

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 25th February 2026 at 7pm at Ringwood Gateway, The Furlong, Ringwood

PRESENT: Cllr Rae Frederick (Chairman)
Cllr Andrew Briers
Cllr Luke Dadford
Cllr Ingrid De Bruyn
Cllr Gareth DeBoos
Cllr Mary DeBoos
Cllr Janet Georgiou
Cllr Peter Kelleher
Cllr James Swyer
Cllr Becci Windsor

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Charmaine Bennett, Town Clerk
Mrs Jo Hurd, Deputy Town Clerk
District Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine
District Cllr Nigel Linford

ABSENT: Cllr Philip Day
Cllr John Haywood
Cllr Michael Thierry
Cllr Glenys Turner
District Cllr Jeremy Heron
District Cllr Richard Frampton

C/7498 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were 3 members of public present, two of whom were coordinators of the Hightown and Poulner Speedwatch groups, which had been operational for the last 4 years. They reported that the equipment used by the groups has broken and is beyond economic repair, and they are currently looking for funding. 1 in 5 cars are exceeding the speed limit and the purpose of Speedwatch is to educate drivers and encourage them to slow down. Ringwood Police helped to establish the group and have been very supportive, but new equipment will mean the groups can operate without the assistance of Police on the day.

C/7499 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Day, Haywood, Turner and Thierry, and District Cllrs Jeremy Heron and Richard Frampton.

C/7500 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

**C/7501
POLICE REPORT**

The Town Mayor announced that Inspector Ord would soon be retiring and expressed appreciation for the support he has provided over the years.

Sergeant Pell presented the quarterly Neighbourhood Policing Team report, and outlined some positive successes and outcomes (*Annex A*). He reported a positive 11% reduction in crime overall compared to a similar period last year. There had been a slight increase in vehicle offences, and particularly in theft of catalytic converters.

There had been a slight decrease in formal action taken compared to the same period in the previous year, but it was hoped an increase in the number of staff would improve this, enabling the team to be more flexible and proactive.

A proliferation of empty cider cans in the area of Nouale Lane/Milky Down Lane was reported. These were being collected on a regular basis by local residents.

When asked for advice on action to take over illegal riding of pit bikes, Members were encouraged to report to 101 or Hampshire Police website (<https://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>); take a photo if safe to do so; and provide as much information as possible on location/clothing worn etc., but not to confront riders.

Local businesses were encouraged to sign up to UK Partners Against Crime (PAC), a national information-sharing network that helps organisations prevent crime, protect staff and customers, and collaborate with police and other businesses to tackle issues such as shoplifting, fraud, and anti-social behaviour.

RESOLVED: That the report from Ringwood Policing Team be received.

**C/7502
MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meeting held on 28th January 2026, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

**C/7503
RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

Cllr Briers presented the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 4th February 2026.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 4th February 2026 be received.

**C/7504
PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr Dadford presented the minutes of the Planning Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 6th February 2026.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning, Town and Environment Committee meeting held on 6th February 2026 be received.

**C/7505
POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

It was noted that the Policy and Finance Committee meeting scheduled for 18th February 2026 was cancelled.

**C/7506
FINANCIAL REGULATIONS – MARKET PLACE SCULPTURE**

Members considered a recommendation from Planning, Town and Environment Committee on 6th February 2026 in relation to commissioning of a sculpture and the suspension of Financial Regulations for this purpose (*Annex B – extract of minutes*).

RESOLVED: 1) That Priscilla Hann be commissioned to design and deliver an animal sculpture for installation in Market Place, in order to maintain continuity of theme, style and quality across town centre public art; and
2) That approval be given for a waiver of Financial Regulation 5.7, to dispense with the requirement to obtain comparative quotations, in accordance with Financial Regulations 5.11 and 5.12.

ACTION C Bennett / J Hurd / M Gordon

**C/7507
SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

Members considered the proposed schedule of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council (May 2026 – May 2027).

RESOLVED: That the schedule of meetings (May 2026 – May 2027) (*Annex C*) be approved.

ACTION N Vodden

**C/7508
COMMITTEE COMPOSITION**

Members considered changes to the composition of council committees, sub-committees, working parties or panels.

RESOLVED: That there be no changes to committee composition.

ACTION N Vodden

**C/7509
COMMUNICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED**

The Town Mayor reported:

- i) She had visited Crow WI, which was celebrating 90 years, and said it was good to see the new kitchen, which had received some grant funding from the Council.
- ii) She had launched the new Amphibians are Friends exhibition at Moors Valley Country Park.
- iii) The next meeting of the Ringwood & Fordingbridge Business Community would be held on 5 March at Ellingham & Ringwood RFC.

**C/7510
REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

District Cllr Rippon-Swaine reported on a meeting he had attended with Cash Access UK regarding the provision of a banking hub for the town, and said that the last bank should not close before the new hub is operational, which could take up to 12 months.

The new waste strategy continues to roll out successfully – any queries should be directed to www.nfdc.gov.uk/wastechanges, waste.changes@nfdc.gov.uk or 02380 285393. He agreed to take away a question about putting potato peelings in the garden waste bin, and why this is not permitted.

**C/7511
REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS**

Cllr M DeBoos said that Forest Forge is looking for 8 care homes to benefit from a free performance and encouraged Members to contact them direct with contact details.

Members had a brief discussion about the introduction of parking fees by the Forestry Commission, which were generally not supported.

**C/7512
FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

Dates of forthcoming meetings were noted:

Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	7.00pm	Wednesday 4 th March 2026
Planning, Town & Environment	10.00am	Friday 6 th March 2026
Staffing	7.00pm	Wednesday 11 th March 2026
Policy & Finance	7.00pm	Wednesday 18 th March 2026
Full Council	7.00pm	Wednesday 25 th March 2026

**C/7513
COMMUNICATIONS**

Cllr G Deboos congratulated officers on the recent series of posts on Facebook that had been very informative and well received.

It was suggested that details on how to report flooding incidents should be included on the Town Council website.

**C/7514
EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED: That, in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public were excluded because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted (*Confidential minutes - Annex D*).

**C/7515
LEGAL MATTERS**

Members received a verbal report from the Town Clerk on ongoing legal matters.

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

ACTION C Bennett

**C/7516
COMMUNITY AWARDS**

Cllrs G Deboos and Cllr Windsor had considered nominations for Community Awards and made a recommendation.

RESOLVED: That Community Awards be presented at the Annual Town Assembly as agreed.

ACTION C Bennett

There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.15pm.

APPROVED
25th March 2026

TOWN MAYOR



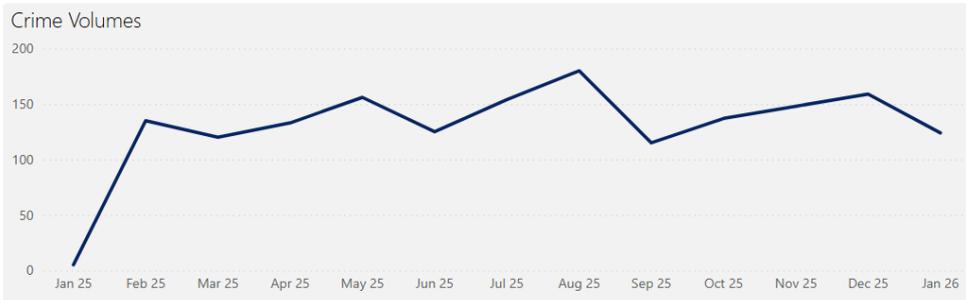
Ringwood Quarterly Report



General Crimes & Outcomes General Crime Summary

Crime VRD	
31/01/2025	31/01/2026
District	Count Occurrence
NEW FOREST	1,691

Total Crimes	Total Crimes (SPLY)	% Difference
1,691	1,897	-10.9%



The above graph shows the number of offences recording for past 12 months in the area your local Neighbourhood Police Team (including the Fordingbridge Officers) operate, this includes beats outside of the Ringwood Town area. You will note a 10.9% reduction in crimes recorded when compared against a similar period last year, whilst this is a positive we continue to work hard to ensure we try to make Ringwood and the surrounding area even safer for residents.

As mentioned previously, we now engage with local representatives on a regular basis with meetings taking place between Sergeant Pell, Inspector Ord and Charmaine Bennett during which we gather information relating to the concerns of the community in order to better focus our resources and understand community priorities.

As a result of previous discussions with Chris Wilkins we have ammended the presentation of the crime stats to now show the most recent 3 months compared to the same period the year before (SPLY – Similar Period Last Year)

Should you wish to have the crime statistics presented in a difference format please raise that with Charmaine and we will look to accomdate the request, we are keen to provide you with the information you feel is relevant to you.



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07781 480999
For crime and community information
www.hampshirealert.co.uk





Ringwood Quarterly Report



Ringwood South

	Current 90 days	SPLY	Difference
<u>Violence with Injury</u> ↑	10	11	-1
<u>Violence without Injury</u> ↑	39	22	+17
<u>Other Sexual Offences</u> ↑	05	03	+2
<u>Burglary Residential</u> ↑	02	04	-2
<u>Burglary Business and Community</u> ↑	02	05	-3
<u>Vehicle Offences</u> ↑	13	07	+6
<u>Bicycle Theft</u> ↑	01	02	-1
<u>Shoplifting</u> ↑	22	21	+1
<u>All Other Theft Offences</u> ↑	09	11	-2
<u>Criminal Damage</u> ↑	19	16	+3
<u>Trafficking of Drugs</u> ↑	0	0	0
<u>Possession of Drugs</u> ↑	0	02	-2
<u>Possession of Weapons Offences</u> ↑	01	0	+1
<u>Public Order Offences</u> ↑	12	13	-1
TOTAL	135	117	+18



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Ringwood Quarterly Report



Ringwood North (Poulner)

	Current 90 days	SPLY	Difference
<u>Violence with Injury</u> ↑	07	07	0
<u>Violence without Injury</u> ↑	25	20	+5
<u>Sexual Offences</u> ↑	0	01	-1
<u>Burglary Residential</u> ↑	02	03	-1
<u>Vehicle Offences</u> ↑	04	03	+1
<u>Shoplifting</u> ↑	03	10	-7
<u>All Other Theft Offences</u> ↑	03	01	+2
<u>Criminal Damage</u> ↑	08	02	+6
<u>Drugs Offences</u> ↑	02	0	+2
<u>Public Order Offences</u> ↑	03	02	+1
TOTAL	57	49	+8



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Ringwood Quarterly Report

Ringwood East & Sopley

	Current 90 days	SPLY	Difference
<u>Violence with Injury</u> ↑	02	01	+1
<u>Violence without Injury</u> ↑	04	06	-2
<u>Sexual Offences</u> ↑	02	0	+2
<u>Burglary Residential</u> ↑	0	0	0
<u>Burglary Business and Community</u> ↑	01	02	-1
<u>Vehicle Offences</u> ↑	01	02	-1
<u>All Other Theft Offences</u> ↑	03	02	+1
<u>Shoplifting</u> ↑	0	0	-
<u>Criminal Damage</u> ↑	06	04	+2
<u>Drugs Offences</u> ↑	02	01	+1
<u>Public Order Offences</u> ↑	03	04	-1
TOTAL	24	22	+2





Ringwood Quarterly Report



Current Priorities for the Ringwood Neighbourhood Policing Team

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

Anti-Social Behaviour – We are aware of concerns from local businesses relating to groups of youths causing problems within the town, we have identified those involved and are working with partners to ensure they face consequences for their behaviour, using the various tools available, such as Anti-Social Behavioural Contracts, (ABC's) Community Protection Warnings & Notices (CPW/N) and CBOs.

Successes/Outcomes

- Having successfully obtained a Community Behavioural Order (CBO, formally known as an ASBO) for Ringwood's most prolific shoplifter, we arrested him for further shopliftings and several breaches of the CBO following his release from prison, as a result he was given a 12 months custodial sentence.
- A shoplifter who lives in Dorset was arrested having come to Waitrose in Ringwood to steal on several occasions, following work by the Ringwood NPT he has been given a 4 month custodial sentence.
Waitrose Management speak positively about our efforts to help them tackle crime within their store.
- PC Bigland detain a youth riding around in a balaclava and was able to issue an Out of Court Disposal for the damage to a vehicle he had caused.
- PC York broke his wrist last Saturday having been trampled by a cow whilst trying to safeguard motorists on the A338, I've added this to demonstrate the dangers of the work we are involved in.



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Ringwood Quarterly Report

FAT Outcomes (Formal Action Taken)

FAT Outcome VRD

01/11/2025 31/01/2026

District	FAT Outcomes	FAT Rate
NEW FOREST	72	16.7%

HMIC 9 Group	FAT Outcomes
1 Violence Against the Person	21
2 Sexual Offences	1
3 Robbery	1
4 Theft Offences	26
5 Criminal Damage and Arson Offences	4
6 Drug Offences	9
7 Possession of Weapons Offences	0
8 Public Order Offences	6
9 Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	4
Total	72



- A slight reduction in Formal Action Taken outcomes when compared to the same period last year, however when the reduced staffing is taken into account I can reassure the Councillors that the team continue to work very hard to keep the town safe.



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Ringwood Quarterly Report



Your current Ringwood Neighbourhood Policing Team

Police Inspector 1904 Darren Ord

Police Sergeant 3895 Chris Pell

The Ringwood 'Local Bobby' is PC 28455 Ian Bigland

PC 29986 Nat Roberts

PC 24202 Naz Chalk

PC 22424 Jon York

PC 30330 Will Payne

PC 22706 Keith Walsh

PC 28722 Stacey Kinsley

PCSO 13439 Tracey Cooper

PCSO 17944 Jas Sparshott



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**EXTRACT OF MINUTES FROM PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
6th February 2026**

P/6543

PROJECTS (current and proposed)

Thriving Market Place – The Working Party meeting was held on 28th January. NFDC consultants presented work to date on the revised scope looking at the wider area between Gateway Square and the start of West Street, with a continued focus on improving accessibility, safety and the overall sense of arrival into Market Place. Proposals are evolving and a detailed briefing will be provided to all councillors on 25th February, with public consultation being planned for 26th March, where residents and stakeholders will be invited to comment on the emerging designs. It is currently expected that consideration of funding allocation will be taken to NFDC Cabinet in May.

It is still proposed to commission an animal sculpture to be delivered this year ahead of the wider scheme, and to be located in Market Place. The Working Party supported commissioning Priscilla Hann, who sculpted the mare and foal in the Furlong Centre, for continuity of theme, style and quality across the town. Members agreed to recommend to Policy and Finance Committee that approval be given for a deviation from Financial Regulations in respect of this project, to waive the requirement to obtain comparative quotations. This is to enable the commissioning of the sculpture to proceed in a timely manner.

It was noted that NFDC has agreed to release CIL funding allocated to the project in advance of the main scheme coming forward, to allow the sculpture to be commissioned and installed within the current year.

There was some concern about the location of the sculpture (although noted this was still to be agreed); that the design concept may involve the loss of one or two existing trees in Market Place with no re-planting proposed; and with the suggestion that the Jubilee Lamp be brought back in to use as a water fountain, due to operational costs.

Speed Indicator Devices – This project has been added to the project plan. Information is being gathered to inform an implementation plan. The next step is to invite Speedwatch and other organisations to put forward locations for agreement by the Council and Ellingham, Harbridge and Ibsley Parish Council. The chosen devices need to be suitable for the proposed locations.

It was also noted that Speedwatch equipment needs replacing. Once this is costed, funding will be sought. There will then be an opportunity to arrange sessions along Christchurch Road, subject to there being enough volunteers.

RESOLVED: That the update on projects (*Annex D*) be received.

RECOMMENDED to Policy & Finance Committee:

- 1) That Priscilla Hann be commissioned to design and deliver an animal sculpture for installation in Market Place, in order to maintain continuity of theme, style and quality across town centre public art; and
- 2) That approval be given for a waiver of Financial Regulation 5.7, to dispense with the requirement to obtain comparative quotations, in accordance with Financial Regulations 5.11 and 5.12.

ACTION J Hurd / N Vodden

**RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL
SCHEDULE OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS
MARCH 2026 - MAY 2027**

Note:- RLOS 1st Wed, PTE 1st Fri, P+F 3rd Wed (or 4th where 5 Wed's in the month), FC last Wed.
Staffing committee twice a year (Sept and March usually, plus additional meetings, as required).

MARCH 2026		
4	Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces	7.00pm
6	Planning, Town and Environment	10.00am
11	Staffing	7.00pm
18	Policy & Finance	7.00pm
25	Full Council	7.00pm
APRIL 2026		
1	Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces	7.00pm
10	Planning, Town and Environment	10.00am
22	Policy & Finance	7.00pm
29	Full Council	7.00pm
MAY 2026		
1	Planning, Town and Environment	10.00am
6	Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces	7.00pm
13	ANNUAL TOWN ASSEMBLY	7.00pm
20	Policy & Finance	7.00pm
27	ANNUAL (COUNCIL) MEETING	7.00pm
JUNE 2026		
3	Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces	7.00pm
5	Planning, Town and Environment	10.00am
17	Policy & Finance	7.00pm
24	Full Council	7.00pm
JULY 2026		
1	Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces	7.00pm
3	Planning, Town and Environment	10.00am
22	Policy & Finance	7.00pm
29	Full Council	7.00pm
AUGUST 2026		
7	Planning, Town & Environment	10.00am
SEPTEMBER 2026		
2	Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces	7:00pm
4	Planning, Town and Environment	10.00am
16	Staffing	7.00pm
23	Policy & Finance	7.00pm
30	Full Council	7.00pm
OCTOBER 2026		
2	Planning, Town & Environment	10.00am
7	Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces	7.00pm
21	Policy & Finance	7.00pm
28	Full Council	7.00pm

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NOVEMBER 2026		
4	Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces	7.00pm
6	Planning, Town and Open Spaces	10.00am
18	Policy & Finance	7.00pm
25	Full Council	7.00pm
DECEMBER 2026		
2	Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	7.00 pm
4	Planning, Town & Environment	10.00am
9	Policy and Finance	7.00pm
16	Full Council	7.00pm
JANUARY 2027		
6	Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	7.00pm
8	Planning, Town & Environment	10.00am
20	Policy & Finance	7.00pm
27	Full Council	7.00pm
FEBRUARY 2027		
3	Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces	7.00pm
5	Planning, Town and Environment	10.00am
17	Policy & Finance	7.00pm
24	Full Council	7.00pm
MARCH 2027		
3	Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces	7.00pm
5	Planning, Town and Environment	10.00am
17	Staffing	7.00pm
24	Policy & Finance	7.00pm
31	Full Council	7.00pm
APRIL 2027		
2	Planning, Town & Environment	10.00am
7	Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces	7.00pm
21	Policy & Finance	7.00pm
28	Full Council	7.00pm
MAY 2027		
5	Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces	7.00pm
7	Planning, Town and Environment	10.00am
12	ANNUAL TOWN ASSEMBLY	7.00pm
19	Policy & Finance	7.00pm
26	ANNUAL (COUNCIL) MEETING	7.00pm

For further information, please contact 01425 473883 or email us at:
town.council@ringwood.gov.uk