

OPEN SESSION: There were several members of the public present (see attached).

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 29th September 2004 at 7.10pm

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Terry Simpson, Town Clerk
Jo Stannard, Deputy Town Clerk
Lyn Wickens, PA to the Town Clerk

C/4288 ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr N R G Clarke, Cllr Mrs B Wright and Cllr S Wright.

C/4289 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

C/4290 PRESENTATION OF 2004 ALLOTMENT COMPETITION AWARDS

Cllr Light said that the Town Council had been honoured to have members of the Ringwood Gardening Club judging the allotments this year, and introduced Connie Hobbs as their representative.

Ms Hobbs explained that members of the Gardening Club had judged all 99 allotments over 3 sites in the Town at the beginning of July. All judges had agreed wholeheartedly that there are some jolly good gardens in Ringwood, with a tremendous variety of crops. However, they had been saddened to see that 8 plots had not been tended. She said that the winners and runners-up on all 3 sites had been very close and the overall winner's plot was a site to behold, as was his neighbours. She concluded by congratulating all allotment tenants on their achievements.

The Mayor thanked the judges for their time.

Awards were made as follows:

Hightown Road Allotments : Winner – Mrs W Woolgar, Runner Up – Mr P Giles

Southampton Road Allotments: Winner – Mr A Robinson, Runner Up – Mrs A Brewer

Upper Kingston Allotments: Winner – Mr V Nardiello, Runner Up – Miss M Hopper

Overall Winner – Mr A Robinson

C/4291

PRESENTATION OF GRANT AID CHEQUES

Cllr Ford presented a cheque for £500 to the New Forest North Citizens Advice Bureau. The Chairman, Mr Michael Lingam-Willgoss, accepted the cheque with grateful thanks to the Town Council for its support.

Grants had also been awarded to the New Forest Disability Information Service and Ringwood Pregnancy & Family Care. However, representatives were unable to attend to receive their cheques.

C/4292

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Special Meeting held on 1st September 2004, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

C/4293

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

A letter had been received from the County Council's Education Department regarding admissions to Schools for September 2005. It was noted that the deadline of Friday 19th November 2004 was two months earlier than usual.

The Mayor congratulated Cllr Chard on the receipt of yet another award for his sterling work at Bisterne Football Club. It was noted that Cllr Chard had played 623 games for the Club and had played his last game at 48 years old. He had been the Club Secretary since 1957 and continues to raise money for Club funds. The Mayor praised him for his dedication, loyalty and time given for the benefit of the community. The Deputy Mayor presented the FA Charter Standard Club Award to Cllr Chard and congratulated him on achieving 3rd place in the National Groundsman of the Year Awards for 2003/04.

C/4294

QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

Cllr Mrs Sullivan: asked the Mayor if a response had been received to the Council's letter to Hampshire Highways regarding the state of pavements in the town. Mrs Stannard responded that she had spoken to the Assistant Chief Engineer who had told her the pavements were inspected 6 times a year and any defects were reported to the Area Surveyor who prioritised the work and arranged for it to be carried out. She added that she would be speaking to the Area Surveyor regarding particular areas of concern. The Town Clerk informed Members that the County Council had a specification for standard of footpaths and said that this may differ from public expectations.

Cllr Mrs Charlton: asked if the Mayor was aware that complaints made against Cllrs S and Mrs Wright to the Standard Board had now been investigated with the conclusion that there was no case to answer. The Mayor replied that he was aware of this and informed Members that details were held in the office.

C/4295

REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Councillor

County Councillor John Waddington had given his apologies for the meeting. However, he had submitted a brief report, as follows:

“Youth Provision in Ringwood - I have discussed this matter with Cllr Ken Thornber, Leader of HCC and Cllr Don Allen, the Executive member for Education and the officer team. Funding for the transitional period until April 2005 is now assured and at the meeting of interested bodies on 12th October we aim to take steps towards sustainable youth provision based upon the Fordingbridge experience. Hampshire County Youth Service will support the local groups in taking this forward to a successful outcome. The positive support of Ringwood Town Council is essential and I am sure that between all the agencies we can deliver the service the young people want.

Highway Issues - These will all be discussed at the meetings to be held on 4th October.”

District Councillors

Cllr Heron reported that the District Council’s Cabinet would consider the proposed changes to car parking arrangements in the Furlong long-stay car park at its meeting on 6th October. It was noted that officer recommendations were that HGVs be forbidden from using the Ringwood lorry park between 8am and 6pm, that there be no changes to waiting times in the long-stay car park and that the lorry park be marked out with car bays.

Cllr Ford reported that new legislation was soon to be introduced regarding the end of life of electrical goods and said that the District Council was looking at ways to deal with this.

Cllr Thierry added that this legislation called for manufacturers to take back electrical goods at the end of their life, and to be responsible for their recycling and/or disposal. There was also a move to apply this to motor vehicles.

Cllr Cracknell reported that the free collection of surrendered vehicles by the District Council would end on 9th November. It was noted that the Council would still have a statutory responsibility to remove abandoned vehicles.

C/4296

HAPTC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

RESOLVED: That Cllr Mrs Sullivan be appointed as the Council’s representative to attend the 2004 Hampshire Association of Parish and Town Councils Annual General Meeting.

C/4297

RECREATION, LEISURE & OPEN SPACES

Cllr Light presented the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 8th September 2004.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 8th September 2004 be approved and adopted.

C/4298

PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT

Cllr Chard presented the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meetings held on 20th August and 17th September 2004.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meetings held on 20th August and 17th September 2004, including recommendations at P/4095 and P/4012, but not P/4103, be approved and adopted.

C/4299
POLICY & FINANCE

Cllr Chard presented the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 22nd September 2004.

F/3672: Cllr Cracknell said that Ringwood desperately needs houses for first time buyers and suggested that the land adjacent to the sewage works should be put forward as an additional site for inclusion in the Urban Housing Potential Study.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 22nd September 2004, including the recommendations at F/3672, with the inclusion of land adjacent to the sewage works, F/3676 and F/3677, be approved and adopted.

C/4300
FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

October

Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	7.00pm	Wednesday 6 th October
Planning, Town & Environment	2.05pm	Friday 15 th October
Policy & Finance	7.00pm	Wednesday 20 th October
Full Council	7.00pm	Wednesday 27 th October

C/4301
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 items of business on the grounds that they may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information (Annex 'A').

C/4302
RINGWOOD MARKET

Members were concerned about certain aspects of the operation of Ringwood Market, including the fact that on several occasions some stalls had stayed open beyond the permitted 2pm.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk speak to Mr Morant regarding future arrangements for the Market.

C/4303
LAND ADJOINING MOUNT PLEASANT LANE

It was noted that private landowners in Mount Pleasant Lane were looking at development opportunities for the land.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk take appropriate action.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.40pm.