

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 28th October 2026 at 7.00pm at Ringwood Gateway, The Furlong, Ringwood.

PRESENT: Cllr Mary DeBoos, Town Mayor
Cllr Andrew Briers
Cllr Luke Dadford
Cllr Ingrid DeBruyn
Cllr Philip Day
Cllr Gareth DeBoos
Cllr Rae Frederick
Cllr Janet Georgiou (arrived at 7.35pm during item C/7639)
Cllr Michael Thierry
Cllr Glenys Turner
Cllr Becci Windsor (left at 7.28pm after item C/7636)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Charmaine Bennett, Town Clerk
County Cllr Martin Eyre
District Cllr Jeremy Heron

ABSENT: Cllr John Haywood
Cllr Peter Kelleher
Cllr James Swyer, Deputy Mayor

C/7626 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public were present for the Grant Aid awards and Ringwood Carnival parking arrangements. No one wished to speak under public participation.

C/7627 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Haywood, Kelleher and Swyer, and District Cllrs Linford, Rippon-Swaine and Sutherland.

C/7628 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

C/7629 GRANT AID AWARDS

Grant Aid certificates were presented to Ringwood Rotary Club (£150 towards the Christmas Eve event in the Market Place), HOPE New Forest (£150 towards new laptops), Ringwood Carers (£200 towards a carers' day), Ringwood Meeting House (£200 towards its tercentenary celebrations) and Trinity United Church (£250 towards restoration work).

C/7630 POLICE REPORT

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Apologies had been received from Inspector Lumley and Sergeant Pell and no police report was received.

With members' agreement, agenda item 9 – Carnival Parking Arrangements was brought forward to enable the members of the public attending for that item to hear the discussion. The remaining business was then taken in agenda order.

C/7631

RINGWOOD CARNIVAL PARKING ARRANGEMENTS

The Town Clerk presented the report (*Annex A*) following complaints about parking enforcement during the carnival weekend. The Council had no authority to cancel parking penalties. Members considered exploring temporary parking at Carvers and supporting the Carnival organisers in discussions with Hampshire County Council. An indicative capacity of up to 300 vehicles was suggested. Matters for a further report included charging, access and responsibility for any damage. Members also considered officer capacity and agreed that councillors should assist with the practical arrangements.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Council support exploring temporary parking at Carvers with the Carnival organisers, with a full report to be brought back for consideration
- 2) That the Town Clerk be authorised to support the organisers in discussions with Hampshire County Council about future parking arrangements.
- 3) That Cllrs Briers, G DeBoos and Day would work with the organisers on the practical arrangements.

ACTION C Bennett

C/7632

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meeting held on 30th September 2026, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

C/7633

RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Cllr Briers presented the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting on 7th October 2026.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 7th October 2026 be received.

C/7634

PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Dadford presented the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 2nd October 2026.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 2nd October 2026 be received.

C/7635

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

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Cllr Thierry presented the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 21st October 2026.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 21st October 2026 be received.

C/7636

VAPE SHOP CLOSURE ORDER

The Town Clerk presented the report (*Annex B*) on the police request for the Council's views on extending the three-month closure order for the vape shop at 37 High Street. Members considered the reported cessation of antisocial behaviour, the risk of its recurrence, uncertainty over the tenancy and business ownership, and the effect of continued closure on the High Street. Members expressed differing views on an extension and considered a neutral response.

RESOLVED: That the Council take a neutral position, neither supporting nor opposing an extension of the closure order, leaving the matter to the police. The motion was carried with one abstention.

ACTION C Bennett

Cllr Windsor left the meeting at 7.28pm.

C/7637

COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

Members were invited to join the Community Emergency Plan for Ringwood Working Group. No additional volunteers came forward; the membership agreed by the Planning, Town & Environment Committee remained unchanged (*P/6635 refers*).

Cllr Frederick advised that she wished to resign from the Policy and Finance Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Community Emergency Plan Working Group membership remained unchanged and Cllr Frederick's resignation from the Policy and Finance Committee was noted.

ACTION N Vodden

C/7638

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED

The Town Mayor reported the death of former councillor Dorrie Green and said that condolences would be sent to her family. The lease for the Men's Shed at the cricket pavilion had been signed and refurbishment work had taken place. A memorial service for Dennis Killen was to be held on 29 October, at which Cllr Frederick would give a reading. The Town Mayor reminded members of the forthcoming fireworks event and encouraged ticket sales. Members were also reminded of the Remembrance Sunday service, the laying of crosses at the war graves on the preceding Saturday, and the service at 11.00am on 11 November at the memorial ground.

Cllr Janet Georgiou joined the meeting at 7.35pm during item C/7639.

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C/7639

REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Eyre reported that a decision on local government reorganisation was expected to be announced on 29 October 2026.

District Cllr Thierry reported on the New Forest District Council task and finish group's consideration of Community Infrastructure Levy funding. A paper was due to go to Cabinet in November. The task and finish group had supported the Thriving Market Place scheme.

District Cllr Heron confirmed that a recommendation would go to Cabinet to allocate £7.755 million of Community Infrastructure Levy funding to the Thriving Market Place scheme, subject to the Cabinet vote. The reported funding included a 10% contingency and provision for design, development and project management. He thanked town councillors for their support. Members discussed the scheme's extent and opportunities to address drainage and flooding. Cllr Heron confirmed that the Meeting House Lane and Gateway element had been removed. He would keep opportunities for savings under review, but cautioned against expanding the scope and delaying delivery. Members welcomed the funding recommendation. Cllr Heron also drew attention to Cabinet's April–September financial monitoring reports and reported that mayoral elections would not take place until 2028.

C/7640

REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS

Cllr Turner reported that discussions about a town-centre advertising board were continuing and a meeting with Sainsbury's was hoped for shortly.

Cllr Frederick reminded members of the Remembrance Sunday service on 8 November and the civic reception afterwards at 12.30pm. Members were asked to make serving Armed Forces personnel and veterans aware of the reception; invitations were to be issued.

Cllr Dadford reported attending the local Air Cadets' open day, where he had heard about their activities and transferable skills, including first aid.

Cllr Day reported correspondence concerning the appeal against enforcement action at Moortown Farm. He had also attended a meeting between a representative from Charles Church and local residents to discuss concerns about the proposed Phase 2 development for land off Moortown Lane, including drainage, flooding and overlooking, and welcomed the engagement with residents.

C/7641

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Dates of forthcoming meetings were noted:

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

C/7642

COMMUNICATIONS

RESOLVED: No communications were proposed at this stage. Communications were anticipated following the forthcoming NFDC Cabinet meeting.

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C/7643

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 C*).

C/7644

LEGAL MATTERS

The Town Clerk reported on ongoing legal matters.

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

ACTION C Bennett

C/7645

SOCIAL MEDIA CONCERNS

The Town Clerk reported on a concern relating to social media.

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

ACTION C Bennett

There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 7:52pm.

APPROVED

25th November 2026

TOWN MAYOR

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COMMITTEE REPORT

Report title	Vape shop closure order at 37 High Street
Committee	Full Council
Date	28 October 2026
Report author	Town Clerk

Decision Summary

Purpose	To agree the Council's response to the police on a possible extension of the closure order.
Decision type	To provide direction
Financial impact	None identified
Budget provision	Not applicable
Confidential / exempt	No

1. Introduction and reason for report

To consider whether the Town Council supports an extension of the existing closure order at 37 High Street and agree a formal response to the police.

2. Background Information

The police have sought the Council's view on extending the current three-month closure order. They report that anti-social behaviour has stopped during the closure but are concerned that it would resume if the premises reopened.

The police advise that an extension would leave the premises in their current boarded-up state. Discussions between the landlord and agent about the tenancy are ongoing, and the reported change of business ownership remains unclear.

Initial correspondence between members has identified differing views on whether the closure order should be extended. The matter is therefore being brought to Full Council to agree a formal response to the police. The points raised by members so far are summarised below:

Points in favour of an extension

Continued closure would respond to the police's concern about a recurrence of anti-social behaviour. Some members support an extension to maintain the improvement achieved so far.

Concerns and other considerations

A concern has been raised whether there is sufficient evidence to justify continued closure. The boarded-up premises detract from the High Street, and an extension would not itself secure a lasting solution or a new tenant.

3. Financial Implications (if applicable)

No direct financial implications for the Town Council have been identified.

4. Issues for Decision and Recommendations

Members are asked to decide whether to support an extension of the closure order and authorise the Town Clerk to communicate the Council's decision and any accompanying comments to the police.



FULL COUNCIL REPORT

Report title	Ringwood Carnival parking arrangements
Committee	Full Council
Date	28 October 2026
Report author	Town Clerk

Decision Summary

Purpose	To seek initial views on temporary parking at Carvers and consider engagement with HCC.
Decision type	For decision
Financial impact	None at this stage
Budget provision	No expenditure proposed
Confidential / exempt	No

1. Introduction and reason for report

To summarise feedback about parking during the 2026 Carnival, seek members' initial views on possible temporary parking at Carvers Recreation Ground and consider engagement with Hampshire County Council (HCC) about future arrangements.

2. Background Information

Concerns expressed on social media and by members of the public suggest that some felt parking enforcement during Carnival weekend was overzealous and went beyond what was needed to address unsafe or obstructive parking. In particular, concerns related to tickets issued to vehicles parked on verges which those commenting considered were not causing an obstruction. A resident has asked the Town Council to support temporary parking allowances for future events.

The Carnival attracts visitors who support both the event and the wider town. The concern raised is that the experience of receiving a parking ticket could discourage future attendance. These are views reported to the Council, rather than a verified assessment of individual tickets or HCC's overall approach.

Any future arrangements would need to balance accommodating visitors with preventing dangerous or obstructive parking. This includes keeping the Carnival route, emergency access, roads and access to homes clear so that the event can take place safely.

HCC explains that its officers attend events to maintain traffic flow and protect drivers and pedestrians. It states that grass verges are not designed or strengthened for parking and that damage creates additional repair costs. HCC advises that it can enforce verge parking where yellow-line restrictions apply, as these extend across the pavement and verge to the property boundary. It also notes that parked vehicles may affect visibility even where they do not appear to obstruct traffic.

HCC has confirmed that any request to change restrictions would need to come from the Carnival organisers through the event's traffic management plan. This would require a legal order, consideration of safety implications and would be likely to involve costs. HCC considers it unlikely that a temporary order would permit parking on grass verges.

The Carnival organisers have since approached the Town Council to ask whether Carvers Recreation Ground could be used for temporary parking. They are considering the practical arrangements, including marshalling, lighting and safe access. These arrangements would be the organisers' responsibility. Final permission to use the ground would rest with the Town Council, once a workable proposal and its implications have been considered. No permission has yet been given.

An initial indication of members' support would help the organisers decide whether to develop the proposal further. This would not constitute approval to use the ground. The discussion is intended to identify practical improvements for future Carnivals, recognising both the additional demand for parking and the need to maintain safe access and manage unsafe parking.

3. Financial Implications (if applicable)

No expenditure is proposed at this stage. Any proposal for Carvers would need to identify costs, responsibility for meeting them and arrangements to protect and reinstate the ground before final approval is sought.

4. Issues for Decision and Recommendations

Members are invited to:

1. Indicate whether they support further exploration of temporary parking at Carvers Recreation Ground, with the Carnival organisers developing the practical arrangements and a detailed proposal returning to the Council for final approval.
2. Decide whether to authorise the Town Clerk to support the Carnival organisers in discussions with HCC about future parking arrangements, with any application to change restrictions and the traffic management plan remaining the organisers' responsibility.