

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 30th September 2020 at 7.00pm

The meeting took place in a virtual environment using “Zoom” video conferencing technology and members of the public and press were given the opportunity to observe or participate in the meeting.

PRESENT: Cllr Tony Ring, Town Mayor
Cllr Andy Briers
Cllr Hilary Edge
Cllr Rae Frederick
Cllr John Haywood
Cllr Jeremy Heron
Cllr Peter Kelleher
Cllr Darren Loose
Cllr Glenys Turner

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Chris Wilkins, Town Clerk
Mrs Jo Hurd, Deputy Town Clerk

ABSENT: Cllr Philip Day, Deputy Mayor
Cllr Gareth Deboos
Cllr Gloria O’Reilly
Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine

The Town Mayor noted the sad passing of former Councillor Peter Baker on 5th September. He had been Chairman of the Council from 1993 to 1996, as well as a District and County Councillor. On behalf of the Council, he wished condolences to his family.

C/6480 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were two members of the public present for agenda item 8 - Allotment Competition.

C/6481 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apoloiges for absence were received from Cllrs Day, Deboos, O’Reilly and Rippon-Swaine.

C/6482 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none declared at this time.

With the agreement of Members, agenda item 8 was considered next for the benefit of those members of public present.

C/6483 ALLOTMENT COMPETITION 2020

The Chairman of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee reported on the annual allotment competition.

He congratulated all tenants and said that, once again, standards had been very high. He extended his thanks to Mr Atack and colleagues from Ringwood Garden Club for their support and for judging the plots, and to Nicola Vodden, the Council's Meetings and Allotments Administrator, for her input.

He announced the winners, all of whom had been invited to collect their prizes from Ringwood Gateway as it was not possible to hold a presentation this year:

**Upper Kingston
2020**

1st Plot 10 Mr and Mrs Shields
2nd Plot 22A Mrs Sarah Shatwell

**Southampton Road
2020**

1st Plot SR09 Anne Taylor
2nd Plot SR08 Colin Joy

**Hightown Road
2020**

1st Plot HR17 Peter Malloy
2nd Plot HR18 Mr M Gubbins

**Mini Plots
2020**

1st Plot HRM12 Josephine Burkin
2nd Plot HRM13 Josephine Burkin

**Overall Winner
2020**

Plot 10 UK Mr and Mrs Shields

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

**C/6484
POLICE REPORT**

It was noted that, although Inspector Mike Minnock had intended to be present at this meeting, he had been urgently deployed elsewhere, and that Sergeant Helen Mitchley was also unable to attend due to restrictions on the Police using Zoom. A written report, as follows, had been received and the Inspector had invited questions to be submitted via email.

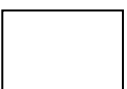
Covid had a large impact on crime/ASB in all areas.

April 1st – 30th June total crime = 114

July 1st – 30th Sept = 174 crimes. This is in line with force level increases in crime post lockdown and overall crime has decreased in the area in the last couple of months.

There have been rises in the majority of crimes post lockdown.

Noted increases in crime types include violence without injury (+14) (malicious communications and harassment offences), criminal damage (+6), vehicle offences (+14) and burglary (+13). ASB has still not returned to pre-Covid levels and with schools returning I hope this remains the case.



On top of daily activity we have executed 2 positive warrants with more to come. Op Bump (commercial burglaries) and Op Limb (theft from vans for tools) have had significant investment with increased patrols, dedicated specialist resources (road policing and proactive teams) the use of specialist kit (ANPR cameras which are now fixed in the area). This led to several significant arrests for these offences (ongoing investigations) most recent being the break ins to Boots last week.

Travellers have been present in all of our districts throughout the summer but since the school S61 Ringwood has not experienced any further encampments.

We continue to be dedicated to high harm offences and protecting the vulnerable in our community. I am planning some street meets in the coming weeks in partnership with NFDC which will be advertised through our usual comms channels.

The Town Mayor reported that he continued to liaise with the Police and Desmond Swayne MP regarding drug related deaths in public spaces, although there had been none reported recently.

Several members commented that they and members of the public had experienced difficulties in reporting issues via 101 and online, and that they wished to see a greater Police presence on the streets.

Concern was also raised about the amount of graffiti around the town, particularly that on the A31 gantries, and asked for more attention to be paid to this issue.

In order to involve the Police in future meetings, it was agreed that the use of alternative technology to Zoom, such as Microsoft Teams, should be explored.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the report be noted, and concerns be raised with Inspector Minnock regarding the difficulties being experienced in reporting crimes and contacting the Police.
- 2) That the Town Clerk investigate the use of alternative platforms to Zoom for future meetings.

ACTION C Wilkins / J Hurd

C/6485

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 29th July 2020, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

C/6486

RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Cllr Briers presented the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 2nd September 2020.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 2nd September 2020 be received.

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**C/6487
PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr Frederick presented the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meetings held on 7th August and 4th September 2020.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meetings held on 7th August and 4th September 2020 be received.

**C/6488
POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Cllr Heron presented the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 16th September 2020.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 16th September 2020, with the exception of F/5826, be received.

**C/6489
ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT & ACCOUNTING STATEMENT 2019/20**

Members considered the recommendation from Policy and Finance Committee that the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statement for 2019/20, as set out in *Annex A*, be approved.

RESOLVED: 1) That the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 be approved.
2) That the Accounting Statement 2019/20 be approved.

ACTION C Wilkins / R Fitzgerald
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**C/6490
RINGWOOD FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

Cllr Loose reported that the specialist architect, jointly commissioned by the Community Sports Trust and the Town Council to advise, has met with key stakeholders on site and is expected to submit design proposals in time for consideration at the next meeting of the Project Steering Group on 6th November. More details on the project design, expected costs, funding arrangements and expected timescale will be presented as it becomes available. He thanked the Town Clerk for his support with progressing the project to date.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

ACTION C Wilkins

**C/6491
COMMUNICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED**

The Town Mayor reported the following:

- 1) He had attended funeral of former councillor Christine Ford. It was hoped that when circumstances permit a memorial service would be arranged in the Parish Church.
- 2) Kevin Morrison had recently retired from the Fire Service after 40 years. He had been a strong advocate of the Young Firefighters project and had always been helpful and

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positive in dealings with the Council. The Town Mayor wished him congratulations and a very happy retirement.

- 3) Plans for a “drive-in” Remembrance service had been cancelled due to the tightening of restrictions. A small private service would be held in the War Memorial Gardens, which would be filmed by Ringwood TV and shared on social media.
- 4) He had attended a Macmillan coffee morning at Bickerley Green Nursing Home and praised them for their Covid secure arrangements.
- 5) Men’s Shed have carried out many voluntary activities around the town. They had secured use of the Scout Hut in Strides Lane and had volunteered to help with decorating the town for Christmas.
- 6) The Events Committee had agreed that the parade and funfair would not take place this year but was still planning the Christmas Market. This would be reviewed at the next meeting of the Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee.
- 7) He was currently talking to potential volunteers about future involvement in the national “in Bloom” competition.
- 8) He noted that the Council’s Grant Aid scheme was open again for local organisations to apply – projects that would benefit the people of Ringwood would be considered – details are available on the Council’s website (<https://www.ringwood.gov.uk/grant-aid/>).

C/6492

REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS

Cllr Haywood gave an update on the Ringwood Coronavirus Assistance (RCA), which had been dormant since mid-August. However, they remained flexible and vigilant and were ready to step up if needed. He had attended the Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) AGM where there had been much discussion on the government’s White Paper on reform of the planning system. Concern had been raised about nuisance caused by noisy vehicles and HALC had resolved to look into this issue. He had received much contact from constituents about the REAL Working Party’s proposals for walking and cycling, as reported in the R&F News, and said there was little support for these specific proposals but there was however support to tackle the issue of traffic more broadly. He said this was an important issue for the town that should be looked at holistically, particularly in light of forthcoming development and works on the A31 widening.

Cllr Edge was delighted to see the new table tennis table at Carvers, which was in a great location with refreshments available in the Clubhouse. She encouraged everyone to give it a go.

C/6493

REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Cllr Heron reported the new telephone system had been introduced successfully and it was now possible to direct dial officers. The Recreation Centre was back up and running in a Covid secure way – the programme was however being re-evaluated to make best use of space, given the required reduction in class sizes and additional cleaning. Residents had raised concern with him about maintenance of the grass verge between Moorland Gate and Texaco – this was the responsibility of HCC, who had reduced maintenance to mow the edges only. NFDC was no longer the agent for HCC for on-street parking – this is now under the complete control of HCC who employ enforcement officers and control ticketing. It should be noted that parking restrictions in Market Place on Wednesdays are effective until 6pm.

C/6494

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Planning, Town & Environment	10.00am	Friday 2 nd October 2020
Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	7.00pm	Wednesday 7 th October 2020
Policy & Finance	7.00pm	Wednesday 21 st October 2020
Full Council	7.00pm	Wednesday 28 th October 2020

There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.20pm.

APPROVED
28th October 2020

TOWN MAYOR