

OPEN SESSION: There were two members of public present. Roger Frederick presented £208 to the Council, which was raised by Campaign 4 Carvers Skate Park during the Christmas Lights Switch-On event on 6th December. The group had also raised £400 from a Spud Day at Ringwood School, had been awarded £250 from the Lions' Den and had £1,000 pledged by the Rotary Club. They also hoped to hold an annual Skate Fest to raise funds and would be working on fundraising with McCarthy & Stone (neighbours on site) in the New Year. Members were very proud and pleased that the young people were taking ownership of the project and raising money for themselves.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 17th December 2014 at 7.00pm

PRESENT: Cllr B Woodfield (Town Mayor)
Cllr S Burgess-Kennar
Cllr N J Chard
Cllr L C Ford
Cllr J D Heron
Cllr G J O'Reilly
Cllr W S Rippon-Swaine
Cllr M A Steele
Cllr B H Terry
Cllr J Terry
Cllr M H Thierry

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr S Nash, Town Clerk
Mrs J Hurd, Deputy Town Clerk

The Town Clerk reported that apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Wiseman, Cllr Stokes and Sam Whittingham (Student Advisor).

C/5630

PRESENTATION OF GRANT AID CHEQUES

The Town Mayor presented a cheque for £1,050 to Gale Gould of Forest Forge Theatre Company to support its work in the town.

She also presented a cheque for £1,000 to Denis Hann of Ringwood First Responders towards the cost of new life saving equipment. Mr Hann, who was in attendance with three other volunteers, was delighted to have the Council's support as the group was self-funding. He explained that, due to the NHS ambulance crews being so stretched, the First Responders provided a vital service to the community; he reported that they had attended 15 calls so far that week.

C/5631

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none declared at this time.

C/5632

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meeting held on 26th November 2014, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

C/5633

RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Cllr Terry presented the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 3rd December 2014.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 3rd December 2014 be received.

C/5634

PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Burgess-Kennar presented the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 5th December 2014.

P/5179: Cllr Heron was concerned that if the Council did not support parking restrictions in Castleman Way until alternative provision could be made, the current situation would remain for a long time as there was no plan for additional parking. He understood the concern about displacing parking to nearby residential streets, but was of the opinion that the safety concerns in Castleman Way needed to be addressed without delay. Cllr Thierry had received representation from residents in Waterloo Way, Charring Close etc. who were having difficulty exiting the estate. He suggested at the very least parking restrictions should be put in place opposite this junction to enable drivers to exit more safely.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 5th December 2014 be received.

C/5635

POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Cllr Heron presented the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 10th December 2014.

F/5195: Cllr Heron suggested an amendment to the public minute to reflect the fact that the second recommendation in the confidential report was not approved, and that a budgetary saving should be shown.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 10th December 2014 be received.

C/5636

CROW STREAM IMPROVEMENTS

Members received an update from the Deputy Town Clerk on outstanding issues related to the Crow Stream improvement works (*ANNEX A*).

Cllr Steele feared that all the good work that had been carried out by the Town Council would be unravelled if the outstanding works were not completed by Hampshire County Council. The works had been identified eight months previously and should now be carried out as a matter of urgency.

The Deputy Town Clerk referred to a response from the Highway Manager, stating that the three restrictions would all involve a degree of enforcement and would be addressed as quickly as possible. With regard to the collapsed roadside edges, the proposed sheet piling solution was not routine and it was necessary to find and engage a suitable contractor to carry out these works, which would provide an effective and lasting solution.

Members asked that Cllr Rippon-Swaine, as the County Councillor for Ringwood, follow up the outstanding works and report back to Council in January 2015. They also asked that the Town Clerk find out more about the enforcement process and how long this was likely to take.

RESOLVED: That an update on the outstanding works and enforcement action be provided to Council in January 2015

C/5637

COUNCIL BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2015/16

Members considered the Council's budget and Precept for 2015/16 (*F/5189 of Policy and Finance minutes dated 10th December 2014 refers*).

It was agreed that there should be no increase to the Precept and that a balanced budget be achieved. The budget would require further analysis before being approved.

RESOLVED: That a zero percent increase to the Precept be approved.

C/5638

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED

- 1) A letter had been received from the Leader of Hampshire County Council in response to concerns raised by the Town Council about the standard of work by sub-contractors.
- 2) Cllr O'Reilly was invited to report on an incident that had occurred the previous Friday. She had been walking on the outside of the pavement between Martin & Co and Framptons, when she was pulled back towards the building. A bus had been driving up the High Street tight to the kerb, with its wing mirror overhanging the pavement. This would have hit her in the head if it hadn't been for the quick action of passers-by. She called for action to be taken to prevent a similar incident occurring in the future.
- 3) The Town Mayor reported that two people had been injured in the market that week and she wished to see action taken to improve safety for pedestrians on market days, which could include closing the road to through traffic and turning the market stalls to face the pavement. She had spoken to the Town Clerk about this, and he would be meeting the market operator to look at health and safety issues. Members noted that this was something the Council had been trying to achieve for many years, and there were various aspects to consider, such as access for emergency vehicles, buses, businesses and residents and the layout of the market itself, including trade vehicles. The Town Clerk stated that he would be producing a report for consideration by Members.

C/5639

REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Councillor Rippon-Swaine was very pleased to report that the County Council had agreed to support The Place with funding of £400,000. He also reported that the Local Government Boundary Commission had announced it would be carrying out a boundary review in time for the May 2017 County Council elections.

District Councillor Heron was delighted to have the funding for The Place confirmed by the County Council, and he looked forward to breaking ground in the early part of 2015.

Cllrs Rippon-Swaine and Cllr Heron were thanked for their efforts in securing this funding and pushing the project forward.

C/5640

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	7.00pm	Wednesday 7 th January 2015
Planning, Town & Environment	10.00am	Friday 9 th January 2015
Policy & Finance	7.00pm	Wednesday 21 st January 2015
Full Council	7.00pm	Wednesday 28 th January 2015

There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 7.46pm.

APPROVED
28th January 2015

TOWN MAYOR

**REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL
17TH DECEMBER 2014
CROW STREAM IMPROVEMENTS – UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES**

1. The inaugural meeting of the Flood Action Working Party was held on 10th March 2014. At this meeting, it was agreed that Hampshire County Council (HCC), as the Lead Local Flood Authority responsible for flood risk management, would take the lead in developing and implementing a Management Plan for the Hightown and Crow area.
2. Following that meeting, on 17th March, a comprehensive report detailing requirements to restore the efficiency of the drainage system was forwarded to HCC. This was produced locally by Peter Street, following a walk of the stream with Cllrs Frampton and Steele, and Norman Light. On 26th March, it was drawn to the County Council's attention that some of the issues identified in the report were the direct responsibility of HCC.
3. Members will be aware that the Town Council successfully applied for the release of developers' contributions from New Forest District Council and awarded a contract to G Farwell Ltd for the stream widening and clearance. This work was carried out to a very high standard and was completed by the end of September as required under the terms of the contract.
4. A second meeting of the Flood Action Working Party was held on 13th October 2014. At this meeting, attention was drawn to the outstanding works, which had been identified in March, and were the responsibility of HCC. Three major restrictions had been identified, as follows:
 - i) Concrete restriction of culvert at Crow Farm
 - ii) Restriction under Bridge into Sabines Farm
 - iii) Restricted culvert under access to Solent Coaches and unauthorised parking area preventing widening of ditchThe need to repair collapsed roadside verges was again identified as urgent.
5. To date, there has been no resolution of the issues identified in paragraph 4 above. Verge markers were provided by HCC and installed by Peter Street and Norman Light alongside the collapsed verges. A sheet piling resolution is being progressed by HCC, and it is hoped that this will provide an effective and lasting solution when implemented. The three major restrictions will all involve a degree of enforcement and we are informed that they will be addressed as quickly as possible. It should however be noted that HCC was made aware of these restrictions in March, over eight months ago.
6. The work contracted out by the Town Council has been very well received and has made a notable difference to the flow of the stream. However, until the three major restrictions north of Crow Crossroads are removed, the drainage system will not function as effectively as it should and all the good work carried out under the contract awarded by the Town Council could be compromised. Likewise, until the collapsed roadside verges are repaired, there remains a risk to road users.

For further information, please contact:
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