

OPEN SESSION: There were four members of public present. Lowell Howson presented a cheque for £400 to the Council, which was raised by Campaign 4 Carvers Skate Park during a SPUD Day at Ringwood School. Members congratulated the young people for their fundraising efforts.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 28th January 2015 at 7.00pm

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr S Nash, Town Clerk
Mrs J Hurd, Deputy Town Clerk
Student Advisor Sam Whittingham

The Town Clerk reported that apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Burgess-Kennar, Cllr J Terry and Cllr M H Thierry.

C/5641

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none declared at this time.

C/5642

RINGWOOD IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

David Martin, Sewerage Planning Manager for Wessex Water, updated Members on the improvement scheme for Ringwood, and introduced Bruce McAuslane, the project manager for the scheme.

The options had now been evaluated and the recommended solution agreed. A report would shortly be available and circulated to Members when received. It was proposed to install new large volume storage upstream of the pumping station, sewers would be laid side by side 2-3m under the grass, which would absorb rainfall and pump to the treatment works. The rate of pumping to the treatment works would be increased by clearing out the rising main in order to take an increased flow from The Bickerley. This was a £1.5 million scheme, and would give a 20-year flood risk protection (currently this was less than one year). It was proposed to start work on site in September 2015, with an estimated completion date of February/March 2016. Investigative works were currently being undertaken, with trial holes in Kingsbury's Lane to locate services and on the Village Green to ascertain ground conditions. As part of the project, it would be necessary to take up the road in Kingsbury's Lane and across Bickerley Road at this point, but disruption would be kept to a minimum.

In addition, a further £1 million scheme would be carried out at the treatment works, in order for it to cope with the increased flow. This would, however, be dealt with as a separate project.

In response to a question from Cllr Wiseman, Mr Martin confirmed that the foul and combined sewers would not be affected by river levels. However, highway drainage would be affected, so there may continue to be some flooding from this source, albeit less frequently. Wessex Water was working closely with all local authorities on flood issues and it was possible that this “clean water” flooding would also be resolved at some stage in the future.

It was noted that the increased capacity of the treatment works would be sufficient to cope with new development in the town, including the Crow Lane development.

C/5643

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meeting held on 17th December 2014, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

C/5644

PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Steele presented the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 9th January 2015.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 9th January 2015 be received.

C/5645

POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Cllr Heron presented the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 21st January 2015.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 21st January 2015 be received.

C/5646

COUNCIL BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2015/16

Cllr Heron was pleased to report that the proposed final budget and Precept would result in no increase in Council Tax for a Band D property.

Members expressed their gratitude to the Responsible Finance Officer and other members of staff for helping to achieve this.

RESOLVED: That the final budget and Precept of £448,604 for 2015/16 be approved.

C/5647

CROW STREAM IMPROVEMENTS

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the Highways Manager and an Ordinary Watercourses officer had met on site before Christmas to consider the outstanding works. In respect of the major restrictions that had been identified, it was expected that the culvert at Crow Farm would require enforcement action but the other two restrictions at Sabines Farm and Solent Coaches could be dealt with as highways matters. However, it appeared that no action had yet been taken.

There was no update on the repair of the roadside verges. However, Cllr Frampton reported that Mr Bastow was having difficulties finding a contractor able to carry out the sheet piling solution that had been agreed.

It was noted that the County Council's contractor Amey had carried out some works at Crow crossroads earlier in the week. It appeared that there had been some misunderstanding of an explanation given by Cllr Frampton about the levels in the area, and the works that had been carried out were not necessary. Cllr Frampton had identified a gravel bank that required removal, but this had not been actioned.

Cllr Wiseman commented that the stream was now flowing beautifully and it looked very good.

RESOLVED: That Hampshire County Council be requested to carry out the works agreed with Cllr Frampton.

C/5648

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED

The Town Mayor reported on her attendance at the Women's Institute 100th Anniversary celebrations, a visit to the Stable Family Home Trust by HRH The Countess of Wessex and the laying up of the Standard of the Normandy Veterans Association (New Forest Branch).

The Town Mayor made the following statement:

"It is disappointing to have to relay to my fellow councillors that I had to give a reply to the press following Councillor Thierry's interview with Karen Bate (*Forest Journal*) publicly criticising the Mayor for her non-support of him following his unfortunate outburst at the last Council meeting.

I find this action extremely offensive and unprofessional from a fellow councillor.

In my reply to the press I commended Cllr Thierry as a very experienced and respected councillor, but his comment could not be condoned by this Council.

I am at a loss to understand why Councillor Thierry would wish to raise this faux pas again, and would seem only to try to discredit the Mayor.

I feel bullied by his comments to the press, but all I can say is that you cannot defend the undefendable; this woman is not for moving."

Cllr Ford explained that Cllr Thierry was unable to attend the meeting as he was visiting a relative who was unwell. She said that he had been upset by the Mayor's comments to the press, which had blown a slip of the tongue, for which he had apologised at the time and the situation had blown out of all proportion.

C/5649

REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Councillor Rippon-Swaine presented his written report (*Annex A*).

It was noted that works were due to start at the beginning of February on the shared pedestrian/cycle route and parking to accommodate displaced vehicles in Christchurch Road, near Willow Drive. Cllr Wiseman asked if there was to be any coordination with the ongoing works on the new roundabout at the entrance to the Wellworthy site. Cllr Heron explained that

if any safety issues did arise, these should be reported to the District Council and would be dealt with at the time.

District Councillor Ford reported that Cllr Frampton had been welcomed as a newly elected District Councillor at a recent Conservative group meeting.

District Councillor Heron reported that papers were now available for the February Cabinet meeting, and included a report on Community Infrastructure Levy.

C/5649

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	7.00pm	Wednesday 4 th February 2015
Planning, Town and Environment	10.00am	Friday 6 th February 2015
Policy & Finance	7.00pm	Wednesday 18 th February 2015
Full Council	7.00pm	Wednesday 25 th February 2015

There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 7.45pm.

APPROVED

25th February 2015

TOWN MAYOR

RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

28th January 2015

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

HAMPSHIRE HIGHWAYS WEST – January 2015.

Traffic Management Schemes 2014-2015 – (County Traffic Management Programme)

- i Crow Hill Area, Ringwood – speed limit review and traffic management measures. Improvements to signing and road markings to draw driver awareness to equestrians and cyclists to be developed. Funding available through NPA managed grant to support cycling. Speed limit review concludes that environment and traffic speeds not suited to 30mph speed limit.
- i Linford Road – review speed limit for an extension of the 30 mph past the Church Hall. Requires DfT approval. Blanket approval being sought through New Forest Zone review project. Proposals being developed whilst waiting on response from DfT. With engineer to be progressed.
- i Review of New Forest 40 mph Zone and 30 mph speed limits for the purpose of progressing a blanket DfT authorisation to cover wide area. Mapping proposed, for areas that are or potentially may be marked using roundels rather than repeater signs, being completed. Application submitted to DfT but consideration by DfT delayed due to resource and TSRGD update. Expected completion Spring 2015.

Traffic Management Programme 2013-2014 – Agency Programme (NFDC)

- i Southampton Road adjacent Carvers – cycle route and measures to better manage parking. Detailed design agreed, funding allocated and being programmed. Plan of cycle network at:-
<http://www.newforest.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=10737>
- i Christchurch Road near Willow Drive – Environmental Enhancements – Further work to earth bund undertaken. Work is to deter parking on northern section of verge (material from another scheme at no cost). Further public consultation meant plans on hold. Plan at
<http://www.newforest.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=10737>

HCC HIGHWAYS WEST MANAGEMENT – Crow Stream.

- i **Current obstructions:** i) concrete restriction of culvert at Crow Farm, ii) restriction under bridge into Sabines Farm & iii) restricted culvert under access to Solent Coaches & unauthorised parking area.
- i Crow Farm will be dealt with by HCC, but may require enforcement.
- i Sabines Farm's bridge will be cleared by HCC shortly.
- i Solent Coaches will be requested by HCC to make changes to comply, but may require enforcement.
- i Process of Enforcement proceeds if an initial request to rectify is ignored. HCC Legal Dept. is then instructed to issue a Formal Notice, usually with a 28 day limit to respond. If no response, then Court Proceedings will ensue, depending on Court Schedules.

A

HCC ADULT SOCIAL CARE & PUBLIC HEALTH

- i HCC Care at Home is the new service providing care and support in people's own homes to older people and physically disabled, plus 'Take a Break' service for carers.
- i Replaces Preferred Provider Panel from August 2015.
- i Introduction of standard hourly rate for care & support services across County to ensure quality not price the reason to choose a provider.
- i Providers committed to pay in excess of living wage.
- i Staged roll-out of the service between February and August 2015.
- i Service Users with concerns should contact 0845 603 5630.
- i Launch of 'Care Marketing Campaign' to encourage more people to consider a career in care.
- i From 19th January 2015, 'Change Lives' campaign in the Media or visit www.hants.gov.uk/changelives.

HCC HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES – Hours of Opening.

- i Current Hours: 8am – 4pm 1 October – 28 February
8am - 5pm 1 March – 31 March
8am - 7pm 1 April – 30 September
- i After public consultation : 37% wanted later morning opening
- i Recommendation: Winter (1 October – 28 February) – 9am – 4pm
Summer (1 March – 30 September) – 9am – 6pm.

HCC BUDGET 2015-2016 – EXPENDITURE (£1.9 billion).

- i Schools - £732m : Adult Social Care - £442m : Children's Services - £281m : Highways/Transport/ Waste Management - £138m : Culture, Communities & Other Services - £137m.

HCC BUDGET 2015-2016 – FUNDING.

- i Schools - £732m : Council Tax - £497m : Fees & Charges - £240m
Revenue Support Grant - £141m : Other Specific Grants - £86m : Top Up - £64m : Business Rates - £42m : Reserves - £90m.
- i **COUNCIL TAX 2015-2016 FROZEN for 5th year.**

HCC COUNCILLOR MEETINGS – January 2015.

- i 5th Jan – Forest Forge Theatre Co. Board Meeting.
- i 15th Jan – HCC Conservative Group Meeting.
- i 20th Jan – HCC Environment Transport & Economy Select Committee.
- i 22nd Jan – Sopley Parish Council Meeting.
- i 27th Jan – HCC Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee.

W Steve Rippon-Swaine FRICS DipGS
Hampshire County Councillor