

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL**

Held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 7pm at Ringwood Gateway, The Furlong, Ringwood

**PRESENT:** Cllr Rae Frederick (Chairman)  
Cllr Philip Day (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr Andrew Briers  
Cllr Luke Dadford  
Cllr Gareth DeBoos  
Cllr Mary DeBoos  
Cllr Janet Georgiou  
Cllr James Swyer  
Cllr Glenys Turner

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs Charmaine Bennett, Town Clerk  
Mrs Jo Hurd, Deputy Town Clerk  
District Cllr Jeremy Heron  
District Cllr Nigel Linford

**ABSENT:** Cllr Ingrid De Bruyn  
Cllr John Haywood  
Cllr Peter Kelleher  
Cllr Michael Thierry  
Cllr Becci Windsor  
District Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine

### **C/7410 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of public present.

### **C/7411 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs De Bruyn, Haywood, Kelleher and Thierry, and District Cllrs Frampton and Rippon-Swaine.

### **C/7412 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

### **C/7413 GRANT AID AWARDS**

**RESOLVED:** That Grant Aid awards to Ringwood Men's Shed of £250; Ringwood Rotary of £100; SS Peter and Paul Parish Church of £250; Helping Older People New Forest (HOPe) of £250; and Forest Forge Theatre Company of £250 be noted.

**C/7414**

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2025, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

**C/7415**

**RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

Cllr Briers presented the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025 be received.

**C/7416**

**PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr Day presented the minutes of the Planning Town & Environment Committee meetings held on 1<sup>st</sup> August and 5<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Planning, Town and Environment Committee meetings held on 1<sup>st</sup> August and 5<sup>th</sup> September 2025 be received.

**C/7417**

**STAFFING COMMITTEE**

Cllr Frederick presented the minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2025 be received.

**C/7418**

**POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Cllr M DeBoos presented the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025 be received, with the exception of F/6466, which was considered next on the agenda.

**C/7419**

**BANKING ARRANGEMENTS**

Members considered a recommendation from the Policy and Finance Committee regarding the bank mandate (*F/6466 refers*).

**RESOLVED:** That the following positions/individuals be included on the bank mandate:  
1) The Mayor, 2) Chair of Policy and Finance Committee, 3) Vice Chair of Policy and Finance Committee, 4) Cllr Day, 5) Cllr G DeBoos, 6) Town Clerk, 7) Deputy Town Clerk, 8) Responsible Finance Officer and 9) Finance Assistant.

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<b>ACTION L Smith</b>
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**C/7420**

**COMMITTEE COMPOSITION**

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

Cllr Dadford expressed an interest in becoming a member of the Staffing Committee

**RESOLVED:** That Cllr Dadford's request to join the Staffing Committee be considered at the next Full Council meeting, if appropriate.

<b>ACTION N Vodden / C Bennett</b>
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**C/7421**

**STRATEGY REVIEW**

The Town Clerk outlined the process for reviewing the Council's Strategic Plan 2026-2029. Officers have reviewed and updated the document and the draft would now be considered by each Committee during October, focusing on the areas most relevant to its remit. It was hoped the Plan could then be approved by Full Council at the end of the month.

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

<b>ACTION C Bennett</b>
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**C/7422**

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED**

The Town Mayor noted the opening of several new businesses in the town, which was a welcome development.

**C/7423**

**REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

District Cllr Heron reported that new bins were now being delivered in the Ringwood area, and that a special Council meeting would be held on 25 September to approve the preferred option for local government reorganisation.

District Cllr Linford said that additional customer services operatives had been employed by NFDC to deal with the volume of enquiries regarding the new waste strategy. He reported on the launch of the New Forest Community Lottery, which would be raising money for good causes in the local community.

**C/7424**

**REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Day had attended the opening, along with several other Members, of Bartlett de Choc, and praised the success of Ringwood Carnival congratulating all those involved in organising, sponsoring, participating and attending. He had also attended a very successful Civic Day in Christchurch.

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Cllr Swyer said it had been a joy to have been part of the judging panel for Carnival and to talk to local people sharing their passion for what they have done.

Cllr G DeBoos had attended a NFALC meeting.

**C/7425**  
**FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

Forthcoming Meetings – to note the following dates:

Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	7.00pm	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2025
Planning, Town and Environment	10.00am	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2025
Policy & Finance	7.00pm	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2025
Full Council	7.00pm	Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> October 2025

**C/7426**  
**COMMUNICATIONS**

**RESOLVED:** That congratulations should be extended to everyone involved in organising, sponsoring, participating in and attending Ringwood Carnival.

**C/7427**  
**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 A*).

**C/7428**  
**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 and the recommended course of action be approved.

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>C Bennett</b>
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There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 7.49pm.

APPROVED  
29<sup>th</sup> October 2025

TOWN MAYOR