

OPEN SESSION: There were three members of public present.

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

Held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2004 at 7.00pm

PRESENT: Cllr M H Thierry (Chairman/Mayor)  
Cllr P Chambers  
Cllr N J Chard  
Cllr Mrs B A Charlton  
Cllr N R G Clarke  
Cllr C Ford  
Cllr N W Light  
Cllr W S Rippon-Swaine  
Cllr Mrs V A Sullivan  
Cllr B H Terry

IN ATTENDANCE: Terry Simpson, Town Clerk  
Peter Savidge, Principal Officer Cycle Policy & Strategy, HCC

The Mayor welcomed Mrs Christine Smith the Council's Support Services Officer to her first meeting and Miss Emily Bremner from Ringwood School who was currently undertaking work experience in the office for one week.

### **C/4254 ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs D Cracknell, Mrs B Wright and S Wright.

### **C/4255 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

### **C/4256 PRESENTATION OF GRANT AID CHEQUES**

The Mayor presented a cheque for £100 to the new U-Nite Club to assist with its start up costs. Cllr Chard presented a cheque for £200 to a representative of Ringwood Disabled Sports Association towards the cost of hydrotherapy sessions at the Recreation Centre.

### **C/4257 QUALITY WALKING AND CYCLING ROUTES**

The Mayor welcomed Peter Savidge, Principal Officer at HCC, responsible for cycle policy issues.

Peter Savidge explained that whilst he had responsibilities for cycling; walking and cycling were two issues which were inseparable and the County had decided to undertake a project within Ringwood which was fairly unique in the way that it involved both the District and Town Council in resolution of cycling and walking issues. A formal Steering Group had been established involving all three authorities. That Steering Group developed a concept using local knowledge. As a result and following a number of walkabouts around the town, five routes had been identified. These were developed into quality walking and cycling routes and were the subject of local consultation at the Town Council offices on 22 and 23 May.

There had been a good response to the consultation exercise. 79 formal comments had been received together with a petition from residents of Clough Road. He circulated the results derived from the consultation exercise.

It was clear that there was concern about traffic and pedestrian facilities in the Quomp, Southampton Road and Hightown Road areas together with Clough Road. These issues had been discussed further at a joint meeting of authorities on 14 June when residents of the Quomp were also present. Arising from that meeting a number of options were identified and these would be subject to traffic surveys at the end of June and early July. The surveys will involve counters at strategic locations and it is expected that the surveys will identify issues relating to traffic movement.

He appreciated that the Town Council wanted the Quomp and Hightown Road to be dealt with as a priority. The County Council will look to achieve as much as possible as quickly as possible. The intention was to undertake a number of small works items to provide better pedestrian safety, as identified within the walkabouts and now included within the action plans. Sums of £100,000 had been included in the capital programme for both 2004/2005 and 2005/2006. Subject to reaching an agreement on design briefs for any necessary work, it was hoped that a start on-site would be made in September.

The Mayor noted that Councillors Mrs Sullivan and Danny Cracknell had been fully involved in the work of the Steering Group and he wished to congratulate them on the excellent work they had undertaken.

In response to questions, Peter Savidge confirmed that Cloughs Road had not originally been included within the Steering Group's remit. However, following the deputation from residents in that area, it was clear that Cloughs Road had, as a result of other highways works, become a shortcut and this was increasing traffic flow and causing concern in relation to pedestrian safety. In these circumstances, the surveys being undertaken later this month would include Cloughs Road.

The Mayor thanked Peter Savidge for attending the meeting and for his thorough explanation of the work being undertaken by the Steering Group. He noted that the results of the survey and proposals for further action would be reported to the Town Council through the Planning, Town and Environment Committee.

#### **C/4258**

#### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2004, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

#### **C/4259**

#### **COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED**

The Mayor reported that he was delighted to be able to advise the Council that Councillor Chard had again obtained County and National recognition for his voluntary work.

Firstly, Councillor Chard would be receiving a 50 years long service award from the Hampshire Football Association at their Annual General Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> June.

Secondly, Councillor Chard received an invitation to Her Majesty's Garden Party on Tuesday 6th July 2004. He was sure that Councillor Chard would have a very enjoyable day.

The Mayor reported that he was disappointed that County Councillor J Waddington was unable to be present at the meeting. However, he was pleased to report that he understood that Councillor Waddington had been in discussion with colleagues at the County Council and it was hoped that he would be able to report a successful outcome of the negotiations for the use of the junior school site for rugby and community facilities shortly.

The Mayor also reported that as Members were aware the Council had previously expressed concern about vandalism in the town and the apparent difficulties with regard to control of these activities. He was pleased to report that following recent incidents at Carvers Recreation Ground, representations had been made to the Ringwood Police Station, which representations had been copied to the Chief Constable and the Chairman of the Police Authority. The Town Clerk advised that he would be meeting Inspector Kenna in order to establish closer partnership and liaison arrangements. The District Council had also been requested to provide details of capital and revenue costs of extending CCTV to other areas of the Town and in particular Carvers Recreation Ground. When a reply is received from the District, a report will be made to Policy and Finance Committee so that Members can decide whether to take any further action.

The Mayor reported that he had received advice from the County Council's Senior Highway Engineer that minor highway works were to commence on 29 June 2004 on Salisbury Road at Ringwood Museum, Vincent's Farm, Salisbury Road. Details of the works would be held in the office. He also commented that if Members had not visited the Museum he encouraged them to do so, since once it is completed, he is sure that it would be another tourist attraction for the town.

The Mayor also reported that as a result of the introduction of the new clear recycling sacks within the town, changes would be made to the collection date for a number of properties. A copy of a letter from the District Council had been circulated to Members. He understood that copies would also be sent to all residents affected by the change. In addition, the Mayor reported that from about July the black sacks would be replaced by pink sacks. This was a result of European legislation and its impact on the District Council's ability to continue printing on the black sacks. Initially the pink sacks would contain a message outlining the Christmas refuse collection arrangements and the fact that for one week in December there would be no collections within the District.

#### **C/4260**

#### **QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR**

Councillor Mrs Sullivan reported that in the past Councillors had received details of the County Council's highways maintenance works. She wondered if this information was to be circulated and whether it would include proposals to remedy the poor condition of Salisbury Road. In response, the Town Clerk advised the programme of works had just been received from the County Council and this would be circulated to Members with the Weekly Bulletin. If other works are required, then these should be notified to the office and the information would be forwarded to the County Council.

Councillor Peter Chambers also advised that there were specific arrangements for notifying the County Council of potholes in highways.

#### **C/4261**

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

##### **County Councillor**

County Councillor John Waddington had given his apologies for the meeting.

## **District Councillors**

Cllr Heron reported that at the last meeting the Council had considered means by which the parking problems in Ringwood could be alleviated. He was pleased to report that the District Council is looking at this issue and he was hopeful that it would be resolved shortly.

The Mayor reported that he had received a number of representations, which indicated that the reduction of the long stay from 20 hours to eight hours would not give people working in Ringwood sufficient time to complete a days work. Councillor Heron also indicated that Officers of the District Council had reached the same view and were likely to recommend that the reduced period should be nine hours rather than eight and he enquired whether the Town Council would support such change.

On the proposal of the Deputy Mayor, standing orders were suspended to enable this issue to be discussed.

Whilst Members noted that there were a number of issues still be to resolved, they acknowledged that at this stage further investigations were required before any definite decisions were reached by the District Council. If the District Council's Cabinet approved any proposals for change these would be subject to public consultation. That public consultation would enable all interested parties, and in particular, National Bus, to submit observations for consideration prior to any changes being implemented. It was suggested that since the Town Council had made the initial proposal for the reduction in permitted hours, it would be appropriate for it to be provided with details of any representations received by the District Council so that the Town Council could review its decision and provide the District Council with its further views having considered those representations. This would then make sure that the District Council had the most up-to-date information as to the views of the Town Council prior to any final decision being taken.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the District Council be advised that the Town Council has no objection to the maximum number of permitted hours in the long stay car park being nine hours in lieu of the eight hours previously suggested by the Town Council;
  2. That the District Council be specifically requested to consult with National Bus on the affect of the proposals on their operation; and
  3. That the District Council be requested to provide the Town Council with details of all representations received following public notice of the changes so that the Town Council can review the position and come to a final conclusion on its views on the change in the permitted parking time in the long stay car parks.

## **C/4262**

### **STANDING ORDERS**

On proposal of the Mayor suspension of Standing Orders was revoked.

## **C/4263**

### **PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT**

Cllr Clarke presented the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meetings held on 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May 2004.

- RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meetings held on 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May 2004 be approved and adopted.

**C/4264**

**RECREATION, LEISURE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

Cllr Light presented the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee meetings held on 26<sup>th</sup> May and 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2004.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee meetings held on 26<sup>th</sup> May and 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2004 be approved and adopted.

**C/4265**

**POLICY & FINANCE**

Cllr Chard presented the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meetings held on 26<sup>th</sup> May and 19<sup>th</sup> June 2004.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meetings held on 26<sup>th</sup> May and 19<sup>th</sup> June 2004 be approved and adopted.

**C/4266**

**FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

June/July 2004

Planning, Town & Environment	2.05pm	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> June
Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	5.30pm	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> July
Policy & Finance	7.00pm	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July
Planning, Town & Environment	2.05pm	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July
Full Council	7.00pm	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> July

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.22pm.