

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

Held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7.00pm at Ringwood Gateway, The Furlong, Ringwood.

**PRESENT:** Cllr Tony Ring, Town Mayor  
Cllr Philip Day, Deputy Mayor  
Cllr Andy Briers  
Cllr John Haywood  
Cllr Jeremy Heron  
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 Hilary Edge  
Cllr Rae Frederick  
Cllr Peter Kelleher  
Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine

### **C/6688 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public present.

### **C/6689 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Deboos, Edge, Frederick, Kelleher and Rippon-Swaine.

### **C/6690 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None were declared at this time.

### **C/6691 POLICE REPORT**

Acting Police Sergeant (APS) Sarah Gulliver presented the Beat Report for Ringwood South for the last 90 days, which showed an overall reduction in crime compared to the previous 90-day period, including a notable reduction in vehicle offences and public order offences, and an increase in antisocial behaviour, violence, and criminal damage. She agreed to include comparison for a longer period of time in future reports

Members were of the opinion that these figures did not necessarily give a true picture, as they were aware many local people did not report low level crime as there was a perception that the police were not interested. It was felt that the reporting system was flawed and, even if crimes were reported, there is rarely any feedback given.

It was noted that one of the priorities of the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Hampshire was to improve the reporting system, and this could be discussed in more detail when the Deputy PCC attends Council in January 2022.

APS Gulliver explained that they were not able to follow up on every crime due to resource issues, and that it was a delicate balance trying to do the right thing for the community against what is lawful. Priorities are assessed locally, and the neighbourhood team is dedicated to serving the community. This was appreciated by Members, who understood that the resourcing issues were out of the local team's control.

She went on to explain that when a non-emergency crime is reported, either by 101 or online, the report is dealt with by a triage hub, where they are reviewed and dealt with if possible. This avoids saturation of the neighbourhood teams and frees up their time to carry out targeted work. Some deployments are passed on to neighbourhood teams, and all reports are available for the teams to view.

Concern was raised that not all reports are available to view locally, with examples given. It was noted that many crimes could be linked to the same person, but it did not appear that they had been connected.

Although the PCC had pledged to get more police officers on the beat, it would appear that these resources were targeted at areas where there are high levels of crime. It was felt that Ringwood was poorly served in terms of levels of officers, despite having a significant population paying towards the service. It was noted that there were now 3 new students in Ringwood, so numbers had increased locally.

APS Gulliver responded to questions which had been provided to her in advance.

With regards to drug dealing, she said that there had been no reports of drug offences in the last 90 days, however she encouraged anyone with knowledge of such a crime to report it, as resources are deployed based on patterns of reports.

One councillor had asked why Hampshire Police would only respond to an emergency call if the perpetrator has a knife. APS Gulliver stated that this was not correct.

A final question related to violence against family members. The police take a multi-disciplinary approach to such incidents and work closely with children's services, the education service and youth offending team. The goal was to keep families together and to educate.

In order to improve communication with the community, it was suggested that the police work with the local paper to share news and updates, and also hold one-to-one surgeries, possibly in Ringwood Gateway, giving members of the public an opportunity to talk to a police officer in private.

## **C/6692 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

C/6678 – The Town Clerk reported that he was looking to renew some dragon's teeth, install no parking signs and a large welcome board at the entrance to Bickerley, and would bring forward proposals as soon as possible.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.



**C/6693**

**RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

Cllr Briers presented the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 be received.

**C/6694**

**PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr Day presented the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

He updated members as follows:

P/5918 – The next Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting is scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> December, when there is an expectation that team leaders will bring forward recommendations for inclusion in the Plan; progress will be measured against the agreed Action Plan; and consideration will be given to steps to be taken to achieve successful implementation.

P/5920 – The Town Mayor reported that he had attended a Liaison meeting called by National Highways (NH), unaware that no other councillors had been invited. It had been suggested that the water main diversion works might extend beyond 6<sup>th</sup> December in order to avoid them returning in the New Year – this was contrary to what had been agreed with HCC. It was also stated that local mitigation measures had been agreed and would be publicised on the NH website. Members asked that the Deputy Town Clerk contact NH for clarification of this detail; to ask why other councillors had not been invited to the meeting; and to request an update meeting with HCC and NH.

P/5922 – It was noted that it had not been possible to source an English Oak for Market Place and that a Field Maple would be planted by HCC before the end of March 2022. It had been suggested that an English Oak be planted elsewhere in the town in recognition of the Queen's Jubilee.

P/5924 – It was noted that the NFDC Chief Planning Officer would attend the next meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> December to update on the planning application for land north of Hightown Road.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Planning, Town and Environment Committee meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021 be received.

**C/6695**

**POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Cllr Heron presented the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

F/5978 – Cllr Heron drew Members' attention to proposals put forward by Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee and the resolution that funds would be transferred from reserves to increase the playground maintenance budget, and that the funding proposal to engage a consultant for the Carvers Development Strategic Plan was likely to be referred to Full Council for further consideration.



**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021 be received.

<b>ACTION R Fitzgerald</b>
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**C/6696**

**SPORTS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AT LONG LANE**

Cllr Loose reported that the planning application was still to be determined by NFDC, and that tenders for construction of the pavilion were currently being evaluated.

It was noted that the Council continued to highlight the importance of retaining the 10-acre field as formal recreation space.

**RESOLVED:** That the verbal update be noted.

<b>ACTION C Wilkins</b>
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**C/6697**

**GRANT AID AWARDS**

**RESOLVED:** That the Grant Aid award to Avon Valley Concerts of £550 to support the costs of organising a programme of classical concerts be noted.

**C/6698**

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED**

The Town Mayor reported:

- i) The new Ringwood Business Association was moving forward; the 4 new businesses he had opened recently were all very happy to be in Ringwood.
- ii) Remembrance events had been very well attended, a reflection of the community spirit in the town.
- iii) He expressed his sincere thanks to the Events Coordinator for going way beyond the call of duty in organising the Fireworks event and the forthcoming Christmas events, and thanked all the volunteers for their involvement.
- iv) He had received a letter from Cllr Deboos resigning from his position as a Flood Warden following an unsatisfactory response from the Environment Agency regarding the levels of raw sewage in the Avon, which could be a health risk. It was agreed that this issue should be discussed further by Council in January.
- v) He noted a possible shortfall of up to £2,000 in the budget for the Christmas event due to a requirement for additional first aid provision and professional marshals, and new picket fencing to enclose the Christmas tree. It was expected that this could be covered by income generated from the Fireworks event, which it was also hoped could be used to fund elements of an event being planned for the Queen's Jubilee.

**C/6699**

**REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Day congratulated everyone involved in the Fireworks event, which had been fantastic, and in particular the Events Coordinator and the Town Mayor.

Cllr O'Reilly reported that her business had joined the newly established Ringwood Business Association. She had received several complaints about the detrimental impact of the A31

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roadworks on local businesses, and noted that on the occasion of a recent closure someone had paid a £6 taxi fare to come in to Ringwood and £36 to get home.

**C/6700  
REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

County Councillor Thierry had submitted a written report (Annex A). Cllr Day thanked him for following up on a recent issue regarding the Somerley Household Waste Recycling Centre.

District Councillor Heron reported that Cabinet would be considering the 2022/23 Tax Base at its meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> December – the proposal for Ringwood was 5,465, an increase of 60.7, or 1.1%, on the previous year. The Town Mayor expressed his gratitude for the brilliant work carried out by the NFDC finance team.

**C/6701  
FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	7.00pm	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2021
Planning, Town & Environment	10.00am	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2021
Policy & Finance	7.00pm	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
Full Council	7.00pm	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2021

There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.56pm.

APPROVED  
*15<sup>th</sup> December 2021*

TOWN MAYOR

# County Council November 2021 Report

Councillor Michael Thierry - Ringwood Division

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## **Hampshire County Council.**

### **I attended the recent Full Council Meeting.**

An early review of next year's budget the largest item on the agenda. The meeting continued for nearly four hours, with a short break for lunch.

Attended the Open Meeting of Ellingham Parish Council.

## **Local issues.**

The County casework continues.

Residents are expressing their views on the A31 bridge replacement and widening scheme.

Much concern about the impact on the local road network.

(All emails, letters and telephone calls have been responded to).

For the first time in a very long time I not received any communications related to speeding!

## **Monthly Councillors' Surgery.**

The October MP and Councillor surgery was held. Sir Desmond, Cllr Derek Scott, Cllr Annie Bellows and Cllr Ann Sevier (Fordingbridge) and myself in attendance,

Development issues in Fordingbridge. Covid vaccination for care workers. Support for people with relatives with near to end of life care. Other local roads concerns.

Cllr Michael Thierry - 01425 479095