

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 26th November 2025 at 7pm at Ringwood Gateway, The Furlong, Ringwood

PRESENT: Cllr Rae Frederick (Chairman)
Cllr Philip Day
Cllr Luke Dadford
Cllr Gareth DeBoos
Cllr Mary DeBoos
Cllr Janet Georgiou
Cllr James Swyer

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Charmaine Bennett, Town Clerk
Mrs Jo Hurd, Deputy Town Clerk
District Cllr Richard Frampton

ABSENT: Cllr Andrew Briers
Cllr Ingrid De Bruyn
Cllr John Haywood
Cllr Peter Kelleher
Cllr Michael Thierry
Cllr Glenys Turner
Cllr Becci Windsor

C/7447 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of public present.

C/7448 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Briers, Haywood, Kelleher, Thierry and Turner and District Cllrs Heron, Linford and Rippon-Swaine.

C/7449 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

C/7450 GRANT AID AWARDS

The Town Mayor presented certificates to recipients of grant aid:

- Ringwood Men's Shed - £250 towards the cost of new premises.
- Ringwood Rotary - £100 towards the cost of Christmas Eve festivities in the Market Place.
- SS Peter and Paul Parish Church - £250 towards The Bell Project.
- Helping Older People New Forest (HOPE) - £250 towards the cost of providing its service.

A grant of £250 had also been awarded to Forest Forge Theatre Company towards the cost of theatre and drama sessions.

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C/7451

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meeting held on 29th October 2025, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

C/7452

RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Cllr Swyer presented the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 5th November 2025.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 5th November 2025 be received.

C/7453

PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Day presented the minutes of the Planning Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 7th November 2025.

It was noted that application 24/01362 (Christmas Tree Farm) had been withdrawn prior to consideration by NFNPA Planning Committee.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning, Town and Environment Committee meeting held on 7th November 2025 be received.

C/7454

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Cllr M DeBoos presented the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 19th November 2025.

The Town Clerk was delighted to announce that a new Finance Manager/RFO had been appointed. She thanked everyone who had been involved in the interview process.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 19th November 2025 be received.

C/7455

COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

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

It was noted there had been low attendance at the Events Sub-Committee meetings of late, and members were invited to put their names forward to join.

Cllr G DeBoos expressed an interest in joining the group to be appointed in the new year to discuss nominations for community awards.

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- RESOLVED:** 1) That Members consider putting their names forward to join the Events Sub-Committee.
- 2) That Cllr G DeBoos' interest in joining the group to consider nominations for community awards be noted.

C/7456

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (LGR)

The Town Clerk reported that four proposals had been submitted by Hampshire councils and government is now seeking views on each of these, with a deadline for comments of 11th January. There was to be a briefing for town and parish councils from NFDC on Monday 1st December, and it was expected that NFALC would be responding. She therefore proposed that she draft a response for consideration by Council on 17th December. Councillors were also encouraged to respond individually.

Cllr G DeBoos had attended a NFALC meeting where a representative of HALC had suggested that town and parish councils cluster together on issues where it would be mutually beneficial, for example grounds maintenance. He suggested the formation of a working party with neighbouring parishes to discuss this in further detail. It was agreed to instigate informal discussions with a view to bringing a proposal back at the appropriate time.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk prepare a draft response to the government's LGR consultation, for consideration by Council on 17th December.

ACTION C Bennett

C/7457

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED

The Town Mayor congratulated everyone involved in the Fireworks event, which had been a great success. Particular thanks went to the Clubhouse & Events Manager and Assistant, who were both new in post. Remembrance events had been very well attended; it was suggested an MC might be needed for the Sunday event in the War Memorial Gardens in future as some people were unable to see what was happening. She encouraged attendance at the Forest Forge production of Pinocchio on 5th December at Carvers Clubhouse, and the Mayor's Traditional Carol Service in the Parish Church on 6th December.

C/7458

REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

There were no reports.

C/7459

REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS

Cllr Day thanked everyone involved in clearance of the unadopted section of the Castleman Trailway between Embankment Way and Crow Lane, including the Grounds Manager and representatives of Round Table and RACE; this had been very well received.

C/7460

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Dates of forthcoming meetings were noted:

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Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	7.00pm	Wednesday 3 rd December 2025
Planning, Town and Environment	10.00am	Friday 5 th December 2025
Policy & Finance	7.00pm	Wednesday 10 th December 2025
Full Council	7.00pm	Wednesday 17 th December 2025

C/7461

COMMUNICATIONS

RESOLVED: That the following be publicised - government LGR consultation, grant aid awards and clearance of the Castleman Trailway.

C/7461

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/7462

LEGAL MATTERS

Members received a report (*Confidential Annex B*) from the Town Clerk on ongoing legal matters relating to the football project.

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

ACTION C Bennett

There being no further business, the Deputy Town Mayor closed the meeting at 7.33pm.

APPROVED

17th December 2025

TOWN MAYOR

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