

OPEN SESSION: There was one member of the public present, together with three candidates for the office of councillor and representatives of the groups to be presented with grant aid cheques – no one wished to speak in the Public Open Session.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 29th March 2017 at 7.00pm

PRESENT: Cllr Tim Ward, Town Mayor
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
Cllr Michael Thierry
Cllr Christopher Treleaven
Cllr Angela Wiseman

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Terry Simpson, Interim Town Clerk
Mrs Jo Hurd, Deputy Town Clerk

C/5956

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Town Clerk reported that apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Terry.

C/5957

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Ring declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 8 (Broadband Services), as he had suffered from poor broadband service.

C/5958

The Town Mayor presented a Grant Aid cheque of £1,000 to Mr Chris Wood of the Save Fridays Cross Clock Fund. Cllr Ford presented a cheque for £500 from her District Councillor Annual Fund, and was delighted to have been able to support such a worthy cause. It was noted that the refurbishment of the clock should be completed by May/June.

The Town Mayor presented a Grant Aid cheque of £ 2,000 to Mr Adam Skirton of Churches Together, to assist with the costs of the Family Fun Day to be held on 10th June 2017.

C/5959

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd February 2017, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

C/5960
CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

Four candidates had put their names forward to be considered for the office of Councillor following the resignation of Cllr Mark Steele. The vacancy had been advertised and no election had been requested. The Town Mayor therefore informed Members that the vacancy would be filled at this meeting.

Cllr O'Reilly declared a non-pecuniary interest as one of the candidates was a client of her company.

Members interviewed three of the four candidates; Mr Michael Bennett-Smith, Mr Russell Doody and Mr Darren Loose. It was noted that Mr Alan Smith was away and unable to attend.

Members voted by paper ballot and it was

RESOLVED: That Darren Loose be co-opted to the office of Councillor.

Mr Loose read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Town Clerk.

The Town Mayor thanked all the candidates for putting their names forward and taking the time to prepare statements and attend the meeting.

C/5961
RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Cllr Briers presented the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 1st March 2017.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 1st March 2017 be received.
- 2) That Cllrs O'Reilly, Ring, Ward and Wiseman be appointed to the Market Place Improvement Working Party.
- 3) That, if invited to do so, Cllrs Day, Ford and Murphy be appointed to a Working Party established to organise celebrations for the centenary of the end of the First World War.
- 4) That Cllrs Briers, Loose, Ring and Wiseman be appointed to the Long Lane Working Party to investigate proposals for use of Developers Contributions and report back to the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee with proposals for its consideration.

ACTION N Vodden / T Simpson

C/5962
PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Treleaven presented the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 3rd March 2017.

P/5380 – It was noted that the Manager of the David Lloyd Club was working with planning officers at New Forest District Council to increase the number of parking spaces on site.

P/5381 – Cllr Treleaven reported on a meeting with NFDC and HCC officers to discuss a pedestrian crossing in Christchurch Road. It was noted that the contributions from Lidl could

only be used for an uncontrolled crossing and HCC was looking into the provision of two such crossings north and south of the roundabout, which would require a realignment of the road on both sides to accommodate pedestrian refuges. Members were disappointed in the negative attitude of HCC officers and were prepared to challenge interpretation of government guidance for the design of crossings if necessary. In addition, Cllr Heron was of the view that Lidl would not raise any objection to the variation of the s106 legal agreement to allow for its contribution to be used for a controlled crossing. This issue would be considered further at the next Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting on 7th April.

P/5384 – Cllr Day reported that there were four telegraph poles in Kings Arms Lane on which it would appear that street lights could be mounted. Cllr Thierry stated that the Town Council had previously purchased street lighting and suggested a cost be obtained to provide the requested lights, although it was noted that there is no provision for street lighting in the 2017/18 budget.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 3rd March 2017 be received.

ACTION J Hurd

C/5963
POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Cllr Heron presented the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 15th March 2017.

F/5415 – Members had been appointed to a Working Party earlier in the meeting (*C/5961 refers*).

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 15th March 2017 be received and the recommendations therein be approved.

ACTION T Simpson

C/5964
COMMUNITY HOUSING FUND

Members considered information from New Forest District Council in relation to the opportunity for the Town Council to bid for funding, to establish a community led housing trust (*Annex A*). Members agreed that, in the absence of any available land, and due to the considerable resources that would be required, the Council was not in a position to pursue this initiative at this time.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and no further action taken.

ACTION T Simpson

C/5965
BROADBAND SERVICES

Cllr Ring declared a non-pecuniary interest, as he had suffered from poor broadband service.

Cllr Ring reported that the broadband service in the Hightown area, from Nouale Lane to the A31, was very poor, indeed 100% of attendees at a recent meeting of the Hightown Hill Residents Association had suffered problems or poor service. Residents had been unable to obtain any information from BT on when the service might be improved.

RESOLVED: That representatives of BT and Hampshire County Council be invited to attend a Council meeting to update on the roll out of Hampshire Superfast Broadband and to answer questions.

ACTION J Hurd

C/5966

APPOINTMENT OF THE TOWN CLERK

Members considered the timetable for recruitment of a new Town Clerk.

RESOLVED: That the position of Town Clerk be advertised week commencing 3rd April, with a closing date of 8th May, and interviews be held week commencing 22nd May 2017.

ACTION T Simpson

C/5967

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED

The Town Mayor reported the following:

- 1) He had recently read the Town Plan and Strategic Implementation Programme produced by the Council in 2008, and recommended that all new councillors do the same. He said that many of the aims and wishes were still relevant today and suggested that the Steering Group be resurrected to review the documents and follow up on outstanding projects. Cllr Treleaven cautioned against placing too much emphasis on these documents as they were not statutory, and Cllr Wiseman said that many people had not been aware of the work carried out and therefore the contents did not represent all residents views.
- 2) He had attended the Press Day for Go New Forest, a new company set up to market and promote the New Forest as a destination, and based in Ringwood. He would be sending a letter of welcome and hoped that the company would work with the Council to mutual benefit.

C/5968

REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS

Cllr Day – reported that he had attended the AGM of the Ringwood & Burley Band (and urged them to get more involved in local events such as Remembrance Sunday); Ringwood Society AGM; a fundraising event at Meeting House; and a Ringwood Regal fundraising event.

Cllr Murphy reported on a forthcoming cycle event on 8th and 9th April (Wiggle New Forest Spring Sportive), with its route passing through Ringwood.

Cllr Treleaven reported on a meeting with Highways England regarding the A31 widening scheme and confirmed that the public consultation event would be held on 9th and 10th June.

Cllr Ford had attended Ringwood School's Citizenship Day and encouraged other Members to attend in future if invited.

Cllr Ring reported on a meeting of the NFNPA South West Quadrant, when it had been agreed that periodic letters would be sent to McDonalds and Costa at Picket Post to remind them of their duty to keep the area free from litter. He had attended a meeting of Hightown Hill Residents Association when concern was expressed about site traffic from the forthcoming Linden Homes development. He had also attended the Ringwood Society AGM when the

Twinning Association had been present, which he was keen to support due to the cultural benefits. They had also discussed the poor upkeep of some rented properties and he hoped the Council could work with the Society to encourage recognition of landlords/tenants that look after properties.

Cllr Wiseman had attended, with Cllrs Ford and O'Reilly, a session on Enforcement delivered by the NFNPA.

C/5969

REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Councillor Rippon-Swaine presented his written report (*Annex B*).

District Councillor Ford reported on her activities during the previous month.

District Councillor Thierry reported on issues that had been raised at the monthly councillor surgery, which he encouraged all Members to attend; parking on double yellow lines at night – Cllr Heron advised that parking wardens could be deployed if specific locations and times were given; concern about the use of herbicides around posts instead of strimming; litter on the A31; and the removal of recycling bins from Poulner.

C/5970

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	7.00pm	Wednesday 5 th April 2017
Planning, Town & Environment	10.00am	Friday 7 th April 2017
Policy & Finance	7.00pm	Wednesday 19 th April 2017
Full Council	7.00pm	Wednesday 26 th April 2017

C/5971

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED: That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw (*Confidential Annex C*).

With the agreement of all Members, Standing Orders were suspended to allow the meeting to continue past 9.00pm.

C/5972

THE PLACE

Members considered correspondence in respect of a claim for services at The Place. It was recommended that the Council state its case and not move from its previous offer, only to make it an open offer with a limited time to accept.

Members agreed that the Council had acted responsibly and action taken had been reasonable.

RESOLVED: That the Council maintain its previous position in respect of the claim for services, and that the without prejudice offer of £150 be amended to an open offer to be accepted within a period of 28 days.

ACTION T Simpson

There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 9.18pm.

APPROVED
26th April 2017

TOWN MAYOR



Community Housing Fund

Overview: The Community Housing Fund (CHF) provides £60 million per year of revenue and capital to local authorities based on the percentage of second homes in the area.

New Forest District Council has been awarded £976,387 of which £488,194 has already been received and the 2nd tranche will be allocated following the completion of a proforma to Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG) outlining an action plan for spend; which was returned 10 March 2017.

The first year of funding should be used to build capacity within local groups such as improving technical skills, setting up support hubs to offer advice, business planning and providing staff to review local housing needs.

Funding in the following years must then be used to deliver housing on the ground for local people.

What is Community Housing Fund

The purpose of the CHF is to enable and facilitate community led housing opportunities and the criteria of community led housing are:

- That the community must be integrally involved throughout the process in key decisions;
- Community groups play a long term role in ownership, management or stewardship of the homes;
- Benefits to the local area and/or specified community must be clearly defined and legally protected in perpetuity.

What is community- led housing

- Community Land Trust (CLT) - Community Land Trusts are a form of community led housing, where local organisations set up and run by ordinary people to develop and manage homes as well as other assets important to that community, like community enterprises, food growing or workspaces. Homes can be for rent and ownership.
- Co-housing – Households each have a self-contained home but residents manage their community and share some facilities – this is an attractive option for older people to create support in both new developments and retrofit to existing sheltered housing.
- Group self-build and collective custom build – Groups of people work together to build or directly commission their own homes. Emphasis on supporting each other, the process creates strong communities, skills and importantly bespoke homes that meet genuine need.
- Housing Co-operative – Enable tenants to manage and control their homes leading to efficiencies and financial savings as well as developing skills and confidence within a community; many housing co-ops own the properties collectively which also offers opportunities to invest in wider socially beneficial activities.
- Empty properties – Self-help housing offers people the chance to bring empty properties back into use. Effective for providing work experience and training to people from vulnerable backgrounds.

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How could we spend the CHF?

- Establish capacity in the local community to develop community led housing projects and provide seed corn funding to help support new community led housing organisations.
- Contact parishes that have started the Neighbourhood Plan process and develop any housing potential. Offer grants/loans/revenue for looking at community led housing models i.e. set up costs, advice, fees, planning, consultations and events.
- Provide revenue support to parishes that have already begun investigating land opportunities for a CLT (Community Land Trust) and support with funding for introductory advice and training.
- Provide grants/loans to Action Hampshire to bring forward development opportunities that are already underway with parishes and communities. Action Hampshire has extensive experience of rural housing, community and neighbourhood planning, and social enterprise development. They employ the Rural Housing Enablers for Hampshire and work as part of the Hampshire Alliance for Rural Affordable Housing of which New Forest District Council is a partner.
- Fund investigation of existing self-build professionals to develop the possibilities with land assembly, de-risking land and/or providing serviced plots.
- Provide grants/loans to support other newly formed community led housing organisations and community led concepts (co-operative, co-housing, empty homes and self-build).
- Provide grants or loans to facilitate or add value to community led housing developments in the pipeline through the rural preferred partner English Rural and New Forest Villages Housing Association.
- Fund site feasibility studies, initial costs and fees to bring sites forward that may not be viable without additional support or funding, to provide new development opportunities and provide a legacy for independent future bidding during the 5 year CHF programme.
- Investigate NFDC owned land opportunities – site preparation for potential serviced plots.
- Investigate empty property opportunities and offer grants to communities to bring back into use.
- Employ a full time officer for 2 years to
 - To develop legacy capacity to support the creation of new local community led housing organisations and the expansion of existing ones.
 - Promote and support the formation of community led housing initiatives.
 - Identify and deliver a support package for groups wishing to develop community led housing organisations.
 - Promote, develop and support communities and initiatives with parish councils, parishes that have started in the neighbourhood plan process and other communities with an interest in community led housing.
 - Develop resources, best practice and guidance to include financial model templates for all models of community led housing (co-operative, cohousing, self-build, CLT)
 - Upskill communities to take projects forward.
 - Develop the self-build register, research methods of delivery including de-risking sites and making serviced plots available.
 - Investigate use of existing empty properties.
 - Procuring legal advice on site disposals to ensure that community led housing groups has a reasonable opportunity to secure sites.
 - Administration of the grants and loans to be provided
- Purchase additional CLH expertise to assist in drawing up a spec for a dedicated resource and setting up a HUB

What happens next?

New Forest District Council is developing the above ideas and contacting Parish Councils, community groups and Neighbourhood Plan areas to gauge interest and will respond to enquiries by mid-May 2017.

RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

B

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

29th March 2017

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

(Hampshire County Council in purdah till 5th May 2017)

HCC & HAMPSHIRE HIGHWAYS.

- i HCC have appointed Skanska for highways maintenance until 2024.
- i Skanska commence on 1st August 2017 with a projects annual spend of £30m.
- i Amey, current contractor, will continue highway maintenance till 30th September 2017.

HCC CLLR PERSONAL DEVOLVED GRANTS.

- i Ringwood Town Council Christmas Lights.
- i 1st Poulner Scout Group.
- i Forest Forge Theatre Co.
- i Churches Together Family Fun Day.
- i Poulner League & Junior Netball Club.
- i Ringwood Citizens Advice Bureau.
- i Ringwood & Fordingbridge Talking News.
- i Fanfare for Spring.

HCC COUNCILLOR MEETINGS – February & March 2017.

- i 6th Feb – Forest Forge Theatre Company Board Meeting in Ringwood.
- i 9th Feb – HCC Conservative Group Meeting in Winchester.
- i 11th Feb – Political Surgery at Stillwater Park, Poulner, Ringwood.
- i 14th Feb – HCC Local Govt. Pension Scheme Briefing in Winchester.
- i 15th Feb – Ringwood Arts Centre Ground- Breaking Ceremony with HCC Leader.
- i 16th Feb – HCC Full Council Meeting in Winchester.

- i 1st Mar – Community First New Forest Boad Meeting at Greyfriars.
- i 2nd Mar – Bournemouth Airport Consultative Committee (Chairman).
- i 13th Mar – New Forest Access Forum meeting in Fordingbridge.
- i 13th Mar – Hightown Residents Assoc. AGM in Ringwood.
- i 16th Mar – Sopley Parish Council Meeting at Sopley.

W Steve Rippon-Swaine FRICS DipGS
Hampshire County Councillor