

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 27th July 2022 at 7.00pm at Ringwood Gateway, The Furlong, Ringwood.

PRESENT: Cllr Gareth Deboos, Town Mayor
Cllr Rae Frederick, Deputy Mayor
Cllr Philip Day
Cllr Hilary Edge
Cllr John Haywood
Cllr Jeremy Heron
Cllr Peter Kelleher
Cllr Gloria O'Reilly
Cllr Tony Ring
Cllr Derek Scott

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Chris Wilkins, Town Clerk
Mrs Jo Hurd, Deputy Town Clerk
Cllr Michael Thierry, Hampshire County Councillor

ABSENT: Cllr Andy Briers
Cllr Darren Loose
Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine
Cllr Glenys Turner

C/6819 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were two members of the public present.

C/6820 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Briers, Loose, Rippon-Swaine and Turner.

C/6821 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none declared at this time.

C/6822 POLICE REPORT

Inspector Darren Ord and PCSO Jas Sparshott were in attendance. A quarterly report had been prepared and circulated to Members in advance (*Annex A*). Inspector Ord highlighted some of the content, including current operations, successes and outcomes, and responded to questions from Members.

Members had some concerns about the increase in reported crimes in the last three months compared to the previous three months. Inspector Ord said they tend to see an increase in crime in the summer months and reported there was a general 30% increase in crime figures across the country. Members asked if future reports could track longer term trends to give a fuller picture.

Inspector Ord updated on officer numbers and reported that there were two new PCSOs in the neighbourhood team, as well as two students training to become officers. They now had the full complement of officers required to serve the neighbourhood, although it was noted that the student officers are currently only able to dedicate 50% of their time to active policing.

Members noted that residents and businesses continued to have difficulties with reporting crime via 101, particularly by 'phone. They asked for response times to be reported in future. Reporting was encouraged as allocation of resources is driven by this data.

Members thanked PCSO Sparshott for her support of the Community Speedwatch scheme, which had been very successful and involved many volunteers. The scheme began in September 2021 and Cllr Frederick asked what happens to the data now as there are concerns about speeding and it was hoped for some positive outcomes. Inspector Ord said current enforcement was based around KSI figures (killed or seriously injured) and these were thankfully low in Ringwood.

Brian Byrne, NFDC Service Manager for Housing Estates Management, CCTV, Community Safety & Community Alarms was in attendance and commented on this point as he manages Community Speed Watch for NFDC. He said that all the data is fed to HCC and could lead to the capture of further information in a more covert way. He offered to arrange for a colleague to speak to the Council later in the year and explain the process in more detail.

He also commented on crime statistics, which are published on the Safer New Forest website annually and retained for 6 years. He said they had anticipated an increase in crime following the pandemic and were now experiencing an upsurge in crime and behavioural issues. The Partnership brought together a number of agencies to address these issues.

C/6823
SAFER NEW FOREST PARTNERSHIP

Brian Byrne, NFDC Service Manager for Housing Estates Management, CCTV, Community Safety & Community Alarms was in attendance to outline the role of the Safer New Forest Partnership in dealing with issues relating to vagrants around Gateway Square.

As a result of the emerging issues of street homelessness and antisocial behaviour in the area, he had convened a meeting with a number of agencies to discuss concerns and agree a multi-agency response plan. The Police had implemented Op PATCH to enable them to target their patrols and utilise powers to deal with offenders, with some success to date. He said there was no evidence of significant aggressive or unsolicited begging, but there was evidence of people giving money freely. A need to educate people on the consequences of this had been identified and he would be working closely with the community to find different ways to support individuals experiencing homelessness. 60 people had answered a survey at a community engagement event in Ringwood Market and no one had raised concerns about homelessness, drunkenness, begging or disorder. This was in contradiction to what Members had witnessed and had reported to them.

In terms of the individuals involved, it was noted that a multi-faceted approach is taken to look at their health, behaviour, homelessness position, mental health, social groups etc. in order to achieve a lasting and effective outcome.

He explained that actions to date had already made a positive impact and they would continue to work collaboratively until the issue was resolved.

**C/6824
MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 29th June 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**C/6825
RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

The Town Mayor presented the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 6th July 2022.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 6th July 2022 be received.

**C/6826
PLANNING, TOWN AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr Day presented the minutes of the Planning, Town and Environment Committee meeting held on 1st July 2022.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning, Town and Environment Committee meeting held on 1st July 2022 be received.

**C/6827
POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Cllr Heron presented the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 20th July 2022.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 20th July 2022 be received.

**C/6828
SPORTS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AT LONG LANE**

The Town Clerk reported that the two grant offers made by the Football Foundation had now been formally accepted. The Football Foundation was continuing talks with contractors to finalise contract prices and ensure funding is secure and in balance. He was working with solicitors to get the legal paperwork in order, and negotiating with the Community Sports Trust, football club and rifle club to support the legal documents with a memorandum of understanding. The architect was continuing to work to resolve pre-commencement planning conditions. Start of construction had slipped, and work would now begin in the autumn.

It was noted that NFDC had exercised its option to renew the lease of the 10-acre field and is in discussions with the new freeholder's agent to carry this in to effect. There was no reason to delay the project on this basis, as the purpose of the project was to increase capacity in any event.

RESOLVED: That the verbal report be noted.

ACTION C Wilkins / R Fitzgerald
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C/6829**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED**

The Town Mayor reported that he and/or the Deputy Town Mayor and Mayor's Consort had attended the following events:

- Greening campaign launch
- Presentation of grant aid cheque to Hoops – New Forest Junior Netball Club
- Presentation of cheques to the three beneficiaries of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Party in the Park – Ringwood United Charities, Spiral Blue and The Stable Family Home Trust
- Tree planting at Poulner Junior School
- Meeting the Love Ukraine - Ringwood group
- Pedal Car Grand Prix and crowning of the carnival princesses
- Ringwood School Colour Dash
- RMDS Summer Show
- Tour of hot spots around town with PCSO

C/6830**REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

County Councillor Thierry presented a written report (*Annex B*).

District Councillor Heron reported that Cabinet on 29th July would consider a report on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Financial Monitoring.

C/6830**REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Frederick reported on a very successful launch of Greening Ringwood and thanked everyone who had assisted with delivering postcards. She encouraged residents to participate and display the postcards in their windows so they can be counted in early September.

Cllr Haywood had attended a NFALC meeting on 14 July, which received a presentation from NFDC's new Chief Executive and discussed cycling events across the forest.

Cllr Ring had attended a meeting with National Highways and reported the new bridge beams would be delivered to site next week, with overnight road closures the following week to enable installation to begin. The project is on track for completion by the end of November.

Cllr Scott gave a report on the Ringwood & District Twinning Association. A number of social events are planned to raise funds, and a trip to Pont Audemer will take place in September. The new committee is looking to increase membership and Cllr Scott will be working with the Chairman to assist with this. Members of the Council were encouraged to join.

C/6831**FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

Planning, Town and Environment	10.00am	Friday 5 th August 2022
Planning, Town and Environment	10.00am	Friday 2 nd September 2022
Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	7.00pm	Wednesday 7 th September 2022
Staffing Committee	7.00pm	Wednesday 14 th September 2022
Policy & Finance	7.00pm	Wednesday 21 st September 2022
Full Council	7.00pm	Wednesday 28 th September 2022



C/6832

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 commercially sensitive nature.

C/6833

PROCUREMENT OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN SUPPORT

Members considered the procurement of landscape design support in connection with the development of a long-term plan for the improvement of Carvers Recreation Ground. The Carvers Working Party had considered proposals from five potential providers, two of which had been identified for further consideration.

In addition, it was agreed that a topographical survey was required prior to the landscape design works being carried out. It was expected the survey would cost in the region of £700.

As the cost of the preferred company and the topographical survey was well within the allocated budget of £6,000, it was

RESOLVED:

- 1) That New Enclosure be appointed to provide landscape design support; and
- 2) That the Town Clerk be authorised to commission a topographical survey of Carvers Recreation Ground.

ACTION C Wilkins / R Fitzgerald
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There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.56 pm.

APPROVED
28th September 2022

TOWN MAYOR

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Ringwood Quarterly Report



Ringwood South

	Current 90 days	Previous 90 days	Difference
1b Violence with Injury	15	11	4
1c Violence without Injury	54	43	11
2a Rape	2	1	1
2b Other Sexual Offences	4	1	3
3a Robbery of Business Property	1	0	1
3b Robbery of Personal Property	1	1	0
4a1 Burglary Residential (including outbuildings)	7	8	-1
4a2 Burglary Business and Community	7	15	-8
4b Vehicle Offences	12	16	-4
4c Theft from the Person	4	0	4
4d Bicycle Theft	1	1	0
4e Shoplifting	23	11	12
4f All Other Theft Offences	16	15	1
5a Criminal Damage	19	14	5
5b Arson	0	0	0
6a Trafficking of Drugs	1	1	0
6b Possession of Drugs	2	5	-3
7 Possession of Weapons Offences	1	3	-2
8 Public Order Offences	40	26	14
TOTAL	211	173	38

	Current 90 days	Previous 90 days	Difference
Residential Burglary (Excl Sheds/Garages)	1	3	-2





Ringwood Quarterly Report



Ringwood North (Poulner)

	Current 90 days	Previous 90 days	Difference
1b Violence with Injury	9	7	2
1c Violence without Injury	24	12	12
2a Rape	2	2	0
2b Other Sexual Offences	3	3	0
3a Robbery of Business Property	0	2	-2
4a1 Burglary Residential	5	15	-10
4a2 Burglary Business and Community		1	-1
4b Vehicle Offences	4	6	-2
4c Theft from the Person	2	0	2
4d Bicycle Theft	0	0	0
4e Shoplifting	2		2
4f All Other Theft Offences	7	4	3
5a Criminal Damage	7	2	5
5b Arson	0	0	0
6a Trafficking of Drugs	1	1	0
6b Possession of Drugs	0	0	0
7 Possession of Weapons Offences	1	0	1
8 Public Order Offences	3	6	-3
TOTAL	70	62	8

	Current 90 days	Previous 90 days	Difference
Residential Burglary (Excl Sheds/Garages)	2	5	-3





Ringwood Quarterly Report

Current Operations/Areas of Focus

Op PATCH is a local operation focusing on anti-social behaviour in Ringwood town, which was founded due to increasing reports of anti-social behaviour around the Meeting House Lane area. This operation will also aim to tackle other issues of anti-social behaviour around Ringwood, which is especially important as we enter the summer holidays. It will allow us to utilise additional resources, target our patrols, and deal with offenders more robustly using standard police powers (such as stop searches under Section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act), and additional powers that can be granted by the local inspector in response to specific incidents (such as Dispersal Orders under Section 35 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act).

Op POT is a local operation which aims to target the issue of non-dwelling burglaries in Ringwood & surrounding areas. As part of this operation we are able to utilise additional resources (such as specially trained Roads Policing officers and dog units) in order to respond to live incidents. Locally, as a neighbourhood team, we endeavour to attend all reported incidents of non-dwelling burglaries in order to carry out a CCTV scope of the area and house-to-house if appropriate to do so.

Last month we held an event which allowed people to bring their bikes along to Café Velo and have them security-marked free of charge, and then registered onto the Bike Register website for tracing purposes, and in May we held a similar event at Aivly Country Store in order to security-mark saddles and bridles for local residents.

This operation has also resulted in some positive cross-border working, such as a successful warrant held just over the border in Dorset on 14/06/22, where £500,000 worth of suspected stolen machinery was recovered. Acquisitive crime is a cross-border offence and the same offenders will often target properties in the three counties (Hampshire, Wiltshire, Dorset), so naturally it warrants a similar response.

Successes/Outcomes

Ringwood Police have had a busy few months across the board as a team. Some of our successes have included:

- Two Section 35 Dispersal Orders that were obtained quickly in response to numerous reports of anti-social behaviour in Meeting House Lane. The dispersal zone encompassed a large portion of Ringwood & Poulner and was in place for a 48-hour period, meaning that once an individual was seen behaving in an anti-social behaviour and dispersed by an officer, they were to leave the area for



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Ringwood Quarterly Report



the entirety of this period or be arrested. We saw some great outcomes, and a lasting impact, following issuing these warning notices to some of our frequent offenders.

- We responded to multiple emergency calls of ongoing disputes between parties known to each other with weapons mentioned. Officers on duty at Ringwood attended quickly and arrested for offences in order to safeguard individuals, and minimise impact on the wider community, which was then followed by extensive CCTV enquiries and high-visibility patrols to maximise investigative opportunities.
 - Two security-marking events as detailed above, with further events in the pipeline.
 - We have been invited to lots of community events (for example, school fetes, open days, and educational events such as an event run by HSBC around fraud, to name a few) which is always an excellent way for residents to be able to engage with us face-to-face and share their concerns or information that might be able to assist us. It allows us to have some positive engagement with certain members of the community (such as children) who would otherwise see the police as something to be scared of, and wouldn't necessarily feel confident to be able to approach us if they needed help when out in the community.
- Numerous cars have been seized after being used in crime (which will then be forensically examined in order to assist with identifying offenders), found on false plates, or having being driven without a license, tax, insurance, or an MOT.
- Op MOUNTIE is an operation set-up by our colleagues from New Forest Heart in order to tackle animal deaths in the New Forest caused by dangerous driving and speeding in the forest. As part of this operation, Ringwood officers have been trained to use the speed gun so that we can support this operation by carrying out Op MOUNTIE sessions on problem roads in our area.
- Regular Community SpeedWatch sessions have been attended to support volunteers in the Poulner and Hightown areas which have been well supported, and have a lasting impact by providing a very visible deterrent in the local area, and education towards speeders.

Changes in the Neighbourhood Team

Ringwood Town: PCSO 17944 Jas Sparshott & PC 27650 Amy Waddington

Poulner: PCSO 16158 Louise Griffiths-Grozier & PC 28252 Rob Soutar

Sergeant: PS 1266 Rob Ford

Inspector: Insp 1904 Darren Ord



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County Council - July 2022 Report

Councillor Michael Thierry - Ringwood Division

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Council Meetings

I attended . . .

July meeting of Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council.

July meeting of New Forest District Council.

July meeting of Hampshire County Council.

July meeting of the Culture and Communities Select Committee

Received a report on Hampshire County Farms (35 County Farms)

Sabines Farm in the Ringwood area is one. (Horses).

Hampshire County Council

Agreed a County Councillors' Grant to Harbridge Parish Council for signage.

Received a detailed briefing on footpaths and Rights of Ways issues in Ringwood raised by a resident and another by Sopley Parish Council.

New Forest District Council

Agreed a District Council grant to support the production of Ringwood & Fordingbridge Talking News.

Prompted by Ringwood Town Council I wrote to the Chief Executive of the District Council, "I would be extremely grateful if you would fully brief the town council on the active position of the District Council in dealing with the vagrant activity within the Ringwood town area."

Monthly Councillors' Surgery.

The July MP and Councillor surgery was held. Sir Desmond, Cllr Ann Sevier, Cllr Jeremy Heron and myself in attendance,