

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 24th April 2019 at 7.00pm at Ringwood Gateway, The Furlong, Ringwood.

PRESENT: Cllr Tony Ring, Town Mayor
Cllr Philip Day, Deputy Mayor
Cllr Andrew Briers
Cllr Jeremy Heron
Cllr Darren Loose
Cllr Gloria O'Reilly
Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine
Cllr Christopher Treleaven
Cllr Tim Ward
Cllr Angela Wiseman

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Chris Wilkins, Town Clerk
Mrs Jo Hurd, Deputy Town Clerk
Tom Weetman, Student Advisor
Finn Rowden, Student Advisor

APOLOGIES: Cllr Christine Ford
Cllr Michael Thierry

ABSENT: Cllr Hilary Edge

Prior to the start of the meeting the Town Mayor wished luck to those Members standing for re-election on 2nd May and thanked those Members who had chosen to stand down – he said they had been valued colleagues whose work he had greatly appreciated, and they would be missed.

C/6284 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

C/6285 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Town Clerk reported that apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Ford and Thierry.

C/6286 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none declared at this time.

C/6287 POLICE REPORT

Inspector Scott Beney and Sergeant Helen Mitchley from New Forest West Neighbourhood Policing Team were in attendance. Inspector Beney, who had been in post since November, outlined the performance of Hampshire Constabulary, which was well above the national average. He explained how budget restrictions had led to a reduction in officers since 2010, and difficult decisions had to be made in respect of deployment of resources. He encouraged

members of the public to report all crime as police response was targeted to crime hot spots. It was now possible to report crime online at <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/>. Although there were currently only three PCs in the Neighbourhood team, this was expected to increase to six by the end of the year/early next year, giving greater capacity and more visibility in the community. He reported that nationally there was an upward trend in crime, but in the New Forest the figures had decreased from 2017 to 2018, and this was reflected in Ringwood, where the number of crimes had fallen in the last three months, compared to the previous three months.

Following the discussion at Policy & Finance Committee (F/5683 – 17/04/2019), Members asked about the effectiveness of town centre CCTV. Inspector Beney said that CCTV was a preventative measure and was well known to act as a deterrent; however there was no mechanism in place to produce meaningful statistics in terms of the use of CCTV footage in catching and prosecuting offenders, albeit there would be a better chance with a camera in place than if there wasn't one.

On the subject of the numerous graffiti tags that had appeared around town on various signs and street furniture, Inspector Beney confirmed that this would be given low priority as there was no immediate risk of harm. However, he said that they had only received one report of graffiti on private property and again encouraged the public to report each incident.

**C/6288
MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meeting held on 27th March 2019, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

**C/6289
RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

Cllr Briers presented the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 3rd April 2019.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 3rd April 2019 be received.

**C/6290
PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr Treleaven presented the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 5th April 2019.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 5th April 2019 be received.

**C/6291
POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Cllr Heron presented the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 17th April 2019.

F/5683 – it was noted that Town Centre CCTV would be included on the next appropriate agenda, for a decision to be taken on signing up to the partnership agreement with New Forest District Council.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 17th April 2019 be received.

**C/6292
COMMUNICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED**

The Town Mayor reported the following:

- 1) The large items resulting from the Hightown Residents litter pick had still to be removed from the junction of the A31 with Picket Hill. Cllr Heron said that he would follow this up with the District Council.
- 2) He had attended a meeting of the Ringwood Community Network, which was also attended by representatives of Go New Forest. GNF had been positive about its relationship with the Town Council and would be coming back at some point to prove the benefits of membership.
- 3) He had attended Verwood Civic Day and suggested that Ringwood should look to hold something similar in the town in future.
- 4) He had attended a Masonic event and had been presented with cheques for his two charities.
- 5) He congratulated the Manager of Carvers, Charmaine Bennett, on a very successful Easter Egg Hunt event held on 18 April.

**C/6293
REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS AND STUDENT ADVISORS**

Cllr Ward reported on the Market relaunch which had been affected by the poor weather; many of the new traders had been put off by the forecast but he hoped that the positive publicity and interest generated would result in an improved market in the future. He said that he had thoroughly enjoyed his time as a councillor, working with such a good team.

On the subject of the Market relaunch, Cllr Day thanked and congratulated Cllrs Ward and Ring, and Charmaine Bennett, for their fantastic work on making this happen, which had laid the groundwork for the future.

Cllr Wiseman had attended a meeting of Ringwood Society and reported they were looking for some clarity on arranging a litter pick, and had suggested a nominee for a future Citizens Award. She suggested that the Council should look to introduce resource/energy saving policies and, for example, look to use recyclable products and install solar panels on Council buildings. She thanked everyone for the help they had given her over the years she had been a councillor.

On the subject of litter, it was noted that a new Facebook group "Clean Up Ringwood" had been created, which gave the prospect of a more organised volunteer force carrying out regular litter picks.

Cllr Briers wished to thank Cllrs Treleaven, Ward and Wiseman for all their hard work over the past four years.

Cllr Treleaven wished to thank everyone for their support over the last four years, which he had found very rewarding, and he expressed his best wishes to the Council for the future.

Cllr O'Reilly gave thanks to all the retiring councillors. She expressed concern that a car had been seen driving through Danny Cracknell Pocket Park; and that the sinking section of road

outside Martin & Co had still to be repaired. She suggested a welcome pack for new businesses opening in the town, with one aim being to deter inappropriate signage.

Student Advisor Tom Weetman responded to confirmation from the police that the letter put on windscreens of student cars had been official and was produced in conjunction with Ringwood School, although students had not been informed of this. He said that parking would soon reduce for a period as the Year 13 students began their exam leave.

C/6294

REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Councillor Rippon-Swaine reported that the District Council had purchased two electric vehicles and was committed to increasing the number of charging points on Council land. The default for purchasing vehicles in future would be electric, unless there was convincing justification otherwise.

District Councillor Heron reported that the District Council had equipment available to loan for litter picks. He asked that signage about the closure of the boardwalk in Danny Cracknell Pocket Park be improved.

C/6295

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Planning, Town & Environment	10.00am	Friday 26 th April 2019
TOWN ASSEMBLY	6.30pm	Wednesday 15 th May 2019
Annual meeting	7.00pm	Wednesday 15 th May 2019
Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	7.00pm	Wednesday 5 th June 2019
Planning, Town & Environment	10.00am	Wednesday 7 th June 2019
Policy & Finance	7.00pm	Wednesday 19 th June 2019
Full Council	7.00pm	Wednesday 26 th June 2019

There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.06pm.

APPROVED
15th May 2019

TOWN MAYOR