

OPEN SESSION: There were 4 members of the public in attendance. (There is no public participation at the Annual Meeting.)

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Held at The Gateway, The Furlong, Ringwood on Wednesday 30th May 2018 at 7:30 pm

PRESENT: Cllr Andy Briers
Cllr Philip Day
Cllr Hilary Edge
Cllr Christine Ford
Cllr Jeremy Heron
Cllr Darren Loose
Cllr Anne Murphy
Cllr Gloria O'Reilly
Cllr Tony Ring
Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine
Cllr Michael Thierry
Cllr Chris Treleaven
Cllr Tim Ward
Cllr Angela Wiseman

IN ATTENDANCE: Chris Wilkins, Town Clerk
Jo Hurd, Deputy Town Clerk
Nicola Vodden, Meetings Administrator

Prior to the start of the meeting, Cllr Ward welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the Annual Meeting of the Town Council. He remained in the Chair for the first matter on the agenda, as he was not putting himself forward to be re-elected as Town Mayor.

C/6140

ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR

Cllr Ring was nominated for Town Mayor, proposed by Cllr Day and seconded by Cllr Ward. There were no other nominations. Cllr Ring was duly elected as Town Mayor.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Ring be elected as Town Mayor for the ensuing year.

Cllr Ring took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

C/6141

DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY TOWN MAYOR

Cllr Ring read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Town Clerk.

He congratulated Cllr Ward on the wonderful job he had done, fulfilling the role of Town Mayor, which he had taken on with tenacity and diligence. Cllr Ring hoped that, with the help and guidance of fellow Councillors and officers, he could follow in his shoes and pursue those matters that are held dear.

Cllr Ward thanked the new Mayor for his comments and wished him the best of luck in the role.

**C/6142
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

All Members were present. Apologies for absence were received from Rachel Carr and Katy Grubb, Student Advisors.

**C/6143
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**C/6144
APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR**

Cllr Day was nominated for Deputy Town Mayor, proposed by Cllr Ring and seconded by Cllr Ward. There were no other nominations. Cllr Day was duly appointed as Deputy Town Mayor. Cllr Day thanked Members for their support.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Day be appointed as Deputy Town Mayor for the ensuing year.

**C/6145
DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR**

Cllr Day read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Town Clerk.

**C/6146
STAFFING COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED: That the Membership of the Staffing Committee be confirmed.

FULL COUNCIL	
Sub-Committee / Working Party	Membership
Staffing Committee	Cllr P Day Cllr A Murphy Cllr G O' Reilly Cllr C Treleaven

**C/6147
MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES**

Members considered the appointment of members to Standing Committees. Standing Orders provide for Councillors to be appointed for a four year period (2015 to 2019), subject to amendments being possible at each Annual Meeting.

There were no changes to the membership of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee and Planning, Town and Environment Committee, at this stage of the meeting (see C/6149).

RESOLVED: That membership of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee and Planning, Town and Environment Committees be confirmed.

**C/6148
ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

At 7.41 pm, it was

RESOLVED: That the meeting be adjourned until the end of the individual meetings of Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee and Planning, Town & Environment Committee, in order to allow Members to elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman.

On resumption of the meeting, at 7.50pm:

**C/6149
MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES**

Cllr Heron requested that he be removed from the Planning, Town and Environment Committee. He explained that he had been a Committee member as he worked in town and could be called on at short notice, when the Committee were not quorate. This had not been necessary more lately and he queried the need for this arrangement in the future. Cllr Heron was removed.

Cllr Edge requested that she be appointed to the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee to fill the existing vacancy. This was agreed.

RESOLVED: That *Annex A* be amended to remove Cllr Heron from the Planning, Town and Environment Committee and to add Cllr Edge to the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee.

**C/6150
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Meetings of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee and the Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee had been held during the adjournment.

At the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee, Cllr Briers was re-elected as Chairman and Cllr Wiseman re-elected as Deputy Chairman.

At the Planning, Town and Environment Committee, Cllr Treleaven was re-elected as Chairman and Cllr Ward re-elected as Deputy Chairman.

The Chairman of each committee had been automatically appointed to the Policy & Finance Committee, along with the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor. The remaining members wished to continue.

RESOLVED: That the list of Membership of Committees be confirmed (*Annex A*).

ACTION Nicola Vodden

**C/6151
ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

At 7.54pm, it was:

RESOLVED: That the meeting be adjourned until the end of the meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee, in order to allow the Members to elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman

On resumption of the meeting at 7.55pm:

It was noted that, at the Policy and Finance Committee meeting, during the adjournment, Cllr Heron was re-elected as Chairman and Cllr Rippon-Swaine re-elected as Vice Chairman.

**C/6152
MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meeting held on 25th April 2018, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

**C/6153
REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members noted that representatives had been appointed to outside bodies for four years in 2015 and would continue in office unless they resigned.

Cllr Ford was appointed representative for New Forest National Park Authority - South West Quadrant, in place of Cllr Ring.

RESOLVED: That the list of Representatives on Outside Bodies be updated (*Annex B*).

**C/6154
RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

Cllr Briers presented the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 2nd May 2018.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 2nd May 2016 be received.

**C/6155
PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr Treleaven presented the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 4th May 2018.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 4th May 2018 be received.

**C/6156
POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Cllr Heron presented the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 16th May 2018.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 16th May 2018.

**C/6157
AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Cllr Treleaven indicated that the meeting on 8th May with the District Council had been requested, for the Council to press the case for lower cost and smaller dwellings in the emerging Local Plan.

The Local Plan had been published on 30th May and, he indicated that the revised version was more positive. He was encouraged to see that the points made at the meeting were embedded, in some form, in the new document.

It was noted that to benefit from a shared equity arrangement, people would need to be on the housing register. This is not well known amongst residents and it was suggested that this fact should be publicised more.

In respect of eligibility, an application can be made for social housing, within the District, if the criteria in the form of employment or local connections can be satisfied. Anyone can apply to go on a waiting list anywhere, but those with local connections would get priority.

The Local Plan would be presented to NFDC Cabinet meeting on 6th June and the dates for the consultation period would be set. Members confirmed that there should be a special meeting to discuss the matter.

RESOLVED: 1) That the notes from the meeting with the District Council on 8th May 2018 in respect of affordable housing be received (*Report C*); and
2) That a date be set for a special meeting to discuss the new Local Plan when the consultation period has been confirmed.

C/6158 COMMUNICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED

The Town Mayor reported that the Mayor of Pont-Audemer was thrilled with the gift presented by the Twinning Association and that he intended to visit Ringwood next year.

C/6159 REPORTS FROM RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCILLORS AND STUDENT ADVISORS

There were none.

C/6160 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Councillor Thierry:-

- reported that residents had highlighted issues with the recurring problem of parking outside local schools. It was a challenging issue and a complex one to solve.
- confirmed that at the Annual Meeting of Hampshire County Council, Cllr Elaine Steele had been elected as Chairman.
- indicated that a number of highways issues were scheduled for the next few months. With the Christchurch Road closure for drainage works and resurfacing and overnight closures on the A31, this was likely to cause some disruption to the town.

District Councillor Ford:-

- congratulated Cllr Ring on his appointment to Town Mayor and wished him a very happy year.
- commented on the reorganisation at NFDC, confirming Cllr Rippon-Swaine as Chairman of Environment and Scrutiny Panel and herself as Deputy.
- reminded Members of the Open Surgery held on the 2nd Saturday of the month and requested their attendance
- thanked Town Council Members and staff for their work and support over the last year.

District Councillor Rippon-Swaine:-

- reported on the creation of two new panels. One would deal with the new homelessness regulations, which would be extremely onerous on the DC, and the other would seek to improve the five Health and Leisure Centres. He commented that whilst they were exemplary examples of well-run leisure centres, the aim was to provide more at a reduced cost.
- highlighted that the Local Plan review consultation would come forward with changes that affect Ringwood. He noted the retraction of the proposal to designate Green Belt, south of Moortown Lane, as land suitable for development
- commented on the issues with parking around schools and had contacted the school for its support.

District Councillor Heron :-

- set out the timetable for the Local Plan. He expected the consultation period to run from the end of June to early August, with NFDC making submissions at the end of October, examination would begin early 2019, with the Inspector's report given later in 2019.

C/6161

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Planning, Town & Environment	10.00 am	Friday 1 st June 2018
Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	7.00 pm	Wednesday 6 th June 2018
Policy & Finance	7.00 pm	Wednesday 20 th June 2018
Full Council	7.00 pm	Wednesday 27 th June 2018

The Town Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

APPROVED

27th June 2018

TOWN MAYOR

	RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL			
	COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2018-19 (from 30/5/18)			
	FULL COUNCIL	PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT	RECREATION, LEISURE & OPEN SPACES	POLICY & FINANCE
Chairman	Cllr Tony Ring (Town Mayor)	Cllr Chris Treleaven	Cllr Andrew Briers	Cllr Jeremy Heron
Vice Chairman	Cllr Philip Day (Deputy Town Mayor)	Cllr Tim Ward	Cllr Angela Wiseman	Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine
Members & Ex officio Members (NB Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor are entitled to be ex officio members of all committees)	Cllr Andrew Briers Cllr Hilary Edge Cllr Christine Ford Cllr Jeremy Heron Cllr Darren Loose Cllr Anne Murphy Cllr Gloria O'Reilly Cllr Tony Ring Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine Cllr Michael Thierry Cllr Chris Treleaven Cllr Angela Wiseman	Cllr Andrew Briers Cllr Philip Day(+ex-officio) Cllr Hilary Edge Cllr Christine Ford Cllr Gloria O'Reilly Cllr Tony Ring(+ex-officio) Cllr Angela Wiseman	Cllr Hilary Edge Cllr Darren Loose Cllr Anne Murphy Cllr Gloria O'Reilly Cllr Tony Ring(+ex-officio) Cllr Tim Ward	Cllr Andrew Briers Cllr Philip Day (+ex-officio) Cllr Christine Ford Cllr Anne Murphy Cllr Gloria O'Reilly Cllr Michael Thierry Cllr Chris Treleaven Cllr Angela Wiseman
Ex-Officio Members		Cllr Tony Ring	Cllr Tony Ring	Cllr Tony Ring
		Cllr Philip Day	Cllr Philip Day	Cllr Philip Day
Student Advisors	Katherine Grubb	Charlotte Amos	Jade Eaton	Sadie Chambers
	Rachel Carr	Chloe Collins	Charlotte Hardy	Joshua Kidd
		Lucy Hewitt	Isaac Skirton	Emily Litchfield

RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Representatives on Outside Bodies 2018-19 (from 30/5/18)

ORGANISATION / POSITION	NUMBER OF MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED
New Forest Association of Local Councils (NFALC)	Cllr A Murphy Cllr M Thierry
Blashford Lakes Consultative Forum	Cllr C Ford
Community First New Forest	Cllr A Murphy Cllr S Rippon-Swaine (deputy)
Flood Wardens	Cllr G O'Reilly Cllr A Wiseman Norman Light (co-opted) Peter Street (co-opted)
Forest Forge Theatre Company	Cllr G O'Reilly
Gateway Project Board	Cllr A Briers
Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC)	Cllr A Murphy
New Forest Consultative Panel	Cllr C Ford
New Forest National Park Authority - South West Quadrant	Cllr C Ford
Parish Public Transport Representative	Cllr M Thierry
Ringwood & District Community Association	Cllr S Rippon-Swaine Cllr P Day (Reserve)
Ringwood Twinning Association	Mayor (President) Cllr T Ward Cllr A Murphy
Ringwood United Charities	Cllr J Heron Cllr S Rippon-Swaine Cllr T Ward
Syrian Refugee Relocation Working Party	Cllr M Thierry Cllr C Treleaven
The Ringwood Society	Cllr P Day Cllr A Wiseman
Tree Warden	Cllr T Ward
Western Escarpment Conservation Area Steering Group	Cllr G O'Reilly
WW1 Centenary Working Party (if invited)	Cllr P Day (evenings) Cllr C Ford Cllr A Murphy

Housing for Young People in Ringwood

Notes of a meeting held on 9 May 2018

Present: Representing Ringwood Town Council

Chris Wilkins, Town Clerk

Jo Hurd, Deputy Town Clerk

Cllrs Day, Treleaven and Ward

Representing New Forest District Council

Grainne O'Rourke, Executive Head of Governance & Regulation

Louise Evans, Service Manager – Policy & Strategy (Planning & Housing)

Cllr Edward Heron, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Infrastructure

This meeting was a follow up to a previous meeting held on 30 January 2018, and a discussion at Full Council on 28 March (C/6121 refers).

“Affordable housing” in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework and the emerging Local Plan generally has a technical definition (which includes homes to rent or buy on subsidised or discounted terms usually from or involving the Council or a Housing Association). “Market homes” are basically everything else, where the rent or purchase price is not subsidised at public expense.

Since NFDC has evidence from research demonstrating that earnings from employment in Ringwood are not generally enough to make even “affordable housing” (in the technical sense) a viable route to home ownership, the thinking behind the emerging Local Plan was to improve genuine affordability in Ringwood by moving away from policies which prescribe only for minimum percentages of formally “affordable housing” and instead to propose more sophisticated policies. These deal with the “affordable housing” requirement by seeking to provide for as many people as national planning policy constraints permit by providing a spectrum of housing including affordable rent, affordable ownership (including shared equity) and smaller market homes. The proposed policies are supported by evidence and would provide for the following:

50% of dwellings on sites in Ringwood would be required to be affordable. The breakdown of this 50% would be:

	1-2 bed	3 bed	4+ bed
Affordable Rented	60-70%	25-30%	5-10%
Affordable Home Ownership	55-65%	30-35%	5-10%
Market Homes	30-40%	40-45%	20-25%

10% of market homes would be starter homes, with buyers requiring a 20% deposit for a home up to a maximum of £250,000.

It is expected that the proposed new Local Plan policies will also provide for a greater percentage of smaller (1 and 2 bedroom) open market homes on new sites. Although the 2014 Strategic Housing Market Assessment (now updated) indicated a requirement for a high percentage of dwellings to be 1 or 2 bed, this was not currently being met, as evidenced by the Linden Homes development at Crow Lane.

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In future, developers would not be able to challenge the breakdown of tenure on viability grounds as government had made it clear that, once a Plan has been through the Inspection process, only exceptional circumstances or fundamental changes should be considered.

With regards to housing numbers on new sites (for examples sites P and Q in Ringwood), the number of dwellings would not be fixed, but at least a certain amount, as government guidance indicated that development could not be constrained. However, the design of the development would be a key consideration.

It was questioned whether ownership of new homes could be restricted to local people, or people with a local connection. Apart from rural exception sites, which had been permitted in the New Forest district for many years, the use of policies in the Local Plan to restrict ownership would be contrary to government policy. It might be possible to achieve this locally through a Neighbourhood Plan, but there would need to be compelling evidence to support such a policy.

Members of the public who had attended the Full Council meeting in March had commented on the unfairness of the District Council's eligibility policy. It was noted that anyone could register on the housing list, but the allocation of Council stock would be prioritised to people with a local connection, which could include a work related connection.

It was made clear that being on the Council's housing list is a way to home ownership, but many people do not know this, and there was a need to spread this message.

It was noted that the emerging Local Plan was being prepared in line with the current National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and not the revised version, which was currently out for consultation. The draft Plan would be considered by Cabinet on 6 June, and a six-week consultation period would follow as soon as practicable (likely end June). Any comments made at this stage would be forwarded direct to the Inspector.

Once adopted, under new proposals in the emerging NPPF, the Local Plan would have to be reviewed every 5 years.

With regard to the proposed new housing sites in Ringwood, it was noted that there were no significant infrastructure changes proposed in terms of the highway network. There may be some minor proposals to alleviate pinch points, but nothing more would be considered unless the town came to a complete gridlock, even if journey times increased significantly.

If the Town Council wished to consider a Neighbourhood Plan, it would need to comply with policies in the Local Plan (so, NFDC officers pointed out, now is the best time to consider starting on the process), be realistic and achievable, and be supported by evidence. A Neighbourhood Plan could allow for specific needs locally (for example low cost housing on small sites), whereas the Local Plan deals with the overall strategy in terms of dwelling numbers and types, and large site allocations.

Other towns in the district in the process of preparing Neighbourhood Plans had employed planning consultants as, although District Council officers could offer advice and NFDC supports such plans in principle, they did not have the resources to assist in writing a Plan.