

OPEN SESSION: There were four members of the public present who did not wish to speak.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 24th November 2004 at 7.00pm

PRESENT: Cllr M H Thierry (Town Mayor)
Cllr P Chambers
Cllr N J Chard
Cllr Mrs B A Charlton
Cllr N R G Clarke
Cllr D E Cracknell
Cllr C Ford
Cllr N W Light
Cllr W S Rippon-Swaine
Cllr N Wood

IN ATTENDANCE: Terry Simpson, Town Clerk
Jo Stannard, Deputy Town Clerk
PC Chris White and WPC Lucy Bailey, Ringwood Police (for C/4318)

C/4314

ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs V A Sullivan, Cllr B H Terry, Cllr Mrs B Wright and Cllr S Wright.

C/4315

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Thierry declared a non-prejudicial personal interest in the award of grant aid to Ringwood Rotary Club, as he is a member of the Club. Cllr Ford and Cllr Cracknell declared non-prejudicial personal interests in the award of grant aid to Forest Forge Theatre Company, as members of the Board of Directors of the Company.

C/4316

PRESENTATION OF GRANT AID CHEQUES

Cllr Cracknell presented a cheque for £500 to Sean Aita, Artistic Director of Forest Forge Theatre Company. Mr Aita thanked the Council for its continued support and said that it was important for the Company to be centred in the community. He gave a summary of all the work that the Company had done in Ringwood over the last year including workshops in Bickerley Green nursing home and local schools, performances in the Meeting House and involvement in the Festival and Carnival.

Cllr Ford presented a cheque for £150 to Dick Sheerin who accepted the cheque on behalf of the Rotary Club of Ringwood. He thanked the Council for its continued support of the Christmas Eve event and said that this allowed all money raised to go to local charities.

The Mayor presented a cheque for £150 to Mrs Habbin, Secretary of the Ringwood & District Community Association. Mrs Habbin said that the Council's continued support was much appreciated.

C/4317

LIAISON WITH LOCAL POLICE

The Mayor welcomed PC Chris White, the Ringwood Town Beat Officer and his colleague WPC Lucy Bailey, to the meeting. PC White's intention was to work more closely with the Town Council to resolve any policing issues in the Town. He had been in Ringwood since December 2004, following 18 years service in the force (10 years in Totton and 8 years as a residential community policeman in Burley). He said that his two biggest concerns in the Town were the vagrants who gather outside the Visitor Information Centre and the issue of parking. He said that the vagrants themselves aren't a serious problem. However, they do attract other undesirable characters and vulnerable young people and, from a public relations point of view, they are not an attractive site to visitors arriving in the town. He suggested the possibility of introducing an alcohol ban in the town, which would help the Police to deal with the issue and may remove this problem. PC White also recognised that there was a parking problem in the town and said that he received many complaints from residents in The Bickerley area and Quomp. He was aware that the Town Council was concerned about the market stalls encroaching on Market Place and said that he would be looking into this. The Town Clerk informed him that the main concern was that the market operator had claimed he have been given authority by the Police for vehicles to park behind the market stalls – he had written to Inspector Kenna asking for confirmation of this.

The Mayor suggested that the Planning, Town & Environment Committee could consider an alcohol ban in the town and Cllr Clarke, the Committee Chairman, agreed that this would be included on the agenda for the next meeting on 10th December 2004.

Cllr Light gave an example of another village where not all calls to the Police had been logged as incidents. He asked PC White to explain how calls were dealt with and how this reflected on police targets. PC White suggested that this question would be better answered by Inspector Kenna. He explained that there was a computer log of all calls to Police headquarters and all incidents were given numbers and then sent to the relevant station. However, he added that there might not be anyone in the station available to deal with an incident immediately as they could be out on other calls.

Cllr Clarke said he had been informed that Gravel Lane had become a meeting place in the evenings for undesirable characters. PC White said he had also been recently informed of this and would be looking into it.

Cllr Cracknell said that boy racers were a big problem in the town and there were many illegal cars driving around. PC White replied that boy racers were being targeted and some drivers had been given warnings under Section 59 of the Road Traffic Act. This meant that if they were caught again, their vehicles could be seized and impounded.

The Mayor thanked PC White for his attendance and said that he would always be welcome in the office or at future meetings of the Council.

C/4318

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was noted that Cllr Clarke had been in attendance at the previous meeting and the Minutes were amended accordingly.

RESOLVED: That, with the above amendment having been made, the Minutes of the meeting held on 27th October 2004 be approved and signed.

C/4319**NORTHFIELD PLAY AREA**

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the Working Party, which included 4 members of the public, had now met to look at the proposals received for the refurbishment of Northfield Play Area. It had been a very positive meeting and the group had agreed on the equipment required and identified a preferred company to develop its proposal.

RESOLVED: That the Deputy Town Clerk be authorised to liaise with one playground company on the refurbishment scheme for Northfield Play Area, within the agreed budget.

C/4320**COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED**

- i) The Mayor announced that Bisterne Football Club had won the Bournemouth Football Association Team of the Week (20/11/04). He presented a certificate and football to Cllr Chard who accepted it on behalf of the team and said that all credit should go to the players.
- ii) It was noted that the Council had organised playground inspection training for its groundstaff and had invited other town and parish councils to send representatives. A total of 22 delegates from across the New Forest and surrounding area had attended and the course had been very successful. This had been a very cost effective way of delivering training and the Council would be organising other courses in the future.
- iii) The Mayor had attended the 125th anniversary celebrations of the Ringwood & Burley Band and, on behalf of the Council, had presented them with a Certificate of Recognition.
- iv) It was noted that Dorset Orthopaedic had won the Queen's Award for Innovation for its patented device for silicone ankle foot orthoses (SAFO). A letter of congratulations would be sent.
- v) Members were invited to join the Town Clerk and staff for Christmas drinks on Thursday 23rd December between 12 noon and 1.30pm and were asked to let the office know if they would be attending.

C/4321**QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR**

Cllr Cracknell asked for an update on the new Christmas lights for the town. The Mayor indicated that this was being dealt with by the Chamber of Trade and the Town Council and suggested that it be the subject of an informal discussion at the close of the meeting.

C/4322**REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS****County Councillor**

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

District Councillors

Cllr Ford said that the Appeal by the Owl Sanctuary had now been completed and a judgement was expected in the first week of December.

Cllr Thierry informed members that the District Council would begin to collect garden waste from 28th February 2005. Bags would be emptied once a fortnight.

**C/4323
RECREATION, LEISURE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

Cllr Light presented the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 3rd November 2004.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 3rd November 2004 be approved and adopted.

**C/4324
PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr Clarke presented the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 12th November 2004.

P/4126: Cllr Clarke reported that the Police had been most helpful in looking at suggestions put forward by members of the public for improved street lighting, and the comments received would be of great assistance when deciding on the submission of bids.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 12th November 2004 be approved and adopted.

**C/4325
POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Cllr Chard presented the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 17th November 2004.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 17th November 2004 be approved and adopted.

**C/4326
FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

December

Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	7.00pm	Wednesday 1 st December
Planning, Town & Environment	2.05pm	Friday 10 th December
Policy & Finance	7.00pm	Wednesday 15 th December
Full Council	7.00pm	Wednesday 22 nd December

**C/4327
EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

RESOLVED: That under section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information (Annex 'A').

**C/4328
RINGWOOD FLOOD DEFENCE SCHEME**

Cllr Light outlined the details of the scheme and reported that the Environment Agency hoped to begin work in the summer of 2005. The work would take approximately 4 months to complete and, during this time, a fenced compound would need to be situated on The Bickerley. Members considered the most suitable location for this compound, bearing in mind events held on The Bickerley and the wish to create the least disruption.

It was noted that the Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee would be discussing further details of the scheme at its next meeting on 1st December 2004, including suggested works to be undertaken by the Environment Agency in exchange for use of Council land for the compound.

RESOLVED: That the Environment Agency be authorised to use the area of The Bickerley Village Green between the access tracks to Old Mill House flats and Riverside for a temporary compound for use during works associated with the Ringwood Flood Defence Scheme.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.15 pm.