

OPEN SESSION: There were about 20 members of public present; all were in attendance for items on the agenda. Rae Frederick asked for an update on the new skate park. She was very disappointed that planning permission had not yet been granted, especially as the young people had worked so hard to raise funds. The Town Mayor congratulated the young people, on behalf of the Council, for their magnificent achievement in working together to raise what was a very valuable contribution. With regards to the planning application, he was expecting a favourable decision from New Forest District Council within the next 10 days, and would ensure that the young people were kept informed of progress. On behalf of the Campaign 4 Carvers Skate Park group, Rae Frederick presented a cheque for £400 to the Town Mayor towards the cost of the new skate park. This money had been given to the group for work carried out at Fanfare for Spring.

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL**

Held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at 7.00pm

PRESENT: Cllr Michael Thierry, Town Mayor  
Cllr Emma Blake  
Cllr Andrew Briers  
Cllr Philip Day  
Cllr Debee Deane  
Cllr Jeremy Heron  
Cllr Anne Murphy  
Cllr Mark Steele  
Cllr Jacqui Terry  
Cllr Tim Ward  
Cllr Angela Wiseman

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr S Nash, Town Clerk  
Mrs J Hurd, Deputy Town Clerk  
Helen Short, Information Officer (for allotment competition prizegiving)  
Student Advisors:- Sam Whittingham, Jade Wardle, Natasha Doe & Bella Rix

### **C/5720 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

*The Town Clerk reported that apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Ford, Cllr Rippon-Swaine and Cllr Treleaven.*

### **C/5721 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none declared at this time.

### **C/5722 PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF MERIT**

The Town Mayor presented Certificates of Merit to Dr Peter Street and Mr Norman Light in recognition of the support they had both given to the Crow Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme. Their local knowledge, commitment and enthusiasm had been a driving force in ensuring the works were carried out to such a high standard.

Dr Peter Street said that they had been delighted to have been involved and wished to thank all the other residents who had given such tremendous help. He also wished to thank the Town Council for having the confidence to commit the funds and particularly the Deputy Town

Clerk for her ongoing support. He hoped that the works would make a significant impact on flooding in the area; the capacity of the stream had been increased and it was now an attractive amenity and a haven for wildlife. However, the job was not yet finished as Hampshire County Council had yet to carry out works that had been previously agreed. He recommended that funds should be passed down to the Town Council as they could be used far more efficiently and effectively with the use of local contractors and the benefit of local knowledge. This scheme had shown that local residents were happy to help where they could and was a wonderful example of community involvement.

### **C/5723**

#### **PRESENTATION OF GRANT AID CHEQUES**

The Town Mayor presented a grant aid cheque of £900 to Mr Jim Sanders, Manager of the Ringwood Citizens Advice Bureau, towards the cost of running the service.

A cheque for £500 was presented to Rae Frederick of Ringwood Events Committee towards the cost of providing a firework display for the town on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November.

### **C/5724**

#### **ALLOTMENT COMPETITION 2015**

The Town Mayor thanked Ringwood Gardening Club for carrying out the judging and introduced the Club's Chairman, Mr Robin Atack.

Mr Atack reported that he and his 3 fellow judges had enjoyed the task of judging the allotments and had seen high standards on all sites, with the overall winner being exceptional. He said that for some tenants, their plot was an oasis of calm and brought benefits beyond their productive capacity. This however could not be taken into consideration as the judging criteria had to have tangible and visible markers.

Cllr Andy Briers, Chairman of Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee, announced the winners and presented prizes as follows:

#### Upper Kingston

1 <sup>st</sup>	Mr Aubrey Adams	Plot UK23
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mr & Mrs Shields	Plot UK10A

#### Southampton Road

1 <sup>st</sup>	Mr A Robinson	Plot SR1
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mr & Mrs Bateman	Plot SR19

#### Hightown Road

1 <sup>st</sup>	Mr Michael Gubbins	Plot HR18
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mr Neil Evans	Plot HR3

#### Mini Plots

1 <sup>st</sup>	Mr & Mrs B Sutton	Plot SR10D
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mr K Brewer	Plot HRM6

#### Overall Winner

	Mr Michael Gubbins	Plot HR18
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**C/5725**

**APPROVAL OF STUDENT ADVISORS**

**RESOLVED:** That Ringwood School's nominations for Student Advisors for 2015-2016 be approved, as follows:

Policy and Finance Committee - Sam Whittingham, Jade Wardle

Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee - Natasha Doe, Bella Rix

Planning, Town and Environment Committee - Millie Wells, Rosie Mabb

**C/5726**

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2015, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

**C/5727**

**RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

Cllr Briers presented the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015.

OS/5558: Cllr Heron noted that the fireworks display was being organised by the newly established Ringwood Events Committee, which was independent of the Council. He was concerned that the Council had made no charge for the hire of Carvers Recreation Ground and hoped that this would not set a precedent. It was noted that Carnival and the Family Fun Day were not charged for use of The Bickerley, although these were free events and the Events Committee would be charging £1 entrance. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Events Committee would cover the cost of all expenses relating to the event, including the clean up afterwards.

OS/5556: Cllr Steele asked why the Wessex Water Flood Alleviation Scheme had been considered by the Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee and not the Planning, Town & Environment Committee. The Deputy Town Clerk explained that it was a matter of timing and all members had been invited to attend the meeting. If Members have any concerns about the work in progress on The Bickerley, they should contact the Deputy Town Clerk who has an open channel of communication with Wessex Water.

OS/5559: Cllr Wiseman added that she had expressed concern about the point where the existing bridleway meets Barrack Lane. Cllr Heron mentioned the site where the railway bridge had been removed near Bagnum and the need to find a way to cross this. Cllr Wiseman was sure a solution could be found if it was possible to get landowners consent and proceed with the project.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 be received.

**C/5728**

**PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr Ward presented the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meetings held on 7<sup>th</sup> August and 4<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meetings held on 7<sup>th</sup> August and 4<sup>th</sup> September 2015 be received, with the exception of

the recommendation at P/5234, which was to be considered later in the meeting.

**C/5729**  
**POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Cllr Heron presented the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015 be received, with the exception of the recommendations at F/5257 and F/5260, which were to be considered later in the meeting.

**C/5730**  
**OUTSTANDING FLOOD ALLEVIATION WORKS**

Members considered a recommendation from the Planning, Town and Environment Committee (P/5234 refers); i) To make the Council aware of the lack of progress with flood alleviation works previously agreed with Hampshire County Council and; ii) To consider inviting Richard Bastow, Highways Manager, Tim Lawton, Head of Highways and the County Councillor to a meeting to progress the outstanding flood alleviation issues.

Members were concerned that a lot of hard work had been carried out locally, but yet Hampshire County Council had not honoured its commitment to other agreed works. In addition, communication was very poor and works that were felt unnecessary locally had been carried out without consultation.

**RESOLVED:** That Tim Lawton, Head of Highways, and Richard Bastow, Highways Manager, be invited to attend the next Full Council meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> October to update Members of outstanding works.

<b>ACTION</b> J Hurd
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**C/5731**  
**LAND PURCHASE**

Members considered a recommendation from the Policy and Finance Committee (F/5257 refers), that the land known as Bernie Guy Field be acquired at the cost of £250,000, by applying £62,500 from Ringwood Town Council reserves and borrowing £187,500 from the Public Works Loan Board over 25 years (*Annex A*).

It was noted that the Council had previously agreed to purchase the land, and it was now a matter of agreeing the method of financing the purchase.

Cllr Ward, as a new Member of the Council, asked how the purchase price had been determined. Cllr Heron explained that the Council had tried to negotiate with a number of landowners in the area but only one had been willing to sell. An independent valuation had been carried out and the District Valuer had agreed the price was fair value, and in fact below the level of similar land sold recently.

**RESOLVED:** That the purchase price of the land known as Bernie Guy Field be financed by applying £62,500 from the Council's Reserves and borrowing £187,500 from the Public works Loan Board over a 25-year period.

<b>ACTION</b> S Nash/R Fitzgerald
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## **C/5732**

### **COMMUNICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED**

The Town Mayor wished to seek Members' views on the Town Council playing an active role in helping refugees from Syria. As the Government had committed to taking 20,000 refugees by 2020, funds were available to facilitate this and it might be possible for the Council to bring a family into the town, without any burden on taxpayers. He felt that the community had the means, ability and compassion to make a difference to at least one family.

Some Members, whilst sympathetic to the plight of the refugees, felt that there were many people in this country that were in dire circumstances and also needed help.

The Student Advisors were passionate about the need to help and said that the refugees are coming from complete devastation, they have nothing and nowhere to go. If the Town Council were to act, this could be a building block for all town councils across the country to also take a family.

It was agreed that this was a serious issue that should be fully considered by the Council and the Town Clerk was asked to bring a full report to a future meeting.

## **C/5733**

### **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

County Councillor Rippon-Swaine had given his apologies for the meeting. He had however asked that thanks be given to Dr Peter Street for his excellent help on progressing the outstanding issues on Crow Stream, and to the Deputy Town Clerk for her work in trying to resolve parking issues in Castleman Way and the adjacent industrial estate roads.

District Councillor Heron reported that Hampshire Fire and Rescue was currently carrying out a consultation on the future of its regional fire service. He was concerned that they were looking at a reduction in service and this could leave the town exposed – he therefore asked that the Town Council respond to the consultation.

## **C/5734**

### **REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Blake reported that Forest Forge Theatre Company was currently undertaking a major fundraising effort. They were now hiring out their fantastic facility and offering office space to arts related businesses. They were experiencing problems with their broadband connection and Cllr Blake was endeavouring to assist using her contacts within the industry.

Cllr Steele reported that he would be attending the Hampshire Association of Local Councils AGM on 10<sup>th</sup> October.

Cllr Day said that, following recent controversy on social media, he hoped that the Town Council would continue to show support to the Carnival in the future.

## **C/5735**

### **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

Planning, Town & Environment	10.00am	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2015
Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	7.00pm	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> October 2015
Policy & Finance	7.00pm	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2015
Full Council	7.00pm	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> October 2015

**C/5736**

**EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**RESOLVED:** That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw (*Confidential Annex B*).

**C/5737**

**COMMUNITY INTEREST ORGANISATION- THE PLACE**

Members considered a recommendation from the Policy and Finance Committee in relation to 'The Place' (F/5260 refers) (*Confidential Annex C*).

**RESOLVED:** That a sum of £20,585 be earmarked from Reserves to be used against any potential final costs for this project.

<b>ACTION S Nash/R Fitzgerald</b>
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There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.42pm.

APPROVED

28<sup>th</sup> October 2015

TOWN MAYOR

**POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE – 16<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015**  
**PWLB BORROWING PROPOSAL**

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1** The Town Council currently leases an area of land at Long Lane, known as the Bernie Guy field, adjacent to the RTC playing fields. The land is currently marked out and used for football.
- 1.2** The Town Council aims to acquire this land and ultimately provide an all weather training facility for which there is identified demand.
- 1.3** The land has been offered to the Town Council for £250,000 and it is proposed that the purchase be financed through borrowing from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB).

**2. Financial Implications**

- 2.1** The Town Council currently pays £1,400 per annum for the use of the field. This sum is recovered in fees and charges levied on football teams, primarily Ringwood Town Football Club. There is also some ad-hoc hiring of the football pitches.
- 2.2** The PWLB have confirmed that the Town Council may borrow up to £250,000 to acquire this land. It is proposed that any subsequent development be funded through the use of section 106 receipts.
- 2.3** Funds may be borrowed with repayments spread from two to fifty years. The following table provides indicative costs for fixed term annuity loans:

<b>Term Years</b>	<b>Interest Rate</b>	<b>Annual Repayment</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>2.32%</b>	<b>£ 28,156.12</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>2.68%</b>	<b>£ 20,350.46</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>3.14%</b>	<b>£ 14,507.76</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>3.32%</b>	<b>£ 13,224.70</b>

- 2.4** The annual cost of borrowing would therefore be in the range £11,824 to £26,756 once the savings in rent, otherwise payable, have been taken into account. This sum could be reduced if some of the initial cost were met from reserves. Any reduction in loan costs will be proportional to the reduction in the principal borrowed, i.e. the interest rate is not dependent on the size of the loan. The balance on reserves at the 31<sup>st</sup> march 2015 was £377,593.
- 2.5** The football club has indicated that it will be prepared to pay additional fees for increased access to an all weather training and playing facility. Such a facility would increase availability because there is minimal damage in use. Two additional sessions per day, at £38 per booking, would generate over £27,000 per annum.

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- 2.6** If all of the cost of the loan were to be met by the Council Taxpayers of Ringwood, the impact on the precept would be in the range £2.32 to £5.25 per annum.

## **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1** That Members consider whether to proceed with acquisition of the land known as Bernie Guy Field for £250,000.
- 4.2** That Members decide the sum to be applied from reserves in order to reduce the amount of borrowing required.
- 4.3** That members determine the period over which any such funds be borrowed.

For any further information, please contact:

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Town Clerk  
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