

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 24th April 2024 at 7pm at Ringwood Gateway, The Furlong, Ringwood

PRESENT: Cllr Gareth DeBoos (Chairman)
Cllr Rae Frederick (Deputy Chair)
Cllr Andrew Briers
Cllr Luke Dadford
Cllr Philip Day
Cllr Ingrid De Bruyn
Cllr Mary DeBoos
Cllr Janet Georgiou
Cllr John Haywood
Cllr James Swyer
Cllr Michael Thierry

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Christopher Wilkins, Town Clerk
Mrs Jo Hurd, Deputy Town Clerk
District Cllr Jeremy Heron
District Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine
District Cllr Nigel Linford

ABSENT: Cllr Peter Kelleher
Cllr Glenys Turner
Cllr Becci Windsor

C/7132 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were several members of the public present, all of whom were in attendance to receive grant aid certificates (agenda item 4).

C/7133 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Town Clerk reported that apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Kelleher, Turner and Windsor.

C/7134 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

C/7135 GRANT AID AWARDS

The Town Mayor presented certificates for the Grant Aid awards agreed at the March meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee (*F/6284 refers*), as follows:-

- a) £500 to Bickerley Green Nursing & Residential Home towards the cost of its 'bus' and 'memorabilia' projects;
- b) £750 to Ringwood Girl Guiding towards the costs of providing disabled facilities at the guide hall; and
- c) £750 to Greyfriars Community Centre towards the costs of a replacement floor to Greyfriars Hall.

All expressed their thanks to the Council.

C/7136
POLICE REPORT

Inspector Ord presented the quarterly report from Ringwood Neighbourhood Policing Team (*Annex A*). He was accompanied by newly appointed Sergeant Chris Pell.

He reported that crime rates were down considerably compared to last year, although there were some spikes in numbers comparing the current 90 days to the previous 90 days, including a rise in vehicle offences (most of which had occurred over the period of one weekend), and a rise in shoplifting as a result of increased reporting encouraged by the Neighbourhood Team. There was also a rise in violence without injury (not unusual at this time of year) and criminal damage (most of which was down to a single offender).

He commented on Op Hardhome and the intention to continue offering to security mark property, and Op Keoman advising people not to leave handbags or valuables in sight in empty vehicles. There had also been increased ANPR activity to assist in the detection of crime.

Cllr Day commented that he still has concerns about the triage centre but was grateful for recent intervention and subsequent investigation, and said that increased Police activity is making a difference. Inspector Ord said that shoplifting and non-dwelling burglaries will always be investigated locally, even if the triage centre has issued a letter to say the case is closed.

Cllr Thierry said that speeding and parking on pavements were current issues reported to him by constituents. Inspector Ord advised to let him know if there were particular roads of concern. The Neighbourhood Team is involved in the local SpeedWatch initiative and can call on Road Policing colleagues if necessary. It was noted that the use of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) was impactful if moved regularly and acted as a visible deterrent.

Congratulations were sent to PCSO Sparshott on the birth of a baby boy.

C/7137
MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 27th March 2024, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

C/7138
RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Cllr Briers presented the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 3rd April 2024.

OS/6345 - He advised that a full application would be submitted for the grounds shed at Carvers, rather than an outline application, as recent advice from the planning consultant was that this would be more cost effective.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 3rd April 2024 be received.

**C/7139
PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr Day presented the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 5th April 2024.

P/6275 – He reported that the Old Mill House planning application for concrete blocks had been approved. It was therefore likely that this would come before the Council as landowner to determine whether or not permission should be granted, and whether this would be lawful work on a village green.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning, Town and Environment Committee meeting held on 5th April 2024 be received.

**C/7140
POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Cllr M DeBoos presented the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 17th April 2024.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 17th April 2024 be received.

**C/7141
PLANNING APPLICATION 21/11723 – LAND OFF MOORTOWN LANE (STRATEGIC SITE 13)**

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report (*Annex B*) and it was noted that Cllr G DeBoos had undertaken an exercise to identify the differences between the various versions of the Design and Access Statement.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the amended plans be delegated to Planning, Town & Environment Committee on 3rd May.

**C/7142
SPORTS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AT LONG LANE**

The Town Clerk reported that formalities were in progress for mains electricity to the site to be upgraded, and consent of landowners and DESNZ had been secured. The contractors had adjusted the construction plan to carry out all works they can without electricity on site. After that, there will be a short hiatus until electricity is in place and they return. It was hoped that work would be completed in the summer.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk's verbal report be received.

**C/7143
COMMUNICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED**

The Town Mayor praised the young people who attend the Ox Boxing Gym, which coaches 11-17 year olds free of charge. He had recently assisted with the presentation of certificates.

He had attended the Ringwood Interschools Photographic Competition event and said there was some amazing talent on show.

He had attended the Hampshire Police Band St George's Day concert in the Church and commented on the incredibly talented musicians.

He had also chaired the Ringwood Twinning Association AGM.

It was noted that the Bowls Club had invited the Council to a challenge match, which it was hoped could be arranged in June.

C/7144

REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County and District Cllr Thierry presented his written report (*Annex C*). It was noted that the Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan would be considered by Cabinet on 1 May and, although Cllr Heron said he had no doubt it would be supported by Cabinet members, it was agreed that Members of the Council would attend in support.

District Cllr Heron answered a question regarding the boarded-up property in Parsonage Barn Lane and said he would look into this and report back.

C/7145

REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS

Cllr Frederick – reported she had attended birthday celebrations for a 107 year old.

Cllr Swyer – reported he had been engaging with Culture in Common about supporting events in general and bringing a child friendly D-Day information bus to Ringwood during the week of the celebrations. He had also attended the Churches Together Good Friday Service and given a reading.

Cllr M DeBoos – reported she had agreed to be reinstated as a Trustee of Ringwood United Charities following the successful recruitment of a Clerk and assurance from the Treasurer that the accounts will be prepared in good time.

Cllr Georgiou – summarised some of her findings to be included in a flooding report she was working on, which she hoped to complete soon.

Cllr Haywood – reported Food Bank was looking for alternative accommodation as its current premises was no longer suitable, particularly as they were looking to expand services to meet the needs of the local community – he asked Members to put forward any suggestions.

Cllr Day – had attended the Easter Service at the Church. He also reported on a recent flooding incident during excavations at the Moortown Texaco, whilst replacing fuel tanks.

C/7146

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

The following meeting dates were noted:

Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	7.00pm	Wednesday 1 st May 2024
Planning, Town & Environment	10.00am	Friday 3 rd May 2024
Annual Town Assembly	7.00pm	Wednesday 15 th May 2024
Policy & Finance	7.00pm	Wednesday 22 nd May 2024
Annual Council meeting	7.00pm	Wednesday 29 th May 2024



There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.22pm.

APPROVED
29th May 2024

TOWN MAYOR



Ringwood Quarterly Report



Ringwood South

	Current 90 days	Previous 90 days	Difference
1b Violence with Injury ↑	19	13	6
1c Violence without Injury ↑	50	39	11
2b Other Sexual Offences ↑	7	4	3
4a1 Burglary Residential ↑	5	3	2
4a2 Burglary Business and Community ↑	5	3	2
4b Vehicle Offences ↑	17	10	7
4d Bicycle Theft ↑	0	4	-4
4e Shoplifting ↑	23	11	12
4f All Other Theft Offences ↑	8	9	-1
5a Criminal Damage ↑	19	7	12
6a Trafficking of Drugs ↑	3	0	3
6b Possession of Drugs ↑	0	1	-1
7 Possession of Weapons Offences ↑	2	1	1
8 Public Order Offences ↑	23	12	-11
9 Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society ↑	2	1	1
TOTAL	181	118	63

	Current 90 days	Previous 90 days	Difference
Residential Burglary (Excl Sheds/Garages)	4	3	1





Ringwood Quarterly Report



Ringwood North (Poulner)

	Current 90 days	Previous 90 days	Difference
1b Violence with Injury	2	5	-3
1c Violence without Injury	17	19	-2
2b Other Sexual Offences	0	1	-1
4a1 Burglary Residential	5	2	3
4b Vehicle Offences	4	5	-1
4e Shoplifting	5	5	0
4f All Other Theft Offences	6	4	2
5a Criminal Damage	9	7	2
6b Possession of Drugs	0	0	0
7 Possession of Weapons Offences	0	1	-1
8 Public Order Offences	0	0	0
9 Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	0	1	-1
TOTAL	48	50	-2

	Current 90 days	Previous 90 days	Difference
Residential Burglary (Excl Sheds/Garages)	3	1	2





Ringwood Quarterly Report



Ringwood East & Sopley

	Current 90 days	Previous 90 days	Difference
1b Violence with Injury	1	3	-2
1c Violence without Injury	7	6	1
2b Other Sexual Offences	1	0	1
4a1 Burglary Residential	4	2	2
4a2 Burglary Business and Community	0	0	0
4b Vehicle Offences	1	4	-3
4d Bicycle Theft	0	0	0
4f All Other Theft Offences	2	2	0
5a Criminal Damage	5	3	2
6b Possession of Drugs	0	0	0
8 Public Order Offences	1	2	-1
9 Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	1	0	1
TOTAL	23	22	1

	Current 90 days	Previous 90 days	Difference
Residential Burglary (Excl Sheds/Garages)	4	1	3





Ringwood Quarterly Report

Current Operations/Areas of Focus

Op Stool is a local operation which aims to target the issue of non-dwelling burglaries in Ringwood & surrounding areas. As part of this operation we are able to utilise additional resources (such as specially trained Roads Policing officers and dog units) in order to respond to live incidents. Locally, as a neighbourhood team, we endeavour to attend all reported incidents of non-dwelling burglaries in order to carry out a CCTV scope of the area and house-to-house if appropriate to do so.

Op HARDHOME is a local operation that has been set up alongside **Op Stool** to assist with identification and recovery of stolen property. To date, we have attended 30 addresses, held two events at Aivly Country Store, and attended a number of local shows over the summer, and marked approximately 460 items of property since the operation started, with a number of further events planned before the end of the year. Items are security marked using our Dot Peen machine and then registered by the owner on a nationwide website called Immobilise, so that they can be flagged if stolen, and more easily identified if recovered by police or sold on. These events will be advertised on our Facebook page as well as by other means but please speak to residents about this free service and take details to pass on to enable us to reach as many people as possible.

Shoplifting – Business crime has been taken on as an area priority. We are attending all reports, building links to the local businesses and detecting more offences – through CCTV and ID. Use of Out of Court disposals as well as court summons employed.

Op Relentless – Month of April sees us concentrating on outstanding suspects (warrants, serious offenders and suspects for all other offences – Reduction across the whole Forest already – press release at end of month!

Successes/Outcomes

Ringwood Police have had a busy few months across the board as a team. Some of our successes have included:



www.hampshire.police.uk

Deaf? Non-emergency text

07781 480999

For crime and community information

www.hampshirealert.co.uk





Ringwood Quarterly Report



- Regular Community SpeedWatch sessions have been attended to support volunteers in the Poulner and Hightown areas, which have been well supported, and have a lasting impact by providing a very visible deterrent in the local area, and education towards speeders.

Operation on A338 – Support from Roads Policing Unit (bikes etc) and drone units.

Arrest of a young prolific offender – currently going through YOT process – incidents have reduced since intervention!

Changes in the Neighbourhood Team

Recent ‘Bobby on the Beat’ allocated – Your Designated Named Officer (DNO) is
PC 28455 Ian Bigland

Joined by PCSO Sam Troughton (to support while Jas is off)
New Sgt arrived – PS Chris Pell

Inspector: Insp 1904 Darren Ord



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PLANNING APPLICATION 21/11723 – LAND OFF MOORTOWN LANE (STRATEGIC SITE 13)

1. Introduction and reason for report

- 1.1 The Council's observations on this planning application were agreed by Full Council on 28 February 2024 (C/7106 refers). Amended plans have since been submitted by the applicant and the Town Council has been re-consulted by New Forest District Council (NFDC). It is therefore necessary to agree when the amended plans should be considered, within the timeframe set by NFDC.

2. Background

- 2.1 Detailed observations in response to planning application 21/11723 were considered and agreed by Full Council on 28 February 2024, and subsequently submitted to New Forest District Council.
- 2.2 The applicant has now submitted a number of amended plans in relation to the design of the housing, landscaping and play areas. Consideration will therefore need to be given to these amended plans and any further responses from other statutory consultees, as well as arranging for the Building for a Healthy Life assessment to be reviewed.
- 2.3 The deadline for comments issued with the re-consultation from NFDC is 30 April 2024. However, the Planning Officer has agreed to extend this deadline for the Town Council to Friday 10 May 2024 at the latest. It is expected that the application will be considered by NFDC's Planning Committee on 12 June 2024.
- 2.4 Members are asked to consider whether consideration of the amended plans and agreement of revised observations can be delegated to Planning, Town & Environment Committee at its scheduled meeting on Friday 3 May 2024, or whether an extraordinary Full Council meeting should be arranged on Wednesday 8 May (currently the only Wednesday evening free of meetings in May).

3. Issue for decision

- 3.1 Whether to delegate consideration of amended plans to Planning, Town & Environment Committee on 3 May 2024 (recommended) or arrange an extraordinary Full Council meeting on 8 May 2024.**

For further information, contact:

Jo Hurd, Deputy Town Clerk
Direct Dial: 01425 484721
Email: jo.hurd@ringwood.gov.uk

April Report - Cllr Michael Thierry

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Hampshire County Council

The County have completed the Consultation exercise asking members of the public to comment on council spending options including services as HWRC's, Highways Maintenance, Adult Social Care Charges, Library Stock, Street Lighting, Passenger Transport and School Crossing Patrols were amongst items of expenditure upon which the public could comment. Currently the information and feed back is being collated by officers before submitting a report for member consideration.

Last Friday the Leader of Hampshire County Council, Cllr Rob Humby, made an informal visit to Ringwood.

New Forest District Council

At the District Council Cabinet meeting next week, Wednesday 1st May item 6 on the agenda is Ringwood Neighbourhood Development Plan - Examiner's Report. (Full details on the council web site or on Mod Gov App).

There is opportunity for Public Participation should any member of the Town Council wish to attend and comment.

Ellingham, Harbridge & Isley Parish Council

I chaired the recent meeting of the Parish Planning Committee.

New Forest National Park Authority

I attended the recent meeting of the Authority Planning Committee.

Councillors' and MP's Surgery

Poorly health has prevented me attend the monthly Councillors' and MP's Surgery.

Councillors' Casework

I have been dealing with a number of client issues involving a couple of councils. Pavement parking is featuring in my 'in tray'. Planning Application problems, anti-social behaviour and the current favourite, flooding.