

OPEN SESSION: There was one member of the public present, who did not wish to address the Council.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 16th December 2015 at 7.00pm

PRESENT: Cllr Michael Thierry, Town Mayor
Cllr Christine Ford, Deputy Town Mayor
Cllr Emma Blake
Cllr Andrew Briers
Cllr Philip Day
Cllr Jeremy Heron
Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine
Cllr Mark Steele
Cllr Christopher Treleaven
Cllr Tim Ward
Cllr Angela Wiseman

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Steve Nash, Town Clerk
Nicola Vodden, Meetings Administrator
Student Advisor, Millie Wells

C/5765 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Town Clerk reported that apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Deane, Cllr Murphy, Cllr Terry and Student Advisors, Sam Whittingham and Jade Wardle.

C/5766 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none declared at this time.

C/5767 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meeting held on 25th November 2015, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record

C/5768 RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Cllr Briers presented the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 2nd December 2015.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 2nd December 2015 be received.

C/5769 PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Treleaven presented the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 4th December 2015.

He provided an update in respect of item P/5258 and the licence application by Koh Thai. More information had become available, following the meeting, in relation to other premises licences in the town, and in the vicinity of Koh Thai, and the applicant had varied the extension time from 2am to 1am. He reported that following a lengthy discussion, a decision was made under delegated powers, by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, not to pursue the objection originally submitted.

Cllr Treleven commented that time would have been saved if more information had been available when the application was first considered and suggested that the Council obtain a list of licenced premises in Ringwood and the hours they are licensed for, to assist with future applications. Cllr Day indicated that there were a large number of establishments in town which did not necessarily open for as long as their license allowed, obtaining a list from NFDC may be problematic and offered assistance in providing information, as the need arose. The Town Clerk reported that he would be attending the next PubWatch meeting and suggested that a quicker route to getting the information may be to ask the licensees direct.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 4th December 2015 be received.

C/5770 POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Cllr Heron presented the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 9th December 2015. Cllr Ford indicated that she had given her apologies, in advance of the meeting, however this did not appear on the minutes.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 9th December 2015 be received.

C/5771 A338 – ROADWORKS – PHASE TWO ROAD LAYOUT

Councillors were asked to consider whether to make representations to the relevant authorities regarding the partial closure of the Ashley Heath roundabout from 4th January until 20th March 2016 (Full details can be viewed: <http://news.dorsetforyou.com/bournemouth-spur-road/2015/12/03/phase-two-road-layout/>)

Cllr Day reported that he had received an e-mail from Mr Rodger Bending and had received a number of responses on social media, in reaction to the proposals for the Ashley Heath roundabout, during Phase 2 and 3 of the rebuilding of the A338. Traffic approaching the roundabout in order to travel south on the A338 to Bournemouth, from the Horton Road and Ferndown directions, would be diverted east along the A31 to the Ringwood roundabout. All traffic wishing to go southbound on the A338 would approach from the westbound A31.

Cllr Day indicated that he had real concerns about the impact that this will have on Ringwood, as at peak times congestion is regularly backed up to Moortown and up the Salisbury Road and his view was that the diversion route would exacerbate the current situation as traffic heading out of Ringwood would have to give priority to the diverted traffic, making things considerably worse.

Cllr Rippon-Swaine explained that due to the need to access the northbound carriageway the purpose would be to smooth the flow of traffic and to ease the access onto the new contraflow. The proposals removed the need to give way at the roundabout and partially closing the roundabout would help to remove a blockage at that point.

Following further discussion, it was decided that a letter be written to the relevant authorities expressing the Council's concerns, in respect of the proposed partial closure of the Ashley Heath roundabout and the serious adverse effects resulting elsewhere, particularly on the Ringwood roundabout. The Council also request that the situation is fully reassessed to determine whether there are any improvements in the flow of traffic and, if concerns are realised and the situation deteriorates, that the authorities take action to reverse the effects without delay.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk prepare a draft letter to the relevant authorities, for approval by the Town Mayor, outlining the Council's concerns

C/5772 COMMUNICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED

The Town Mayor congratulated the Town Clerk, staff and everyone involved in the Christmas event on 5th December. He said it was a very, very fine day, which went supremely well. He also thanked the Councillors for manning the Town Council stand in the High Street.

The Mayor suggested that The Town Clerk might be asked to prepare a report for each Full Council meeting and asked members what they felt about this. Councillors considered that this was unwarranted, at this time, and that it might be contrary to the Local Government Act.

C/5773 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Councillor Heron informed the Council of the District Council's office, at Appletree Court, Christmas opening hours. He reported that a new Chief Executive had been appointed and that there would follow a review of the executive management team.

District Councillor Ford expressed her delight at Colin Reed being appointed as Deputy Chief Executive at NFDC. She also commented on the announcement in parliament regarding fracking.

County Councillor Rippon-Swaine reported:-

1) Hampshire County Council's budget would be reduced by £100 million between now and 2017. Household waste recycling centres would be looked at, with a saving of £1.2 million required in that department. It had been identified that 50% of users were Dorset residents and recharging Dorset County Council would possibly be considered.

2) In respect of the Boundary Commission's draft boundary proposals, there had been a change, in that it was now proposed that Burley would stay within the Lyndhurst division and Ringwood would include Ellingham, Ibsley, Harbridge and Hyde. These changes were being formulated and it was anticipated that this would be communicated on Monday 19th December.

District Councillor Steele reported:-

1) That the Corporate Plan was in the development stage

2) In respect of the proposed changes to boundaries, that representations will be made to NFDC on 8th January 2016. He asked the Planning Committee to form a view of boundary changes on behalf of the Town Council. He indicated that he had concerns and requested that divisions be reinstated and, if this were not to happen, that ward boundaries were respected

3) That the District Council were working on a review of the Local Plan 2016-2036 to take into consideration all of the government's proposals, including housing requirements, along with the District Council's own proposals.

C/5774

REPORTS FROM RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCILLORS

Cllr Treleaven reported that he had attended the meeting of the Ringwood Business Partnership on 10th December 2015, where there was a presentation from Ian Faulkner, Chairman of Wimborne Business Improvement District. Karl Caddick was appointed as Chairman and Jon Grant and Jim Stride were appointed as Deputy Chairmen. It was now for them to take the Partnership forward and he thanked the Town Clerk for all his efforts up to now. The Town Centre Working Party had achieved what it set out to do in promoting the partnership's existence and involving businesses in town and the business parks. The TCWP would be disbanded and representatives for the Town Council would be appointed at the next meeting of the Planning, Town and Environment Committee.

Cllr Wiseman reported that the lane between Ringwood Infants School and Kingsfield was water logged and requested that it be maintained.

Cllr Day highlighted that proposals for parking restrictions on Castleman Way and other roads in Ringwood had been advertised.

C/5775

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	7.00pm	Wednesday 6 th January 2016
Planning, Town & Environment	10.00am	Friday 8 th January 2016
Policy & Finance	7.00pm	Wednesday 20 th January 2016
Full Council	7.00pm	Wednesday 27 th January 2016

There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.10pm.

APPROVED

27th January 2016

TOWN MAYOR