

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15th March 2017 in the Town Hall (Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Committee)

Present: Cllr Anstey – Chairman
Cllrs Fulford, Paton, Price, Lewendon & Perkins

In Attendance: Mrs H Richards, Town Clerk
Mrs M Coatham, Finance Officer
Ruth Croker, Footpath Officer
Cllrs Adams, Earth & Wilson

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Connolly.

2. To receive Declarations of Absence

No declarations made.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2017 and report on any matters arising

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Price and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2017 be signed as true record.
All in favour

Matters Arising

Minute No. 5

Verti-drainage works – Clerk to liaise with Ringwood TC to programme works.

Fishing signs – Clerk to organise for commencement of new fishing season in June.

4. To receive any matters raised by members of the public

No matters raised

5. To report of Matters relating to the Recreation Ground

- Repair/Refurbishment of Play Equipment – clerk to speak with Grounds men to determine works that can be completed by staff
- Paddling Pool – Revised quote for drainage works, increase of £75, works due to be undertaken within 2 weeks
- Kiosk Toilets Drainage – On-going blockage problems Clerk to discuss with drainage contractor
- Car Park re-surface – regarding required – approach Earlcote to undertake work and investigate whether Groundsman could undertake with new equipment
- Pavilion – proposal received from Turks FC – awaiting further details of project management & Risk Assessment. Members agreed that subject to receipt of satisfactory details, Turks to undertake project. Turks FC requested to provide list of defaults.

The long term plans for the pavilion were discussed and Cllr Anstey proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Fulford and therefore **RESOLVED:** that 3 quotes

should be obtained from Building Surveyors for providing a report of the stability of the existing (pavilion) structure to determine if this can be refurbished or will require replacement. All in favour

- Storage – Old toilet block – proposals received from Rugby Club including conversion of building by qualified contractor(s), decoration and fitting out by Rugby Club – essential to allow storage facilities to be available in pavilion. Facility to be leased to the Rugby Club

Cllr Anstey proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Perkins and therefore **RESOLVED:** to recommend to the Finance & Policy Committee that the Old Toilet Block is leased to Fordingbridge Rugby Football Club as a storage facility. All in favour

- Storage Containers – Brownsey’s Field – The Clerk reported that the Planning Application for the continued siting of the storage container(s) had been rejected as invalid – new scaled drawings are required. The Rugby Club have indicate that this facility will be needed on a permanent basis regardless of any future provision within the pavilion or Old Toilet Block
- Memorial Gardens – The Clerk reported on correspondence received from the Royal British Legion (RBL), Fordingbridge Branch expressing dissatisfaction at the condition and maintenance of the Memorial Gardens and the ability of dog walkers to walk through the Memorial Garden . The letter contained several requests regarding the memorial gardens. Following discussion, Members requested that a sign is erected to denote the area as a Memorial Garden and that the RBL are contacted to discuss improvements.

The Clerk informed members that the additional Twinning Tree would be ordered and planted shortly and that a casual gardener would be sought to work on the memorial gardens.

- Picnic Benches – The Finance Officer informed Members that the Groundsman had advised that none of the benches located throughout the parish required replacement this year – 2 quotes had therefore been obtained for the replacement of 4 picnic benches with recycled plastic benches in the Recreation Ground
 - Reformed Plastics - £300 each (1.5m)
 - Glasdon - £505 each (1.8m)

Cllr Anstey proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Price and therefore **RESOLVED:** to purchase 4 no. 1.5m picnic benches from Reformed Plastics all in favour

6. Drones

The Chairman advised members of the national consultation (forwarded by the New Forest NPA) regarding the use of drones (by commercial users) and the impact on the economy. Members agreed not to make a response to the consultation.

Following the report at the last meeting regarding use of drones at the Recreation Ground, the Chair then advised of research undertaken into forming a Drones Policy for the Council. The Leicester City Policy, previously distributed to members, states

“Zero Tolerance/permission will be enforced/granted by Leicester City Council to any request made to us for recreational or commercial purposes as land owner to fly Drones on Leicester City Council land.

Exemptions will only be granted, where usage of drone device aids risk reduction in the work place i.e. working at height, building survey work and or undertake a professional service, i.e. Festivals & Events Media,

Reasons behind our zero tolerance or permission policy for recreational or commercial requests.

- *LCC granting permission could leave the local authority liable for subsequent actions brought about by drone activity when operated from land under our ownership.*
- *The close proximity of many of our sites to neighbouring residential and business properties and the potential risk of causing alarm, distress or harassment to occupants.*
- *Potential risk of accident, injury to other site users or property as a result of user or drone error”*

The chair further raised concern over the proximity of the Children’s Play area and parents fears regarding filming.

Cllr Anstey proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Fulford and therefore **RESOLVED:** to adopt a zero tolerance policy on the flying of drones on Council owned land.

Policy to be reviewed when results of national consultation released. Signs to be provided at Recreation Ground.

7. To report any matters relating to Open Spaces

Trees - The Clerk reported that works identified on the Annual Tree Surveys had not been completed and only one quote had been received for the works.

Cllr Anstey proposed and Cllr Lewendon seconded and it was therefore **RESOLVED:** that works identified should be carried out as soon as possible– quote received from New Forest DC contractor to be accepted if no other forthcoming.

All in favour

Bishops Pond – the Clerk advised that a request had been received to carry out an ecology survey at Bishops Pond looking for Great Crested Newt presence – this has been passed to Graham Long (FTCV) to liaise with the ecologist.

The Clerk reported that a request from a placement student at the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust for involvement in community projects in the parish – this has also been passed to Graham.

Cllr Lewendon advised that water voles had been sighted at Sweatsford Water – reported to Graham Long.

8. To review fees and charges for Recreation Ground Hire for 2017/18

Members discussed the Hire charges for the recreation ground for the next financial year.

Cllr Anstey proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore **RESOLVED**: to recommend that there is no increase in the Hire Charges for the next financial year.

9. To note any items of correspondence

No further items of correspondence to report.

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

The clerk had nothing further to report and there was no other business.

11. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 17th May 2017

The meeting closed at 8.20pm