

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance & Policy Committee held on Wednesday 29th February 2012 at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall Council Chamber, Fordingbridge

Present:

Cllr Adams – Chairman

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

In attendance:

Miss D Vine, Asst Clerk

Deborah Gordon, Finance Officer

1. To accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Perkins

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest

There were declarations of interest received from Cllr Adams for Payment of Accounts.

3. To report any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on the 25th January 2012

Youth Shelter – Cllr Connolly advised that a compromise over costs had been agreed with Broxap and they would advise of a delivery date for the new shelter.

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations – Cllr Connolly advised that a meeting had taken place on Thursday 23rd for all interested parties. A number of events were planned, not all of which involved the Council. This year is the 30th Anniversary of the Twinning between Fordingbridge and Vimoutiers, and the association has decided to combine the celebrations with the Diamond Jubilee. Visitors from Vimoutiers and the German town of Sontra are expected. A Civic Reception would be held in the Town Hall on Saturday 2nd June a.m. and a Church Service on Sunday 3rd June. The Queen's procession by barge would be shown on the big screen in the Town Hall, open to all. Party in the Park on the evening of Saturday 2nd June will be run as a free event starting at 6.00 pm. Local schools would participate in creating posters for the events. Cllr Anstey queried the insurance cover requirements for Party in the Park and Cllr Connolly advised that we were awaiting an NFDC judgement. Flags and bunting had not been budgeted for and Cllr Connolly advised that this would need to be considered further by the Members. If it was agreed to obtain flags and bunting then these would stay up for the Olympics.

Cllr Connolly proposed presenting under 11's with commemorative mugs which was felt by some Members to be outdated, but agreed with the principle that something appropriate should be given and further thought was required.

New Sports Club facilities – Cllr Connolly advised that there had been a positive meeting with Jamie Burton from NFDC. The steering group would liaise with NFDC to see where best to site the new club and then engage a design consultant. More information should be available at the next Finance & Policy meeting.

Fordingbridge CAB – Deborah Gordon advised that the £1,000 grant had not yet been paid in this financial year, therefore this together with the £200 which had been agreed for the Copier use up the remaining funds. Cllr Wilson (G) believed that the £1,000 grant had already been paid. Clerk/Asst Clerk to confirm.

4. To receive details of Monies Collected and Payment of Accounts

Deborah Gordon distributed a report on monies collected and payments of accounts which were noted by Members. There was also a report on the Summary of income and expenditure to February 2012 and concerns raised that some projects where funds had been earmarked had not yet been completed and may not be invoiced in this financial year. This made the Finance officer's job more difficult because the accounts would not accurately reflect what the Council were spending and distorted the figures. The budget remaining under Amenities was also distorted by the Brownsea Land Project. Cllr Connolly confirmed that there were still quotes outstanding for some projects but agreed the need for proper budgeting. Cllr Connolly thanked Deborah for her work on the accounts.

5. To receive any Finance & Policy matters referred from sub-committees

Amenities – to discuss the hire charge for Skateboard Festival – Cllr Paton advised that as the whole recreation area was not being used there should be a nominal charge and suggested £25.00 and that such events should be encouraged. Cllr Adams suggested £50.00. Cllr Fulford felt that there should be an agreed policy for events where a small area of the Recreation Ground was being used.

After discussion Cllr Paton proposed a charge of £25.00, seconded by Cllr Connolly. All in favour – **Carried.**

6. To consider the following grant applications

Fordingbridge Junior School PTA

Fordingbridge Junior School

Both applications deferred for discussion at General Council Meeting on 7th March 2012.

7. To discuss the Playscheme 2012 and future Playscheme arrangements

Sue Little presented the Playscheme Financial Forecast for 2012 to members which detailed anticipated income and expenditure. The charge per session would be increased from £9.50 last year to £12 this year. Confirmation of grant funding from NFDC would be known in March and other sources were subject to the application being submitted. Cllr Fulford suggested other areas which might be investigated for funding. Cllr Adams asked where proposed sponsorship was coming from and it was anticipated this would be from local businesses, individuals or corporate bodies. Based on the figures presented and if all anticipated income was forthcoming there should be no shortfall.

It was agreed that a decision on whether to support the Playscheme was needed quickly but Members wanted a little more time to make this and therefore the matter would be put on the General Council agenda for the meeting on the 7th March 2012.

Cllr Adams thanked Sue for her presentation.

Sue Little left the meeting

8. To discuss the Visitor Information Service and future VIC arrangements

Cllr Adams confirmed the availability of the lease for a further year.

9. To receive any matters raised by Members of the Public

Nothing to report.

10. To note any items of Correspondence

A letter had been received from The Rotary Club of Fordingbridge asking for nominations for Citizen of the Year 2012. Members to consider and advise at the General Council Meeting on 7th March.

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 28th March 2012

The meeting ended at 8.40 pm