

Ringwood Town Council

Ringwood Gateway, The Furlong, Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 1AT

Tel: 01425 473883

www.ringwood.gov.uk

SUMMONS

Dear Member

16th February 2017

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Town Council at the Forest Suite, Ringwood Gateway on Wednesday 22nd February 2017 at 7.00pm* or at the conclusion of the public participation session.

Mr T Simpson
Town Clerk

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

*If required, the meeting will be preceded by a public participation period of up to 10 minutes at 7.00pm. Members of the public are also entitled to speak, during the meeting, on agenda items.

RECORDING (AUDIO AND/OR VIDEO) OF COUNCIL MEETINGS AND USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

During this meeting the public are allowed to record the Committee and officers from the front of the public seating area only, providing it does not disrupt the meeting. Any items in the Exempt Part of an agenda cannot be recorded and no recording device is to be left behind. If another member of the public objects to being recorded, the person(s) recording must stop doing so until that member of the public has finished speaking. The use of social media is permitted, but all members of the public are requested to switch their mobile devices to silent for the duration of the meeting.

MOBILE PHONES

Members and the public are reminded that the use of mobile phones (other than on silent) is prohibited at Town Council and Committee meetings.

AGENDA

1. To receive Apologies for Absence
2. To receive Declarations of Interest
3. Presentation of Grant Aid cheque to Avon Valley Concerts
4. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th January 2017
5. To receive Minutes of Committees and approve recommendations contained therein:

Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces
Planning, Town & Environment

DATE:- Meeting cancelled
DATE:- 3rd February 2017

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Committee Vacancies (Minute F/5402 refers)

Student Advisor Working Party (Minute F/5403 refers)

The Place (Confidential Minute F/5407 refers)

Town Clerk (Confidential Minute F/5409 refers)

Any discussion on the Confidential items is to take place during the private part of this meeting.

6. RELOCATION OF SYRIAN REFUGEES

If invited to do so by Ringwood School, to consider the appointment of two representatives to the Syrian refugee working party. Cllrs Thierry and Treleven attended the meeting on 3rd February in a personal capacity. (*Report A*)

7. 'RURAL CRIME 2017' PROACTIVE SCRUTINY

To consider responding to Hampshire Police and Crime Panel in respect of its scrutiny and support of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in his intention to keep rural communities across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight safe and secure. (deadline for response is 3rd March 2017) (*Report B – some suggested observations for consideration to follow*)

8. COUNCILLOR VACANCY

In the event of an election not being requested, to consider arrangements for the co-option to fill the vacancy

9. TWINNING

To consider the Town Clerk's report in relation to the 2017 visit (*Report C*)

10. To receive such communications as the Town Mayor may desire to lay before the Council (Councillors are reminded that no decision taking may take place as a result of this item)

11. To Receive Reports from Ringwood Town Councillors (Councillors are reminded that no decision taking may take place as a result of this item)

12. To receive Reports from County and District Councillors (Councillors are reminded that no decision taking may take place as a result of this item)

13. Forthcoming Meetings – to note the following dates:

Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	7.00pm	Wednesday 1 st March 2017
Planning, Town & Environment	10.00am	Friday 3 rd March 2017
Policy & Finance	7.00pm	Wednesday 15 th March 2017
Full Council	7.00pm	Wednesday 29 th March 2017

14. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

To consider exclusion of public and press for the following items:

15. RINGWOOD GATEWAY

To consider report on the heating and cooling system at The Gateway Building

16. TOWN CLERK

To consider the date for advertising the vacancy of Town Clerk (*Confidential Report D – to follow*)

If you would like further information on any of the agenda items, please contact Mr Terry Simpson, Town Clerk, on 01425 484720 or terry.simpson@ringwood.gov.uk

Council Members:

Chairman: Cllr Tim Ward, Town Mayor
Vice-Chairman: Cllr Philip Day, Deputy Mayor
Cllr Andrew Briers
Cllr Christine Ford
Cllr Jeremy Heron
Cllr Anne Murphy
Cllr Gloria O'Reilly
Cllr Tony Ring
Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine
VACANCY
Cllr Jacqui Terry
Cllr Michael Thierry
Cllr Chris Treleaven
Cllr Angela Wiseman

Student Advisors:

Oscar Jenkinson
Max Pinfield
Stanley Gulliford
Jack Cheshire
Oscar Poules
George Creasey

In a personal capacity only, I attended last Friday (3rd) the first meeting of a community-based working party set up to find out how to welcome a Syrian Refugee family into Ringwood. Michael Thierry also attended in his personal capacity. The meeting was initiated by and held at Ringwood School Sixth form. Those present were mainly those who spoke at our Policy & Finance Committee Meeting on 18th January, plus guests – the Bournemouth Co-ordinator of a voluntary organisation - International Care Network - for settling refugees in the local Dorset area, and two members of a community group in Milford-on-Sea from which a resident had volunteered a house for a Syrian refugee family in Pennington, now settled there.

The Co-ordinator (“Irwin”) explained the Government Resettlement programme and how in the Dorset area this had successfully been used to settle a number of refugees. The over-riding prime task was to find – via advertisements, community group contacts etc - private dwellings whose owners were willing to rent out at Housing Benefit rates, somewhat lower than the market rate. Having found such volunteering landlords, the Local Housing Authority then assessed the suitability of the dwellings and the Housing Benefit rent payable to the landlord. Once agreed, the appointed County or Unitary Authority office for resettlement took on the responsibilities of social, educational and health care provision for the refugees.

The visitor from Milford explained the same process being followed in practice for the refugee family now housed in Pennington, mentioning that their Town Council was not involved. In fact Lyminster and Pennington TC have only just been told there is a refugee family in their parish!

The above presentations gave me the opportunity to explain (once again) that our Town Council had realised early on that we had no part to play in “accepting” a refugee family, as Town and Parish Councils have no means of discharging such a responsibility. The prime task is to find willing landlords in the private sector – more readily undertaken by the voluntary sector, as has been proved to be the case by the guest speakers. The group then said they understood our position – and hence our two recommendations (October 2015 and January 2017) - but they would have liked a more supportive indication from us than they felt they had received.

Adam Skirton said he has a member of his Church who appears willing to rent a Ringwood property he owns to a refugee family. To assist, I gave Adam the NFDC Housing Dept and HCC Relocation Scheme contacts which Jo Hurd had kindly found for us, for Adam to follow up this possible resettlement with his parishioner. The group were of course delighted with this encouraging news.

It was suggested to me by a member of the group that our Town Council might like to have one or two Councillor representatives on this working party. It would be a way of showing our support for the work of the group.

On reflection, I think this would be a good idea for us. Not only would it show a willingness to support the resettlement idea, but some of our knowledge of the mechanics of local government might assist the processes involved. There would be no necessary resource commitment of our Council but there may be informal ways we could help.

If Policy and Finance Committee think this is worth pursuing, we would need to ask the working group if indeed they would welcome our participation. At the moment, it is only the idea of one person!. The contact to ask would be Mrs Elena Fernandez-Lee of Ringwood School (who chaired the meeting).

Cllr Chris Treleaven February 5th 2017

**B**

Date: 03/02/2017

Hampshire Association of Local Councils
(By email)

*Room 102, Elizabeth II Court, The
Winchester, SO23 8UJ*

Telephone: 01962 847336

Fax: 01962 867273

E-mail:

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/hampshire->

Dear Sir or Madam,

Re: Hampshire Police and Crime Panel Proactive Scrutiny of 'Rural Crime'

In October 2014 the Panel produced its first scrutiny report which focussed upon 'Rural Crime', and considered the actions of the then Commissioner in his aim to reduce the gap in solved crime rates between rural and non-rural areas. Through this report the Panel found that more could be done to help inform and empower local communities to protect themselves, to raise confidence in rural community policing and to improve the partnership approach to rural crime.

The Hampshire Police and Crime Panel (PCP) will soon be holding a proactive scrutiny session in order to scrutinise and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in his intention to keep rural communities across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight safe and secure. This review will consider progress made against some of the key areas discussed in the Panel's previous report on rural crime and look to identify and discuss those of current interest.

As part of their scrutiny process the PCP plan to hold an evidence-gathering session, and, in order to support Members to gain the most value from this session, we are inviting you to provide written evidence to our session. This is because preventing rural crime is one of your key priorities, or because we wish to learn of instances of best practice known to you or your organisation.

The key questions of the proactive scrutiny are:

- How well have the PCC and his office worked with organisations engaged in the prevention of rural crime to foster partnership working and increase the sharing of information between agencies?
- How effective has the PCC been in engaging with rural communities to allay the fear of crime and increase the confidence of residents in protecting themselves from the risk of rural crime?
- What are the key concerns and priorities which need to be considered by the PCC to support the development of his new Rural Crime Strategy for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight?

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Please find attached to this letter an evidence return form with the questions the PCP wishes to explore at their session. Your organisation's response to as many of these questions as are relevant would be much appreciated. The deadline for receipt of submissions is 3 March 2017.

Please return your feedback to the Democratic Support Officer to the Hampshire PCP, as detailed on the form. Your contribution will assist the PCP to arrive at evidence based and constructive recommendations to help us in our scrutiny and support of the Hampshire PCC, and his priorities.

Yours sincerely



Cllr David Stewart

Chairman, Hampshire Police and Crime Panel

'Rural Crime 2017' Proactive Scrutiny: 7 April 2017

Request for Written Evidence

Deadline for receipt of responses: 3 March 2017

The following questions are being addressed to key stakeholders operating in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Your organisation's response to as many of these questions as are relevant will assist the Panel in its scrutiny and support of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in his intention to keep rural communities across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight safe and secure.

The key questions of the proactive scrutiny are:

- i How well have the PCC and his office worked with organisations engaged in the prevention of rural crime to foster partnership working and increase the sharing of information between agencies?
- i How effective has the PCC been in engaging with rural communities to allay the fear of crime and increase the confidence of residents in protecting themselves from the risk of rural crime?
- i What are the key concerns and priorities which need to be considered by the PCC to support the development of his new Rural Crime Strategy for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight?

You are welcome to use this document as a basis for your response, or submit a separate document if you prefer.

Name of Organisation Responding:

Contact Name and Contact Details:

- 1) How effective do you feel the PCC and his office have been in fostering a partnership approach to rural crime, and in encouraging the sharing of information between partners? What opportunities do you feel exist for greater engagement?

-need for quarterly/sixth monthly attendance at Council meetings to give an update of issues (last attendance Nov 2015). The Deputy Town Clerk has recently invited the local Police Inspector Richard Parsons to reinstate regular attendance at Council meetings by either himself or one of his officers (quarterly or six monthly), and she has given him the dates of the next few meetings.)

-regular contact between PSCO and Youth Co-Ordinator at The Place

- 2) How well has PCC engaged with residents to help allay their fears of rural crime and encourage local communities to take measures to protect themselves against rural crime? Can you identify further examples of how the PCC might enhance this communication?

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-events, for eg. regular Local Ringwood Police Beat Surgery, at the Gateway Building, Ringwood (and other venues), which provides an opportunity to meet the local Police and discuss crime issues and concerns. The Police bring leaflets and information to give out to local residents and respond to any questions they may have.

*-websites, which include details of the New Forest Policing Team and crime stats
<http://www.hampshire.police.uk/internet/my-neighbourhood/new-forest/new-forest-west/ringwood/>
http://www.ukcrimestats.com/Neighbourhood/Hampshire_Constabulary/Ringwood*

*-publishing information via the local press
<http://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/li/crime.in.Ringwood/>*

3) How effective and efficient is the current policing response to rural crime? What role could the PCC take, at a strategic level, to support any improvements to this approach?

4) What would you identify as being the current key concerns in relation to rural crime?

-concern over the closure of Ringwood Police Station an assurance of response times that can be expected and explanation of factors that can influence this

-The front desk at The Gateway receives complaints from visitors that there are not enough Police and they are invisible to residents.

-Instead of phoning 101, residents will come into The Gateway and ask the front desk for help

5) What do you think should be the priorities for inclusion by the PCC in his new Rural Crime Strategy for Hampshire and the IOW?

-increased number of uniformed officers on the street to deter anti-social behaviour and violent crimes

-better presence around Carvers and The Place in the evenings

-increase the general publics security awareness in respect of property/possessions to deter planned and opportunist theft from buildings and vehicles

-pre-empting potential hotspots, for eg. traffic problems with the opening of Lidl's

-encouragement of public neighbourhood groups and information on their powers and levels of appropriate response

-presence at town events – Carnival, remembrance Sunday, pedal car grand prix, etc.

-coordinated response to RTA's on the major routes to get the best outcome for those involved, allow time for investigations to take place but also in order to bring the highway back into use for other road users.

-diversion routes trialed to check they are appropriate e.g. diversion sign on the High Street diverted traffic around Market Place (when slip road onto A31 was closed) caused traffic to double back on itself, back up the High St, and create gridlock around the town and surrounding roads. Sign should have possibly been in place, at Fridays Cross or Greyfriars roundabout, to stop any through cars from entering the High Street.

- 6) Is there anything further that you can provide to the Panel that will assist us with our proactive scrutiny of this topic?

The Panel thanks you for taking the time to respond to our request for written evidence; your responses will help Members identify areas for recommendation to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire. Please note, as evidence to a 'Select Committee' style inquiry, your responses will be published unless you specify that the content is not for publication.

Please return your responses to:

Caroline Roser, Democratic Support Officer to the Hampshire Police and Crime Panel
Hampshire County Council, Corporate Services, Room 102, Elizabeth II Court South, The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8UJ

Email: caroline.rosier@hants.gov.uk

Telephone: 01962 846693

It will assist the Panel's preparations for the event on 7 April 2017 if you can submit your written evidence by 3 March 2017.

COUNCIL MEETING – 22ND FEBRUARY 2017**TWINNING****1 Introduction**

As members are aware Ringwood is twinned with Pont Audemer in France. There is a small Committee in Ringwood that organises exchange events. Although the Committee is independent of the Council, the Town Mayor has traditionally represented the Council at meetings of the Twinning Committee. The Committee is seeking additional nominees from the Town Council to serve on its organising Committee.

2 2017 Event

This year arrangements are being made for a delegation from Pont Audemer to visit Ringwood in May and it seems that there have been one or more meetings to consider the detailed itinerary. It is understood that the visit will take place between Thursday 25th May and Sunday 28th May. Arising from those discussions the Chairman of the Twinning Committee has raised the following issues:

- i the Committee's fund raising is failing to meet the cost of the visit
- ii Pont Audemer's Mayor is likely to take part in the visit this year
- iii the opening event is likely to be a performance at the Meeting House by a New Forest Trio on 17th May, followed by a Pont Audemer Folk Group taking part in Fanfare for Spring
- iv the Committee has requested that the Town Council hosts a Civic Reception for the guests on Saturday 27th May. During his term of office as Town Mayor, Councillor Thierry indicated that he would support use of the Civic Fund for a small finger buffet reception.

3 Matters for Consideration

No specific provision has been made in the budget to meet any costs arising from a Civic Reception but there is a general provision of £1,500 to meet any civic expenses approved by the Council.

There is a wedding booking for the 27th May and access to The Forest Suite could not be achieved until after 2.00pm on that day. As the Forest Suite will be set up with rows of seating for the wedding, the room would need to be cleaned, cleared and rearranged for a reception. As Saturdays are not a normal working day, the Council would need to meet the costs of staff working additional hours or employing outside agencies to clear the Forest Suite and deal with the refreshments unless the Twinning Committee can arrange for this to be done by its volunteers. A member of staff would have to be on duty to clear up and lock up after the event.

The visitor information service will also be operating in the main Reception until 4.00pm on that day but that would not interfere with any arrangements for a civic reception.

The Chairman of the Twinning Committee has been invited to attend the Council meeting to explain the arrangements for the visit in more detail and to answer any questions that members may have prior to making a decision on the visit.

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4 Recommendations

It is recommended that

- 1 Consideration be given to approving the use of the Forest Suite on 27th May at no cost for a Civic Reception in relation to the Twinning Visit by guests from Pont Audemer
- 2 Consideration be given to the level of support to be provided by the Town Council in relation to the Civic Reception

For further information please contact

Terry Simpson
Town Clerk
01425 473883
E-mail: terry.simpson@ringwood.gov.uk