

**FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting of the Finance & Policy Committee held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2012 at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall Council Chamber, Fordingbridge**

**Present:**

Cllr Adams – Chairman

Cllrs Anstey, Connolly, Lewendon, Hale, Fulford, Paton, Perkins, Shering, (A) Wilson & (G) Wilson.

**In attendance:**

Ms K Mason, Town Clerk

Deborah Gordon, Finance Officer

1 member of the public

**1. To accept apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Price

**2. To receive any Declarations of Interest**

There were declarations of interest received from:

Cllrs Adams & Perkins for agenda item 5 - payment of accounts

Cllrs Connolly, Fulford & Shering for agenda item 8 – Fordingbridge Museum grant

**3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2012 and report on any matters arising**

It was proposed by Cllr Adams and seconded by Cllr Connolly that the minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2012 be signed as a true record. All in favour, Carried.

Matters arising

Amenities Committee – Section 106 monies – Cllr Edward Heron advised members at the General Council meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> June that the £24,000 allocated for the provision of a single screen journey planning kiosk to be positioned in the High Street was part of a ‘wish list’ to allocate developers contribution monies. He will investigate and report back to members.

**4. To receive any matters raised by Members of the Public**

Nothing raised.

**5. To receive details of Monies Collected and Payment of Accounts**

It was proposed by Cllr Adams and seconded by Cllr Connolly that the monies collected and accounts be approved and paid. All in favour, Carried.

**6. To approve the Annual Return 2011/12 and discuss internal audit affairs.**

It was proposed by Cllr Adams and seconded by Cllr Connolly that the Annual Return 2011/12 be approved. All in favour, Carried.

Internal auditor – The Finance Officer advised that Russell Bird, Internal Auditor was relocating to Suffolk and a new internal auditor would be needed. It was AGREED to delegate the task of finding a suitably qualified internal auditor to Cllrs Adams, Connolly and the Finance Officer.

**7. To receive any Finance & Policy Matters referred from sub-committees**

Amenities Committee – Skate Park Light – The Town Clerk apologised for the unnecessary delay in submitting a planning application for a skatepark light. This had been overlooked. The Clerk made clear that the delay was not the fault of Fordingbridge Rotary Club who were

kindly donating half the cost of the project. The application has been sent to NFDC Development Control, has been registered and is currently going through the planning process (application No. 12/98886).

Proposed Sports Club Facility – Cllr Connolly advised that presentations from Sherrin Bettle Architecture and Michael Weakly Associates to the group had taken place last week. Planning permission is required by funders when determining grants so it will be necessary to secure this in order to take the project forward.

It was recommended by one of the architects that it was not necessary to apply for outline permission. Instead, full planning permission should be applied for. Because more detail and work is required to be prepared this compared to outline permission the initial cost will be in the region of £17k.

It was proposed by Cllr Adams and seconded by Cllr Connolly that a recommendation be made to General Council that £17k be made available to pay for full planning permission subject to satisfactory references. All in favour, Carried.

The Clerk agreed to bring further information to General Council meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2012. to consider whom to place the architects contract with.

#### **8. To consider the following grant applications**

Victim Support, New Forest – Members discussed the application and considered that Victim Support appeared to have a healthy bank balance compared to the limited resource that the Town Council had for grants.

It was proposed by Cllr Lewendon and seconded by Cllr Perkins that no grant should be awarded. Cllr Fulford abstained, all other Councillors in favour.

1<sup>st</sup> Sandleheath Sea Scouts – It was proposed by Cllr Hale and seconded by Cllr (G) Wilson that a grant for £200 be awarded. All in favour, Carried.

The Rae Stratton Luncheon Club/Day Care - It was proposed by Cllr (G) Wilson and seconded by Cllr Hale that a grant for £350 be awarded. All in favour, Carried.

Fordingbridge Museum - It was proposed by Cllr Adams and seconded by Cllr Perkins that a grant for £500 be awarded. All in favour, Carried.

Cllrs Connolly, Fulford & Shering declared an interest on this item, remained in the room but did not speak or vote.

Turn Up for Fun – Members expressed concern at the accounts provided and requested the Clerk seek clarification in the next 2 months.

It was proposed by Cllr (A) Wilson and seconded by Cllr Lewendon that a grant for £350 be awarded. All in favour, Carried.

#### **9. To consider adoption of the District Council (adopted) new Standards Regime under the Localism Act 2011 and Code of Conduct for members.**

It was suggested by Cllr Fulford that a small group of members be tasked with looking at the various examples of new Code of Conduct and make a recommendation for adoption to the next Finance & Policy Committee meeting. Cllrs Adams, Anstey, Connolly, Fulford and Hale AGREED to discuss the options and report back to the next Finance & Policy Committee in July.

**10. To note any items of Correspondence**

Playscheme 2012 - Sue Little advised that HCC Short Breaks Grants Panel have granted an award of £3,744 for this years scheme.

Westacres Residents Association – A request was made for the annual grant towards grass cutting at Normandy Way to increase from £166 to £200 in recognition of the increased cost of £70 that the contractor was charging for cutting the grass. WRA will pay half of the increased cost. It was AGREED to increase the grant to £200.

FCVAG – a request was made to release £196 from held funds to pay for Community Payback teams to clear Whitsbury Road site. It was AGREED to release the money.

**11. To receive a report from the Clerk or any other relevant business**

Nothing to report.

**12. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2012**

The meeting then went into closed session.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.