Hilary Edge
Cllr Christine Ford
Cllr Rae Frederick
Cllr John Haywood
Cllr Jeremy Heron
Cllr Peter Kelleher
Cllr Darren Loose
Cllr Gloria O'Reilly
Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine

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

ABSENT: Cllr Andy Briers
Cllr Glenys Turner

C/6333 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were 5 members of public present, one of whom wished to address the Council.

Mr Andrew Graham, representing A Better Ringwood, gave an overview of the group's views on the development site north of Hightown Road, which was allocated in the emerging New Forest District Local Plan Part One 2016-2036.

The group had previously responded to consultation by New Forest District Council (NFDC), had made representations to the Inspector at the Public Examination and made views known to Taylor Wimpey.

In summary, the group was promoting an alternative layout of the site, which provided for the majority of the SANGs (Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace) to the south east of the site, preserving the route of the existing footpath, providing open space for existing residents, preserving important views (as outlined in the Ringwood Local Distinctiveness SPD) and avoiding the location of any SANGs to the north east of the site, which in their view would not meet the criteria for SANGs due to the impact of noise from the A31 and its slip road and the proposed employment use, and for safety reasons. There are also concerns about existing flooding and the need to ensure this is mitigated and the situation is not made worse in any way. The group did not wish to prevent development and, in particular, could see the benefit of the new road that would be constructed through the site, but there was a need to ensure the site was developed in the right way.

C/6334 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Town Clerk reported that apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Briers and Turner.



**C/6335
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**C/6336
NEW FOREST WEST NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM**

Sergeant Helen Mitchley reported on crime statistics. In the last year, there had been 573 reported crimes in Ringwood and Fordingbridge, an increase of 38 from the previous year. In the previous 3 months there had been an increase in burglary, predominantly from garden sheds and outbuildings, and commercial premises, and an increase in the reporting of possession of drugs. A report had been commissioned to look at the issue of burglaries in New Forest West, the results of which would assist in directing future engagement and enquiries. Individuals had been identified in regard to theft from commercial premises, and a successful charge had been made for handling of stolen goods. There had also been an increase in antisocial behaviour, mainly in and around town centre supermarkets by a small group of youths. One individual had been issued with a 15 month rehabilitation order, and it was hoped that this behaviour would now reduce.

It was noted that Ringwood Police had launched a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Ringwood-Police-397331514230499/>) and would soon have a Twitter account to improve engagement with the public, but also to encourage more online reporting of crime and antisocial behaviour (via <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/>). With more accurate crime figures, the Police are better able to direct resources where they are needed, and to seek additional resources if required. Sgt Mitchley confirmed that she has direct access to all reports made online for the area.

In response to a question from the Town Mayor, Sgt Mitchley confirmed that statistics for clear up rates were available and she would provide these in future reports.

The investigation into the recent spate of graffiti was ongoing and Police were currently awaiting the results of examination of the spray can found by Cllr Day. A name had been put forward, and this was being pursued.

In response to a question from Cllr Day, it was noted that new 30mph signs in Christchurch Road had been installed by Hampshire County Council, as part of the Think! road safety campaign.

Cllr Edge was concerned about road racing in the area of North Poulner Road and Gorley Road; she was encouraged to report this activity and to identify vehicles if possible.

With the agreement of Members, agenda item 8 was brought forward for the benefit of members of public present.

**C/6337
NFDC LOCAL PLAN PUBLIC EXAMINATION**

Cllr Day presented a summary of issues arising from his attendance at the New Forest District Local Plan Examination Hearing on 15 July. His representation, on behalf of the Town Council, had been in line with the points agreed by Planning, Town & Environment Committee on 5 July (P/5621 refers).

Strategic Site (SS) 13 – land north of Moortown Lane



Strategic Site (SS14) – land north of Hightown Road

He reported that there was pressure from developers to designate areas of SANGs for SS13 to the south of Moortown Lane (including land to the west of Long Lane) and east of Crow Lane, in order to justify an increased number of dwellings on the site, but the case for retention of existing playing fields and protection of land in the ownership of the Town Council had been made.

Ken Parke Planning, on behalf of the Wrightway Partnership, had made the case against an access road from SS13 through Forest Gate Business Park as the land is not in their ownership and could be used as a ransom strip. However, a representative from Hampshire County Council had argued that this was achievable.

It was accepted by all that a new connection was required to the sewage treatment works from both SS13 and SS14. However, the route and timing of delivery of this was unknown, and it was also not known if the treatment works could cope with the additional capacity.

There was no conclusion on the reserve site for a school. The District Council had proposed this be located south of Moortown Lane on existing playing fields, the developers suggested it could go on land to the east of Crow Lane (adjacent to the Castleman Trailway), but the County Council representative said that the preference was for schools to be embedded within development sites.

SS13 had been designated as a minerals consultation area and it was expected that some extraction would be required prior to development of the site. This would impact on the delivery timescale for this site.

The Council's concern about the potential conflict of the construction of the new access to SS14 (from the A31 slip road to the north of the site) with the proposed A31 improvement works by Highways England had been raised. The transport consultant in attendance on behalf of Taylor Wimpey said they had been in discussion with Highways England, but this was still to be confirmed.

The impact of what would effectively become a Ringwood bypass was highlighted as being a double edged sword, relieving the town centre of some through traffic but generating intensified use of unsuitable narrow lanes (Crow Lane and Moortown Lane).

By way of an update, Cllr Heron reported that the Inspectors had written to NFDC following the close of the hearing sessions and had concluded that, although they consider the submitted Local Plan not to be sound, it could be made sound with main modifications. These modifications would be subject to full public consultation, and it was anticipated that this could take place from late September onwards.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Day's report be noted.

C/6338

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Town Clerk put forward proposed *amendments* to the Minutes for clarification, as follows:

C/6316 – to add at the end of the second paragraph “*Angela Wiseman asked that this be put forward as an agenda item for the next full council meeting.*”

C/6320 – to amend the first line of the fourth paragraph “*The scheme as designed would be for 400 homes and this would include 200 affordable homes*”



C/6330 – to amend the second paragraph “Cllr O’Reilly had attended the South West Quadrant meeting with Cllr Deboos and reported on a new Professional Dog Walkers’ Charter, and the availability of *grant funding to ascertain a housing needs assessment*. She had also attended the Western Escarpment meeting, also with Cllr Deboos. *Following on from Councillor Heron’s report to the Recreation Meeting about Ash Die Back*, she was concerned about Ash Die Back disease and wonders what councillors can do to make the public aware of the problem. She is also concerned about phosphates and chemicals in the rivers

These amendments were agreed.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meeting held on 26th June 2019, as amended, be approved and signed as a correct record.

**C/6339
RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

Cllr Loose presented the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 3rd July 2019.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 3rd July 2019 be received.

**C/6340
PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr Day presented the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 5th July 2019.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 5th July 2019 be received.

**C/6341
POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Cllr Heron presented the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 17th July 2019.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 17th July 2019 be received.

**C/6342
CLEAN UP RINGWOOD PUBLICITY MATERIAL**

The Town Clerk reported that the Clean Up Ringwood group had held a competition for young people to produce artwork for posters, to be put up around town, mainly in shops. A quotation of £413.27 had been obtained, to produce these posters on good quality paper of different sizes, with small print runs for each design. This was a well-supported public campaign and he hoped that Members would approve this expenditure.

Cllr Heron and Rippon-Swaine agreed to fund half the cost each from their District Councillors Community Engagement Grants.

RESOLVED: That the cost of production of posters for the Clean Up Ringwood group be funded by District Councillors Heron and Grant, from their Community Engagements Grants.

ACTION C Wilkins

C/6343

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED

The Town Mayor reported the following:

- 1) He had attended 11 functions in the last month.
- 2) He asked Members to contact the office if they had any ideas for a guest speak to attend next year's "upgraded" Annual Assembly on 13 May.
- 3) The Twinning Association was looking to raise funds for a visit to Pont Audemer next year and he encouraged attendance at an event to be held in the Meeting House on 13 September, with Matt Black entertaining.
- 4) He confirmed that the Rotary Club of Ringwood would fund a new hedge to be planted in Mansfield Road.

C/6344

REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS AND STUDENT ADVISORS

Cllr O'Reilly reported that councillors were being offered a free Heroes and Heroines of Historic Ringwood guided walk, which was a new business venture by a local resident.

Cllr Edge reported that some young people had broken in to the pool at Poulner Junior School and held an all-night party, disturbing residents. The Police were aware, and she was advised to contact the School.

Cllr Haywood presented a report on the AGM of the New Forest Association of Local Council, which he had attended on 18 July (*Annex A*).

C/6345

REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Councillor Heron was concerned about the increase in cars parked on and around the Bickerley Village Green, and asked if the Council was intending to take action to stop this. It was noted that this had been discussed at the March meeting of the Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee and it would not be possible to discuss it again until 6 months has passed. There was an item on the agenda for the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting on 2 August to consider parking restrictions in Bickerley Road, and it was suggested that this should not be considered in isolation. Cllr Loose was concerned that too many parking restrictions would put people off coming to the town.

District Councillor Rippon-Swaine reported the following:

- 1) The New Forest National Park Authority was looking at its Recreation Management Strategy and considering a Local Development Order to manage car parking without requiring planning consent. No new parking was proposed and the District Council had some concerns, in particular about the capacity to cope with any growth, which may be pushed to the edges of the National Park.
- 2) The Health and Leisure Task and Finish Group was finalising the proposal document to be issued to potential partners for the District's 5 leisure centres.

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- 3) The Task and Finish Group looking at the proposal to declare a climate emergency would be meeting again in August, prior to reporting back to Council in September. This was a complex subject, with many questions still to be answered.

Members received a written report from County Councillor Thierry (*Annex B*).

Cllr Day referred to the proposed Traffic Regulation Orders for West Street and Meeting House Lane, which had been published in the Ringwood and Fordingbridge News. It was noted that neither the Town nor District Council had been consulted on these proposals.

C/6346

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	7.00pm	Wednesday 4 th September 2019
Planning, Town & Environment	10.00am	Friday 2 nd August and 6 th September 2019
Policy & Finance	7.00pm	Wednesday 18 th September 2019
Full Council	7.00pm	Wednesday 25 th September 2019

There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.48pm.

APPROVED
25th September 2019
TOWN MAYOR

Report on the Annual General Meeting of the New Forest Association of Local Councils (NFALC)

Held at Appletree Court on Thursday 18th July 2019.

The Annual General Meeting resulted in the appointment of a new chair George Bisson and several other officers. All posts were returned uncontested, some remained vacant. After the treasurer's report there was some discussion regarding the use of the funds held in the association's bank account and a suggestion was made to use some of the funds for Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) training for new councillors to show that the funds were actually being used to benefit the local councils.

New Forest District Council (NFDC) Council Leader Barry Rickman gave a short update on NFDC matters. The present status of the local plan was presented. Barry also mentioned that the NFDC monthly bulletin to councillors was shortly to be "beefed up" and made available to local councillors.

Sara Hamilton (NFDC) and Toby Blume (Social Engine) gave a presentation on the new NFDC project investigating the use of "behavioural insights" on littering from vehicles. NFDC has won very competitive Local Government Association funding for this project to understand what motivates people to drop litter, what motivates people not to drop litter, and to devise a series of interventions to help reduce this. Initially there is a focus on the four main A roads in the district. Local councils were asked if they could possibly assist in this project, which will focus on fast food and similar packaging as it is believed that this is the main source of litter from vehicles.

Finally Steve Avery of the New Forest National Park updated the meeting on the progress on the Park's local plan and invited local councillors to a meeting on the 4th September in Brockenhurst where this will be presented. The Park Authority has also just started its recreation management plan, which will focus on the use of the park's 130 car parks with a view to directing activity away from those on more ecologically sensitive sites.

The meeting closed with discussion on how to get more local councillors to attend NFALC meetings, including councillor training and aligning with the HALC meeting cycle to allow a cascade of issues.

County Council July 2019 Report

Councillor Michael Thierry - Ringwood Division

For further details - email: mthierry04@aol.com

Highways England

A31 Poulner West Slip Lane - Removal of Poster & Advertising Board

Hampshire County Council

A338/A31 Interchange - Removal of Advertising Boards

Quaker Court - Briefing

Taylor-Wimpy Exhibition - Attended

Armed Forces Day Service - Attended

Full Council - Attended

Avon Valley Concerts AGM - Attended

Market Place TRO - Response to consultation

West Street TRO - Response to consultation

Southampton Road - Over-hanging tree

New Forest District Council

Furlong Re-cycling Facility - Clean-up effected

Full Council - Attended

Monthly Councillors' Surgery

Communication Aerial Issue

Northfield Road - Speed Indicator request

Social Housing enquiry