

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7.00pm at Ringwood Gateway, The Furlong, Ringwood.

PRESENT: Cllr Luke Dadford  
Cllr Philip Day  
Cllr Ingrid De Bruyn  
Cllr Rae Frederick  
Cllr Gareth DeBoos  
Cllr Mary DeBoos  
Cllr Janet Georgiou  
Cllr John Haywood  
Cllr Peter Kelleher  
Cllr James Swyer  
Cllr Michael Thierry  
Cllr Glenys Turner  
Cllr Becci Windsor

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Chris Wilkins, Town Clerk  
Miss Nicola Vodden, Office Manager

ABSENT: Cllr Andrew Briers

*There were two members of public present. There is no public participation at the Annual Meeting.*

*Cllr Gareth DeBoos welcomed newly elected Councillors, re-elected Councillors and members of the public to the Annual Meeting of the Town Council. He took the Chair for the first matter on the agenda.*

### **C/6962**

#### **ELECTION OF THE TOWN MAYOR**

Nominations for the office of Chairman and Town Mayor were invited and only one candidate, Cllr Gareth DeBoos was proposed and seconded. Cllr DeBoos was duly elected. He thanked Members and said he would be honoured to take on the role for another year.

**RESOLVED:** That Cllr Gareth DeBoos be elected as Town Mayor for the ensuing year.

*Cllr Gareth DeBoos took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.*

### **C/6963**

#### **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY THE TOWN MAYOR**

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

### **C/6964**

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Town Clerk reported that apologies had been received from Cllr Briers.

*Cllr De Bruyn joined the meeting at 7.03pm.*

**C/6965  
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**C/6966  
DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE (by Councillors)**

The Town Clerk reported that all members had completed Declarations of Acceptance of Office in his presence as proper officer to the Council prior to the meeting and took the opportunity to thank all Councillors for the prompt returning of all required paperwork following their election to the Council.

**C/6967  
APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR**

The Town Mayor invited nominations. One candidate was put forward for the position of Deputy Town Mayor and Cllr Frederick was duly elected.

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

**C/6968  
DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY THE DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR**

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

**C/6969  
COMMITTEE AND WORKING PARTY MEMBERSHIP**

Members considered appointments to Standing Committees and Working Parties. Standing Orders provide for Councillors to be appointed for a four-year period (2023 to 2027), subject to amendments being possible at each Annual Meeting. It was noted the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are ex-officio members of all Committees.

**RESOLVED:** 1) That the following Members be appointed to the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee for the remainder of period of office: Cllrs Briers, G DeBoos (ex-officio), M DeBoos, Frederick (ex-officio), Georgiou, Haywood, Kelleher, Swyer, Turner and Windsor;

2) That the following Members be appointed to the Planning, Town and Environment Committee for the remainder of period of office: Cllrs Briers, Dadford, Day, De Bruyn, G DeBoos (ex-officio), M DeBoos, Frederick (ex-officio), Georgiou, Kelleher, Swyer, Turner and Windsor.

3) That in addition to the Town Mayor and Chairman of Policy and Finance Committee, the following Members be appointed to the Staffing Committee for the remainder of period of office: Cllr Haywood, Kelleher, Swyer and Turner;

4) That it be noted that the Town Clerk and Cllr Briers are the Council's representatives on the Sports Development at Long Lane Steering Group with Cllr. Swyer acting as deputy to Cllr Briers, if required..

**C/6970  
ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING**

At 7.10pm, 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 and make appointments to sub-committees and working parties.

On resumption of the meeting, at 7.20pm:

**C/6971  
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE POLICY AND 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 elected as Chairman and election of the Deputy Chair was deferred to the meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> June.

At the Planning, Town and Environment Committee, Cllr Day was elected as Chair and Cllr Turner elected as Deputy Chair.

The Chair of both Committees were automatically appointed to the Policy & Finance Committee.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) That the following Members be appointed to the Policy and Finance Committee for the remainder of period of office: Cllrs Briers, Dadford, Day, G DeBoos (ex-officio), M DeBoos, Frederick (ex-officio), Georgiou, Haywood, Kelleher, Swyer and Turner; and
- 2) That the updated list of membership of committees be noted (*Annex A*).

**C/6972  
ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING**

At 7.22pm, it was

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

On resumption of the meeting at 7.25pm:

At the Policy and Finance Committee meeting, during the adjournment, Cllr Mary DeBoos was elected as Chair and Cllr Kelleher elected as Vice Chair.

**C/6973  
MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

**C/6974**

**REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Town Clerk indicated that in addition to the list provided, there was a further item to be considered. He explained the Town Council historically has appointed trustees to Ringwood United Charities, rather than representatives. This is a legal office with official duties. Two previously appointed Council trustees are no longer Councillors and he invited Members to put themselves forward for the role. Jeremy Heron was prepared to continue in the role in a personal capacity and Cllrs Haywood and Mary DeBoos were prepared to act as trustees.

**RESOLVED:** That Members be appointed as representatives on Outside Bodies as shown in *Annex B* (amended to include Ringwood United Charities), for the remainder of the period of office.

**C/6975**

**PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr Day presented the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023. All matters were resolved.

In relation to Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan (RNP), further meetings had been held of the GoFour and Steering Groups. A couple of amendments to RNP would be brought forward to the next Committee meeting for consideration and approval.

In relation to Strategic Sites, he reported that although a planning application had been expected, nothing had been forthcoming yet.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023 be received.

*Cllr Frederick left the meeting at 7.40pm*

**C/6976**

**RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

In the absence of Cllr Briers, the Town Clerk presented the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023. All matters were resolved.

It was reported that the Council event to mark the King's Coronation, 'Gathering on the Green', had attracted between 3,000 and 4,000 people and had been a resounding success. Thanks were extended to all of the organisations involved in providing volunteers. It was a great event which showed Ringwood at its best.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023.

*Cllr Frederick re-joined the meeting at 7.42pm.*

**C/6977**

**GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE**

The Town Clerk explained the benefit of this declaration (which should be repeated at each relevant general meeting), the possible restrictions on the Council activities if it were not in place and how the Council satisfies the required criteria.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council meets the required conditions, conferred by the Localism Act 2011, for eligibility and exercise of the general power of competence.

**ACTION C Wilkins**

**C/6978**

**DELEGATION OF ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REVIEWS**

The Town Clerk explained it is good governance for the Council to periodically review certain policies and it is recommended this is done annually at the annual meeting. Rather than this be done at the annual meeting, it is proposed to continue the practice of delegating this duty to the Policy and Finance Committee and the formal reviews to be spread across the year.

**RESOLVED:** That annual governance reviews be delegated to the Policy & Finance Committee.

**ACTION C Wilkins**

**C/6979**

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED**

The Town Mayor had nothing to report.

**C/6980**

**REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

County Councillor Thierry provided a written report (*Annex C*) which would be circulated with the minutes.

District Councillor Haywood was undertaking a number of training sessions, with his first Full Council meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. He would provide a fuller report at the next meeting

The Town Clerk reported apologies had been received from District Councillors Heron and Rippon-Swaine. They had nothing to report to this meeting and in future would attend and prepare reports.

**C/6981**

**REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Day reported that several local residents had expressed alarm about the spate of burglaries over the previous weekend and their concern with the lack of police response. It was noted that Inspector Ord was unable to attend the last meeting and it was hoped that he could attend the next meeting to address this and update the Council on promised increased police activity, which it is felt is lacking.

Cllr DeBoos added the lack of police response was very disappointing and a big concern and he also hoped Inspector Ord would attend so that the feelings of residents and businesses could be conveyed.

Cllr Day wished to thank outgoing Councillors. He wished those who stood down well and offered commiserations to those who did stand but did not get re-elected. He thanked them for their many years of loyal service to the town. They will be missed.

Cllr Turner – reported that the allotment site at Upper Kingston had been raided over the weekend, with sheds being broken into and items stolen. She said it was a concern and very sad.

**C/6982**

**FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

Policy and Finance	7.00 pm	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2023
ANNUAL TOWN ASSEMBLY	7.00 pm	Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2023
Planning, Town & Environment	10.00 am	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2023
Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	7.00 pm	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2023
Policy & Finance	7.00 pm	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2023
Full Council	7.00 pm	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2023

There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 7:56pm.

APPROVED

*28<sup>th</sup> June 2023*

TOWN MAYOR

**A**

	RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL				
	<b>COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2023-24</b>				
	<b>FULL COUNCIL</b>	<b>PLANNING, TOWN &amp; ENVIRONMENT</b>	<b>RECREATION, LEISURE &amp; OPEN SPACES</b>	<b>POLICY &amp; FINANCE</b>	<b>STAFFING COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Chair</b>	Cllr Gareth DeBoos	Cllr Philip Day	Cllr Andy Briers	Cllr Mary DeBoos	To be decided at first meeting
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Cllr Rae Frederick	Cllr Glenys Turner	To be decided 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Cllr Peter Kelleher	
<b>Members &amp; Ex officio Members</b> (NB Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor are entitled to be ex officio members of all committees)	Cllr Andrew Briers Cllr Luke Dadford Cllr Philip Day Cllr Ingrid De Bruyn Cllr Mary DeBoos Cllr Janet Georgiou Cllr John Haywood Cllr Peter Kelleher Cllr James Swyer Cllr Michael Thierry Cllr Glenys Turner Cllr Becci Windsor	Cllr Andy Briers Cllr Luke Dadford Cllr Ingrid De Bruyn Cllr Mary DeBoos Cllr Janet Georgiou Cllr Peter Kelleher Cllr James Swyer Cllr Becci Windsor	Cllr Mary DeBoos Cllr Janet Georgiou Cllr John Haywood Cllr Peter Kelleher Cllr James Swyer Cllr Glenys Turner Cllr Becci Windsor	Chair PTE – Cllr Philip Day Chair RLOS – Cllr Andy Briers Cllr Luke Dadford Cllr Janet Georgiou Cllr John Haywood Cllr James Swyer Cllr Glenys Turner	Mayor - Cllr Gareth DeBoos Chair P+F - Cllr Mary DeBoos Cllr John Haywood Cllr Peter Kelleher Cllr James Swyer Cllr Glenys Turner
<b>Ex-Officio Members</b>		Cllr Gareth DeBoos Cllr Rae Frederick	Cllr Gareth DeBoos Cllr Rae Frederick	Cllr Gareth DeBoos Cllr Rae Frederick	Cllr Gareth DeBoos Cllr Rae Frederick

**RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL - Representatives on Outside Bodies 2023-24**

**B**

<b>ORGANISATION / POSITION</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>	<b>REPRESENTATIVE</b>
New Forest Association of Local Councils (NFALC)	Two councillors needed.  Representatives from every town and parish council in New Forest district are invited to meet quarterly to consider reports from NFDC and NFNPA and other issues of mutual interest	Cllr Janet Georgiou Cllr John Haywood
Flood Wardens	Two councillors needed to join a co-opted volunteer: Peter Street.  Invited to attend meetings of the Flood Action Working Party, held as required (but not usually more than twice a year)	Cllr Peter Kelleher
New Forest Business Partnership	Two councillors	Cllr Mary DeBoos Cllr Rae Frederick
New Forest Consultative Panel	One councillor needed	Cllr Janet Georgiou
New Forest National Park Authority - South West Quadrant	One councillor needed  Representatives from every town and parish council in the SW quadrant of the National Park are invited to meet quarterly to consider relevant National Park issues and initiatives	Cllr Gareth DeBoos
Ringwood Twinning Association	The Mayor is President <i>ex officio</i>  Two other councillors are needed. Organizes exchange visits and fund-raising.	Mayor-Cllr Gareth DeBoos Cllr Luke Dadford Cllr Becci Windsor
The Ringwood Society	Two councillors needed.  Monthly meetings to monitor planning applications and discuss local development issues.	Cllr Rae Frederick Cllr Glenys Turner
Tree Warden	One councillor needed.  Works with Town Clerk and other staff on tree management issues especially those involving members of the public.	Cllr Glenys Turner
Western Escarpment Conservation Area Steering Group	One councillor needed.  Representatives from every town and parish council in this Conservation Area on the edge of the National Park are invited to meet quarterly to consider relevant National Park issues and initiatives	Cllr Janet Georgiou
Ringwood United Charities	Three trustees appointed to the role by the Council. Legal office with associated duties	Jeremy Heron Cllr Mary DeBoos Cllr John Haywood



## **County Council May 2021 Report**

Councillor Michael Thierry - Ringwood Division

The period of Purdah was observed pre-election.

### **Hampshire County Council**

First Full Council Meeting of the County for the forthcoming year is being held this coming Thursday.

### **New Forest District Council**

No meeting, at which I was scheduled to attend, was held.

### **Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council**

Attended meetings of the Parish Council as a member and the County.

### **New Forest National Park Authority**

No meetings of the Authority was held during the period under review.  
The Planning Committee Meeting was cancelled.

### **Monthly Councillors' Surgery**

During Purdah the Councillors' Surgery was held.