



Notice of Annual Town Assembly

THE TOWN OF RINGWOOD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Town Assembly will be held at Ringwood Gateway, The Furlong, Ringwood BH24 1AT, on **Wednesday 30th May 2018 at 7.00pm.**

AGENDA

1. To approve the Minutes of the last Meeting held on 31st May 2017
2. Matters arising from the Minutes
3. To receive the Annual Report of the Town Mayor
4. To receive the reports of Town Council Committee Chairmen
5. To receive a verbal report from Cllr J. Heron upon the financial status of the Ringwood United Charities
6. To consider any other item of business by permission of the Town Mayor.

Signed

Cllr Tim Ward
Town Mayor

ALL ELECTORS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

**Minutes of the Annual Town Assembly for the Town of Ringwood
held on Wednesday 31st May 2017 at 7.00pm
at Ringwood Gateway, The Furlong, Ringwood**

Present: Cllr T Ward – Chairman and Town Mayor
Cllr P Day – Deputy Town Mayor
Cllr A Briers
Cllr C Ford
Cllr J Heron
Cllr D Loose
Cllr A Murphy
Cllr G O'Reilly
Cllr T Ring
Cllr S Rippon-Swaine
Cllr J Terry
Cllr M Thierry
Cllr C Treleaven
Cllr A Wiseman

plus 7 members of the public

In Attendance: T Simpson – Town Clerk
J Hurd – Deputy Town Clerk
N Vodden – Meetings Administrator

Apologies were received from Cllr Murphy and Cllr Terry.

The Town Mayor welcomed those present to the Town Assembly.

He commenced proceedings by paying tribute to Neville Chard, a former Councillor, who had recently passed away. Neville served as a Town Councillor for 42 years from 1973 to 2015, was Chairman of the Council on several occasions and Chairman of every Committee, and known as the "father" of the Council. He was also the first Honorary Freeman of Ringwood, a title that was awarded to him in 2010, in recognition of his long and outstanding service to the people of the Town and a stalwart to Bisterne football club and a local postman.

1. To Approve the Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Town Assembly held on 25th May 2016 were approved.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were none.

3. To Receive the Annual Report of the Town Mayor

Cllr Michael Thierry – Town Mayor - 26th May 2016 to 25th January 2017

Cllr Thierry read his report (*Annex A*).

Cllr Tim Ward – Town Mayor – 25th January 2017 to 31st May 2017

Cllr Ward said that he had been privileged to take on the role of Town Mayor and had enjoyed it greatly.

He referred to his report, thanking Cllrs Treleaven and Briers along with the Deputy Town Clerk, Jo Hurd, for their excellent work to ensure that due care is taken on the site and surrounding roads at the start of the Linden Homes development at Crow.

In respect of the defects with paving around town, he reported that a schedule of works had been received from Hampshire County Council to address many of the problems, with some of the works programmed for June and the coming months, with several others being the responsibility of the new contractors, when they start in August.

He announced that a new Town Clerk had been appointed and it was hoped that Chris Wilkins, currently Town Clerk at Sturminster Newton, would start at the end of July. He would visit prior to that and attend the full Council meeting on 28th June.

The full report is attached as *Annex B*.

4. To Receive the Reports of Committee Chairmen

The Committee Chairmen presented their reports:-

Cllr Heron, Chairman of the **Policy & Finance Committee**, reported on the financial performance of Ringwood Town Council. He highlighted that the Council's finances were in a good position with transfer back to reserves of £69,433 achieved this year, which was more than anticipated and despite the reduction of the transitional grant to zero. The interest from investments was £1,369 and bad debt of £155.86 was written off.

The full report is attached as *Annex C*.

Cllr Briers, Chairman of the **Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee** presented his report. He highlighted The Place and indicated that although there had been some teething problems, the Town Council had a clear vision for it.

He reported that the Long Lane Sports Development Working Party had been formed and he looked forward to seeing the proposals put forward for development of the site in the coming years.

He thanked the Youth – Co-Ordinator, Youth Workers and Groundstaff for their ongoing commitment, the gardening club for judging the allotment competition and the other Committee Members for their help through the year.

The full report is attached as *Annex D*.

Cllr Treleaven, Chairman of the **Planning, Town & Environment Committee** presented his report.

He highlighted matters considered by the Committee, throughout the year including the Local Plan review and the proposals for the development of sites for development, the A31 Improvement Scheme, flood alleviation works at Crow, street lighting, highways matters including the issue of a controlled

crossing on Christchurch Road, parking at Moorland Gate, safety aspects at Butlers Lane, projects put forward by Ringwood Society for improvements in the Town and enforcement matters.

Focusing on the Linden Homes development at Crow, he indicated that detailed plans for Phase 1 (62 of the 175 houses planned) had been agreed. Members had not been impressed with the District Council's assessment of the developer's plan for construction traffic and the Council successfully challenged it, to get the plan altered to lessen the impact for local people.

Since the Ringwood Business Partnership had disbanded he was conscious that there was no collective voice from business community and the Council would wish to offer support to anyone keen to take this forward.

He thanked the Committee Members, whom it was a pleasure to work with, along the Deputy Town Clerk and Meetings Administrator.

The full report is attached as *Annex E*.

5. To Receive the Accounts from the Parochial Charity

Cllr Heron, as a trustee of Ringwood United Charities, reported that this year's accounts were not yet available. The year end was April and the accounts had not yet been audited and returned. The accounts would be forwarded on receipt (*Annex F – to follow*).

6. To Consider Any Other Item of Business by Permission of the Town Mayor

There was none.

The Town Mayor invited those present to stay for refreshments and the meeting closed at 7.22 pm.