

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 19th December 2018 at 7.00pm at Ringwood Gateway, The Furlong, Ringwood.

PRESENT: Cllr Tony Ring, Town Mayor
Cllr Andrew Briers
Cllr Hilary Edge
Cllr Jeremy Heron
Cllr Anne Murphy
Cllr Gloria O'Reilly
Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine
Cllr Christopher Treleaven
Cllr Tim Ward

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Chris Wilkins, Town Clerk
Mrs Jo Hurd, Deputy Town Clerk
Tom Weetman, Student Advisors

ABSENT: Cllr Christine Ford (Leave of Absence granted)
Cllr Philip Day
Cllr Darren Loose
Cllr Michael Thierry
Cllr Angela Wiseman

C/6233 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were two members of public present, who did not wish to speak.

C/6234 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

C/6235 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

C/6236 GRANT AID PRESENTATIONS

The Town Mayor presented a Grant Aid award of £500 to Michael Macario and Dick Sheerin of Ringwood Rotary Club to cover the costs of Christmas Eve Festivities in the Market Place. Mr Macario thanked the Council for its generous support for this event, which was started by the Chamber of Trade and Commerce in 1971 and taken over by the Rotary Club in 1999. Since then over 20,000 presents had been collected and given to local charities, children's homes and special schools. They hoped to be able to carry on the tradition for years to come as it was one of the most looked forward to events in the town, with over 3000 people attending. He added that it had been a wonderful year working with the Council and Events Team on local events; long may it continue. The Town Mayor thanked the Club for all their support.

A Grant Aid award of £1,300 had also been made to Citizen Advice New Forest towards new signage and running costs. Apologies had been received from Jim Sanders, Advice Service Manager of the Ringwood branch, as he was unable to attend.

C/6237
POLICE REPORT

Sergeant Helen Mitchley from New Forest West Neighbourhood Policing Team was unable to attend. It was hoped she would be able to attend the next meeting in January.

C/6238
MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meeting held on 28th November 2018, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

C/6239
RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Cllr Briers presented the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 5th December 2018.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 5th December 2018 be received.

C/6240
PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Treleaven presented the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 7th December 2018.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 7th December 2018 be received.

C/6241
POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Cllr Heron presented the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 12th December 2018.

F/5640: He drew Members' attention to the proposed budget and precept for 2019/20, which would be discussed again in January and agreed by Full Council at the end of the month. The current proposal was an increase of 2% requiring a transfer from Reserves of £33,740 in order to balance the budget. It was noted that there was a need to ensure the Council held adequate Reserves and accepted that such a draw on Reserves could not continue in the future.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 12th December 2018 be received.

C/6242

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED

The Town Mayor reported the following:

- 1) The Council had received a certificate from the Royal British Legion in appreciation of the work of Members and Staff and their commitment to the commemoration of Armistice 100.
- 2) Events during the year had been a success and paid for themselves and, although the final position on the Christmas event was not yet known, it was also expected to be “in the black”. There was a possibility that the Events Team may look to stage other events in 2019.

C/6243

REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS AND STUDENT ADVISORS

Cllr O'Reilly had attended a meeting, together with Cllr Ward, led by the Hampshire Timebanking Network Project Manager, to discuss the establishment of a Ringwood Time Bank.

Time Banks create a mutual social and support network which enable communities to swap and share skills, experience and knowledge, removing barriers to participation and improving wellbeing for all. Individuals and organisations earn time credits by giving practical help and support to others and then spend their credits when they need some help themselves. For example, helping with shopping, gardening or computer skills, or loaning a minibus.

Time Banks are supported by the health services as they improve social health and reduce reliance on over-stretched services.

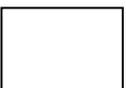
They were currently looking for a coordinator (the only paid role) and were looking for suggestions on how to move the project forward before the current funding ceases in March 2019. It was suggested that contact be made with the Rotary Club, as the newly established Ringwood Community Forum was proposing to link local organisations, helping them work together to share resources. The Town Mayor offered to discuss the project with Ringwood School.

Cllr Ward reported that Mr Morant, the owner of the Charter Market, had said he would be grateful for any help and would listen to any suggestions. It was felt that the best time to relaunch the Market would be around Easter.

Cllr Edge said that she had received several reports of flooding, particularly in the areas of Gorley Road/Butlers Lane and Hightown Road and Hill. It was noted that flooding and drainage issues should be reported online to Hampshire County Council (<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding>), and that residents should be advised to do this.

She was also concerned that persistent offenders were not being dealt with satisfactorily by the Police, and had hoped to raise this with Sergeant Mitchley.

Student Advisor Tom Weetman reported that the sniffer dogs had been in to the school and he understood nothing had been found. According to Hampshire Police only 0.87% of all crimes were drug related, which seemed to him to be an under representation as it appeared to be more of an issue than this. He suggested that more education was needed in schools, together with more active policing during the day.



C/6244

REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Councillor Rippon-Swaine reported on a special meeting of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel to discuss the Council's Air Quality Plan. The Council had been working with Southampton City Council (SCC), but as they had repeatedly not been meeting government targets, NFDC had taken the decision to produce its own report to demonstrate that levels of nitrogen dioxide could be reduced on a short section of the A36 by 2020.

District Councillor Heron reported that there would be no meeting of Cabinet in January.

C/6245

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	7.00pm	Wednesday 2 nd January 2019
Planning, Town & Environment	10.00am	Friday 4 th January 2019
Policy & Finance	7.00pm	Wednesday 16 th January 2019
Full Council	7.00pm	Wednesday 30 th January 2019

There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 7.49pm.

APPROVED

30th January 2019

TOWN MAYOR