

## FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2017 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall (Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Committee)**

**Present:** Cllr Connolly - Chairman  
Cllrs Adams, Price, Anstey, Hale, Earth, Fulford, Lewendon

**In attendance:** Mrs H Richards, Town Clerk  
Mrs M Coatham, Finance Officer  
1 Member of the Public

#### **1. To receive any apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Wilson

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

Cllr Adams declared an interest in Agenda item 5, Monies collected & Payment of Accounts as a supplier to the Council – but remained in the meeting but did not speak or vote on this item.

#### **3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2017 and report any matters arising**

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Anstey and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2017 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

There were no Matters Arising.

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

No matters raised.

#### **5. .To receive details of Monies Collected & Payment of Accounts**

The Finance Officer (RFO) summarised the accounts for August and members noted the following items:

Income – Mainly Play-scheme fees and 50% of the annual payment for Hire Charges from the Whippet Racing Club.

Expenditure - Memorial Bench recently purchased, needs to be re-charged to customer.  
- Play-scheme expenditure includes staff DBS checks  
- Ticket Sales – commission payments due (back to FTC)  
- Summer Flower watering reduced from previous years

Budgets – The RFO advised there are no concerns regarding budgets and distributed a breakdown of the Play-scheme figures – some invoices outstanding, decision on grant funding from HCC awaited. Parents have indicated that they would accept an increase in fees in order to keep the scheme running next year. Overall this year the playscheme was successful.

Hanging Baskets - 5 unpaid invoices remain – 2 are not expected to be paid as errors in distribution. The 3 unpaid are Allsorts, Girlings and The Ship.

The RFO then advised that queries had been received from the external auditor and that a response had been sent.

#### **6. To receive any Finance & Policy matters referred from sub-committees**

- Amenities Committee – 30<sup>th</sup> August 2017

Cllr Anstey advised members that the Amenities Committee had resolved to pay half of the cost for the conversion of the old toilet block which could be paid from the Amenities Budget.

**7. To discuss the terms of the lease relating to the Old /toilet Block**

The Clerk advised that the Rugby Club had raised a query over the terms of the proposed lease. In particular, members discussed the future upkeep and insurance of the building.

Cllr Fulford proposed and Cllr Anstey seconded and it was therefore **RESOLVED**: that the lease should be a full repairing and insuring lease on a peppercorn rent. All in favour.

**8. To receive an update on the following Tenders**

- Christmas Lights
- Skate park Replacement

The Finance Officer advised members that both of the tenders had been sent out with the Lights Tender being prepared with assistance from the Rotary Club – delays on this tender had been due to resolution of issues with supply/fixings due to empty premises in the town centre.

The Skate Park tender was for scheme proposals for a new facility up to £120,000 in value. The RFO has applied for grant funding from Veolia towards this project and the first round has been successful.

Cllr Hale requested that David Hales, Rotary Club is kept updated regarding the Christmas Lights Tender.

**9. To consider the following grant application under Section 137.**

- **Avon Valley Concerts**

Following discussion, Cllr Price proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hale and therefore **RESOLVED**: that a grant of **£250.00** is awarded to Avon Valley Concerts.

**10. To consider a request from Westacres Residents Association for a contribution towards grass cutting**

Following a brief discussion, Cllr Price proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Earth and therefore **RESOLVED**: to make of contribution of **£200.00** to Westacres Residents Association for grass cutting at Normandy Way.

**11. To receive an update regarding the Town Hall project**

The Clerk advised that several Members had met with Kevin Jones, Sheerin Bettle Associates to discuss the report into the ongoing issues regarding water ingress into the Town Hall. Details awaited from Mr Jones with options for moving forward to resolve the problems, this will also include a new fee schedule.

**12. To note any items of correspondence**

The Clerk reported that letters of thanks for grant awards made had been received from the following:

Victim Support, Fordingbridge Day Centre for the Frail & Housebound and TUFF.

A letter had also been received from Mr Ian Brown regarding the spending of S106 Developer Contributions funds and in particular how the decision regarding the spending on the new skate park had been made. Town Clerk and Finance Officer to respond. Cllr Anstey advised that he had spoken with Mr Brown since the letter had been sent and clarified some of the points made.

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

The Clerk had nothing further to report. The Finance Officer requested that she is given an Appraisal (to be carried out by Members).

**14. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

The meeting closed at 8.25pm