

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 15th May 2019 at 7.00pm at Ringwood Gateway, The Furlong, Ringwood.

PRESENT: Cllr Andy Briers
Cllr Philip Day
Cllr Hilary Edge
Cllr Christine Ford
Cllr Rae Frederick
Cllr John Haywood
Cllr Jeremy Heron
Cllr Peter Kelleher
Cllr Darren Loose
Cllr Tony Ring
Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Chris Wilkins, Town Clerk
Mrs Jo Hurd, Deputy Town Clerk
Nicola Vodden, Meetings Administrator
Tom Weetman, Student Advisors
Cllr Michael Thierry, County and District Councillor

ABSENT: Cllr Gareth Deboos
Cllr Gloria O'Reilly
Cllr Glenys Turner

There were 6 members of the public present. There is no public participation at the Annual Meeting.

Cllr Ring, took the Chair for the first matter on the agenda.

C/6296 ELECTION OF THE TOWN MAYOR

Cllr Ring was nominated for Town Mayor, proposed by Cllr Day and seconded by Cllr Ford. There were no other nominations. Cllr Ring was duly elected as Town Mayor. He said that it was a privilege and an honour to take on the role for a second year.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Ring be elected as Town Mayor for the ensuing year.

Cllr Ring took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

C/6297 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTENCE OF OFFICE BY THE TOWN MAYOR

Cllr Ring read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Town Clerk.

C/6298 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Town Clerk reported that apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Deboos, O'Reilly and Turner.

**C/6299
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**C/6300
DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTENCE OF OFFICE (BY COUNCILLORS)**

The Town Clerk reported that all Councillors had signed their Declaration of Office certificates.

**C/6301
APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR**

Cllr Day was nominated for Deputy Town Mayor, proposed by Cllr Rippon-Swaine and seconded by Cllr Heron. There were no other nominations. Cllr Day was duly appointed as Deputy Town Mayor.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Day be appointed as Deputy Town Mayor for the ensuing year.

**C/6302
DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY THE DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR**

Cllr Day read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Town Clerk. The Mayor congratulated him on his appointment and thanked him for his invaluable support.

**C/6303
COMMITTEE AND WORKING PARTY MEMBERSHIP**

Members considered the appointment of members to Standing Committees and Working Party. Standing Orders provide for Councillors to be appointed for a four year period (2019 to 2023), subject to amendments being possible at each Annual Meeting.

- RESOLVED:**
- 1) That that following Members be appointed to the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee for the remainder of period of office: Cllrs Briers, Day, Deboos, Edge, Frederick, Loose, Haywood, Kelleher, O'Reilly, Ring and Turner;
 - 2) That the following Members be appointed to the Planning, Town and Environment Committee for the remainder of period of office: Cllrs Briers, Day, Deboos, Edge, Ford, Frederick, Kelleher, Loose, O'Reilly, Ring and Turner;
 - 3) That the following Members be appointed to the Staffing Committee for the remainder of period of office: Town Mayor, Chairman of Policy and Finance Committee, Cllrs Day, Haywood and O'Reilly;and
 - 4) That Cllrs Day, Heron and Ring be appointed to the Standing Orders Working Party.

**C/6304
ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING**

At 7.16pm, it was

RESOLVED: That the meeting be adjourned until the end of the individual meetings of Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee and Planning, Town & Environment Committee, in order to allow Members to elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman and make appointments to sub-committees and working parties.

On resumption of the meeting, at 7.27pm:

**C/6305
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Meetings of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee and the Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee had been held during the adjournment.

At the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee, Cllr Briers was elected as Chairman and Cllr Loose elected as Deputy Chairman.

At the Planning, Town and Environment Committee, Cllr Day was elected as Chairman and Cllr Frederick elected as Deputy Chairman.

The Chairmen of both Committees were automatically appointed to the Policy & Finance Committee, along with the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor. The other vacancies were filled by those Members who had expressed an interest in being appointed to the Policy and Finance Committee.

- RESOLVED:**
- 1) That the following Members be appointed to the Policy and Finance Committee for the remainder of period of office: Cllrs Briers, Day, Ford, Haywood, Heron, Kelleher, O'Reilly, Ring and Rippon-Swaine; and
 - 2) That the updated list of membership of committees be noted (*Annex A*).

**C/6306
ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING**

At 7.29pm, it was

RESOLVED: That the meeting be adjourned until the end of the meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee, in order to allow the Members to elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman

On resumption of the meeting at 7.31pm:

At the Policy and Finance Committee meeting, during the adjournment, Cllr Heron was elected as Chairman and Cllr Rippon-Swaine elected as Vice Chairman.

**C/6307
MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meeting held on 24th April 2019, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

**C/6308
REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members had been asked to express an interest in appointments to Outside Bodies prior to the meeting and representatives were confirmed at the meeting.

The Town Clerk requested that Members review the requirement for representation on a number of bodies, as it was unclear to officers, what meetings were held and attended. Members put forward reasons to retain appointments to the 'Gateway Project Board' and 'Ringwood United Charities' and this was agreed.

It was also suggested that it would be more appropriate for the Policy and Finance Committee to review the accounts of Ringwood United Charities, when they are available and submitted to the Council.

RESOLVED: 1) That Members be appointed as representatives on Outside Bodies as shown in *Annex B*, for the remainder of the period of office;
2) That appointment of Flood Wardens be deferred to the next meeting of the Planning, Town and Environment Committee;
3) That appointment to Ringwood Twinning Association be deferred until after its AGM on 20th June 2019; and
4) That there no longer be Council appointed representation on certain bodies as shown in *Annex B*.

C/6308

PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Day presented the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 26th April 2019. He thanked the outgoing Chairman Cllr Chris Treleaven and Vice Chairman Cllr Tim Ward for their sterling efforts.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meeting held on 26th April 2019 be received.

C/6309

GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

The Town Clerk explained the benefit of this declaration (which should be repeated periodically), the possible restrictions on the Council activities if it were not in place and how the Council satisfies the required criteria.

RESOLVED: That the Council meets the conditions, conferred by the Localism Act 2011, for eligibility for the general power of competence.

ACTION C Wilkins

C/6310

DELEGATION OF ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REVIEWS

The Town Clerk explained that each year an annual governance statement is prepared and, although the Council will ratify the final document, it is customary to delegate the preparation and review of that document to the Policy and Finance Committee.

He reported that the internal audit took place last week and he expected the return to be presented to Policy and Finance Committee at its next meeting.



RESOLVED: That reviews of the Annual Governance Statement be delegated to the Policy and Finance Committee.

ACTION C Wilkins

**C/6311
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Members were asked to consider a motion that had been deferred at the Full Council meeting on 28th November 2018 (*C/6227 refers*), until the first meeting of the new Council, following the elections. It was noted that there had been a decision, at that time, to amend the motion to read as follows:-

Provided that this motion is decided by a simple majority, that the Council implements its previous decision (*C/6198 refers*) to proceed towards adopting a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) by:

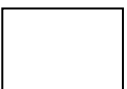
- (i) Instructing the Clerk to prepare draft terms of reference for consultants to prepare an initial report and to advise generally (such draft to be considered at the next available meeting of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee); and
- (ii) Approving the use of the existing budget for the engagement of consultants on such terms as are approved (effectively limiting the immediate financial commitment to £3,000).

Members agreed that the question of pursuing a Neighbourhood Plan is a very important issue and, as such, requires consideration of all factors involved and sufficient time for a full debate. Taking into account the length of the annual meeting agenda and to allow the newly elected Councillors to become acquainted with the considerations surrounding a Neighbourhood Plan, it was agreed that the matter be deferred to another date and a special meeting of the Full Council be scheduled for that purpose alone.

Some felt that the presentation received from consultants had been helpful and should be repeated, although it was acknowledged that this had focused more on the benefits of a NP. Members agreed that a more balanced approach should be adopted. It was suggested that possibly the Head of Planning at NFDC could also be invited to attend the meeting and share their knowledge of the process, timelines and costs involved. They may also be able to provide information on any pitfalls experienced by other Town and Parish Councils who had Neighbourhood Plans in place (or were in the process of implementing one).

RESOLVED: 1) That consideration of the motion relating to a Neighbourhood Plan be deferred to a date to be arranged, for a special meeting of the Full Council, for this purpose alone;
2) That consultants be invited to attend that meeting to provide a presentation, at no cost to the Council; and
3) That efforts are made to secure the attendance of another speaker to give an alternative view of the Neighbourhood Planning process.

ACTION C Wilkins



**C/6312
COMMUNICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED**

The Town Mayor reported the following:

- Fanfare for Spring on 18th May will commence in the Gateway Square at 10:30am and he invited Members to attend this event which benefits the town.
- The Twinning Association is hosting visitors from Pont-Audemer from Thursday 30th May. On Friday 31st there will be a tree planting ceremony at Quaker Court. A procession will leave the Gateway Square at 9:30am. There will follow a civic reception in the Forest Suite at 1pm. Members are invited to attend. There is expected to be a reciprocal visit in 2020, which will also mark the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the end of the war.
- There had been some discussions in respect of litter problems in the town and over 250 volunteers have joined a group, with a view to organising periodic litter picks. Some support from the Council may be requested in the future.

**C/6313
REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS AND STUDENT ADVISORS**

Cllr Day congratulated Town Councillors who had also been elected to the District Council.

Tom Weetman, Student Advisor congratulated the councillors on their success at the recent elections. He thanked them for the opportunity to be a Student Advisor and indicated that it would be the last meeting that he could attend due to exams and future employment.

Members thanked Tom for his contribution at Council meetings and wished him well for the future.

**C/6314
REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

County Councillor Thierry provided a written report (*Annex C*).

**C/6315
FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	7.00pm	Wednesday 5 th June 2019
Planning, Town & Environment	10.00am	Friday 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 8.32pm.

APPROVED
26th June 2019

TOWN MAYOR



	RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL				
	COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2019-20 (from 15/5/19)				
	FULL COUNCIL	PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT	RECREATION, LEISURE & OPEN SPACES	POLICY & FINANCE	STAFFING COMMITTEE
Chairman	Cllr Tony Ring	Philip Day	Andy Briers	Jeremy Heron	
Vice Chairman	Cllr Philip Day	Rae Frederick	Darren Loose	Steve Rippon-Swaine	
Members & Ex officio Members (NB Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor are entitled to be ex officio members of all committees)	Cllr Andrew Briers Cllr Gareth Deboos Cllr Hilary Edge Cllr Christine Ford Cllr Rae Frederick Cllr John Haywood Cllr Jeremy Heron Cllr Peter Kelleher Cllr Darren Loose Cllr Gloria O'Reilly Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine Cllr Glenys Turner	Cllr Andy Briers Cllr Gareth Deboos Cllr Hilary Edge Cllr Christine Ford Cllr Peter Kelleher Cllr Darren Loose Cllr Gloria O'Reilly Cllr Tony Ring Cllr Glenys Turner	Cllr Philip Day Cllr Gareth Deboos Cllr Hilary Edge Cllr Rae Frederick Cllr John Haywood Cllr Peter Kelleher Cllr Gloria O'Reilly Cllr Tony Ring Cllr Glenys Turner	Cllr Andy Briers Cllr Philip Day Cllr Christine Ford Cllr John Haywood Cllr Peter Kelleher Cllr Gloria O'Reilly Cllr Tony Ring	Town Mayor Chairman of P+F Cllr Philip Day Cllr John Haywood Cllr Gloria O'Reilly
Ex-Officio Members					
Student Advisors	Tom Weetman Finn Rowden	Sophie Emery Accalia Smith	Imogen Lines-Clarke Alana Morris	Oliver Magor Jonathan Skirton Tom Weetman	

ORGANISATION / POSITION	Representative	COMMENTS
New Forest Association of Local Councils (NFALC)	Cllr Christine Ford Cllr John Haywood	Two councillors needed. Representatives from every town and parish council in New Forest district are invited to meet quarterly to consider reports from NFDC and NFNPA and other issues of mutual interest
Flood Wardens	Cllr O'Reilly 1 further required. Deferred to PTE 7 June 19	Two councillors needed to join two co-opted volunteers: Norman Light and Peter Street. Invited to attend meetings of the Flood Action Working Party, held as required (but not usually more than twice a year)
Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC)	Cllr John Haywood	One councillor needed. Representatives from every town and parish council in Hampshire are invited to meet annually to consider issues of mutual interest
New Forest Consultative Panel	Cllr John Haywood	One councillor needed
New Forest National Park Authority - South West Quadrant	Cllr Gareth Deboos	One councillor needed Representatives from every town and parish council in the SW quadrant of the National Park are invited to meet quarterly to consider relevant National Park issues and initiatives
Ringwood Twinning Association	Cllr Tony Ring 2 others required. Deferred until after the Twinning Association AGM on 20Jun19	The Mayor is President <i>ex officio</i> Two other councillors are needed. Organizes exchange visits and fund-raising.
A31 Development meeting/forum	Cllr Philip Day Cllr Tony Ring	Town Mayor and Chairman of PT&E represent the Town Council at meetings with Highways England to consider issues relating to the A31 Improvement Scheme. District and County Councillors also attend.
The Ringwood Society	Cllr Rae Frederick Cllr Glenys Turner	Two councillors needed. Monthly meetings to monitor planning applications and discuss local development issues.

B

Tree Warden	Cllr Glenys Turner	One councillor needed. Works with Town Clerk and other staff on tree management issues especially those involving members of the public.
Western Escarpment Conservation Area Steering Group	Cllr Gareth Deboos	One councillor needed. Representatives from every town and parish council in this Conservation Area on the edge of the National Park are invited to meet quarterly to consider relevant National Park issues and initiatives
Gateway Project Board	Cllr Andy Briers	One councillor appointed. Last recorded meeting in Jan. 2017.
Ringwood United Charities	Cllr John Haywood Cllr Jeremy Heron Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine	Three councillors have been appointed but their status is unclear. If they are trustees, it is doubtful this is a valid appointment procedure. If financial oversight is still needed, would the annual report to the Town Assembly and/or the P&F committee suffice?

It was determined at the Annual meeting on 15 th May 2019 that there would no longer be Council representatives appointed to the following bodies:-		
Blashford Lakes Consultative Forum		Forum for all interested parties to discuss issues related to the management of Blashford Lakes complex.
Community First New Forest		
Forest Forge Theatre Company		
Parish Public Transport Representative		RTC is rarely represented at meetings in practice.
Ringwood & District Community Association		
Ringwood Traffic Management Issues (Informal Local Members Liaison Meeting)		No meetings for four years. Officers suggest councillors be invited if and when necessary.
Syrian Refugee Relocation Working Party*		No record of meeting since 2016/17
WW1 Centenary Working Party*		No record of meeting recently.

* These working parties were formed by and/or include members from other organisations and should not be confused with working parties established by this council (which usually include only councillors and officers).

County Councillor's May report (Michael Thierry)

New County Leader

Cllr Keith Mans, who represents the Brockenhurst area on the county has been elected the new leader of Hampshire County Council, replacing Cllr Roy Perry who has retired.

Ringwood Division

I am currently dealing with a number of highways issues. The A338 and West Street both featuring. My attention has been drawn to trees in Gorley Road and possible development without county permission within the division.

Hampshire County Council information

Below some up-to-date information on the county will be of interest to council members.

Background

Hampshire's population is 1,370,700 (2017) the third most populous county in England (85% is rural and 15% urban). 123,000 live in the Winchester District. Hampshire CC maintains 5400 miles of roads, 4300 miles pavements, 133,000 streetlights, 481 schools, 45 libraries, 16 care homes for older people, 9 residential homes for children and young people, 24 Household Waste Centres and 5 Country Parks. Every year 94% of all household waste is diverted from landfill (40% recycled) and powers 50,000 homes. Hampshire has an 80% employment rate (UKA 73.9%) and 3.5% unemployment rate (UKA 5%).

Budget

The population of over 75 year olds will rise by 30 per cent over the next seven years - an extra 5,500 people a year who may well need social care support, to varying degrees. The 2.99% increase in Hampshire's council tax will generate an additional £18 million. HCC council tax remains the 2nd lowest in England.

HCC's capital programme is a significant investment in Hampshire's infrastructure, delivering schemes totalling £491.6 million between 2019 and 2022 and providing a boost for the local economy:

- £160 million of investment in new and extended school buildings in Hampshire in the period 2019/20 to 2021/22 to ensure there is a school place for every child in Hampshire
- £122 million for structural maintenance and improvement of roads and bridges in Hampshire over the next three years
- £72 million for integrated transport schemes including £9 million specifically focused on walking and cycling improvements
- £94 million for major improvement of school and other County Council buildings over the next three years.

Road Maintenance and Operation Resilience

Over 5300 miles of road are maintained by HCC. £10m is invested annually on planned maintenance on top of government funding. The first of Hampshire's brand new Dragon Patchers has arrived to help repair the county's roads, damaged by the winter weather. The County Council has bought two Dragon Patchers for exclusive use in Hampshire

Sites of road works and road maintenance are listed on the HCC website where problems can also be reported:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance>

Contacting Ringwood County Councillor

For further details please contact Michael Thierry 07702 479095 –
email Michael.Thierry@hants.gov.uk