

## **FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held at 8:21pm on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019 in the Town Hall**

**(Minutes draft until approved at the next meeting of the Committee)**

**Present:** Cllr Moulard – Chairman  
Cllrs Anstey, Hale, Lewendon, Paton & White

**In Attendance:** Mr P Goddard, Town Clerk  
Mrs M Coatham, Finance Officer (RFO)  
Cllrs Adams & Jackson (Public Gallery)

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

Apologies were received from Cllr Perkins

#### **2. To receive any declarations of interest.**

No declarations were made.

#### **3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and report any matters arising**

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr White and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

##### Matters Arising

Minute 5 – Cllr White had taken the fire engine to the Recreation Ground and accessing the site had worked well in practice. Cllr White has provided the ambulance service with access details.

Minute 8 – Cllrs White and Moulard had considered the consultation results regarding the play areas and open spaces. There is a need to monitor the play equipment and upgrade it as necessary. The general feedback received was positive.

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

No matters raised.

#### **5. Matters relating to the Recreation Ground**

##### **• To consider closing the Recreation Ground to clubs on Remembrance Sunday**

Correspondence had been received from a representative of the Rotary Club. The Rotary Club had managed the rolling road closure on Remembrance Sunday and had some concerns regarding the use of the Recreation Ground during the road closure. Cllr Anstey said that the Rotary Club has been managing the road closure for a number of years on behalf of the Town Council. The issues raised are as a consequence of members of the public attempting to gain access to the Recreation Ground. Marshalls are potentially put at risk due to members of the public in cars, which is not acceptable. Cllr Anstey therefore supports the closure of the Recreation Ground to 11:00 a.m. on Remembrance Sunday. Cllrs considered the layout of the roads and the use of the Recreation Ground during Remembrance Sunday. Cllr Moulard had spoken to a representative of the Sports Club and they are perfectly willing to accommodate the closure of the Recreation Ground in the morning if that is the Town Council's decision. Cllr Anstey proposed and it was seconded by Cllr White and therefore **RESOLVED**: to close the Recreation ground until 11:00 a.m. on Remembrance Sunday. All in favour.

### **To consider Spring and Autumn opening times for the toilets**

The Town Council had previously agreed Winter opening times of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Summer opening times of 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Clerk asked whether Autumn and Spring opening times should also be introduced. Cllrs were of the view that introducing additional opening times was unnecessary and that it was more important that, whatever the agreed opening times were, they were consistently adhered to.

The Clerk reported that Cllr Mouland as Chair of the Amenities Committee had approved repairs to the sandpit at the Recreation Ground at a cost of £947 (Materials £487 plus VAT and Labour £460).

The Clerk reported that BrightSpace architects had produced revised plans for the Pavilion and had met a structural engineer on site. BrightSpace were waiting for the engineer's report. BrightSpace will produce elevations and a schedule of works so that the project can be costed. It is likely a further meeting will be held with the NFDC, RFU and FA on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019 to discuss the Pavilion. The Clerk advised that he had tried to contact the NFDC to ascertain whether the NFDC would have any issues with the Town Council making a full planning application without having sought pre-application advice given the tight time constraints to utilise s106 funds.

The Town Council has been approached by a local resident who wishes for lights to be installed at the Skate Park. The resident has set up a fundraising page which has been reported in the local press. An indicative quote has been obtained from a contractor and the cost of new lights is likely to be in excess of £12,000. Cllr Hale suggested that CIL funds could be put towards the cost of lights. The RFO advised that skate park lights were not budgeted for and they were not included in the forward plan but CIL funds could be used to contribute towards lights. Cllrs discussed how much the skate park would be used in the evening. The RFO said the cost of the skate park was £133k and asked Cllrs whether they felt a further £12k should be spent on the skate park facility or were there other priorities. Cllr Hale suggested that it should be considered on the forward plan schedule of spending. The RFO advised that the resident had offered to apply for grants on behalf of the Town Council but cautioned that if certain grants were applied for to fund skate park lights this may preclude the Council from applying to those grant sources for other things for a period of time. Cllr Paton suggested contacting the local media to update them.

## **6. To report any matters concerning Open Spaces**

### **• To consider environmentally friendly land management practices**

The Clerk referred to correspondence received from a resident regarding environmentally friendly practices including use of more environmentally friendly pesticides, less frequent mowing of grass and the planting of more trees. Cllrs noted the correspondence and felt that this was something that should be considered going forward. Cllrs also noted that the Town Council was planting four new trees in the Recreation Ground on 30<sup>th</sup> November as part of National Tree Planting Week.

## **7. To discuss budget proposals for 2020/21 financial year and make a recommendation to the Finance & Policy Committee meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

The RFO talked through the assumptions and additional forward plan costs in the draft budget. Cllr Mouland noted the forward plan expenditure to tarmac the Recreation Ground car park and suggested that there may be a less costly short term improvement available for the surface of the car park that had been recently implemented at Hyde Club. Cllr Paton agreed that if there something that could be done to make the car park better then that should be explored. Cllrs discussed charging for the car park and the RFO suggested that the process of arranging for paid parking should be looked into. Cllrs felt that charging for parking may generate funds for longer term upgrading of the car park and discussed the means of enforcing car park charges. Cllr Anstey suggested that a paid car park should be a medium term aspiration but in the short term improving the surface of the car park should be considered. Cllr Hale enquired if the forward plan costs were met from CIL funds how

much would the Amenities Committee need to recommend to the Finance & Policy Committee and the RFO advised £79,350. Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore RESOLVED: to recommend a budget of £79,350 for the Amenities Committee to be met from the precept. All in favour.

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

The Clerk noted the correspondence received from a representative of the Rotary Club that had had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

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

Nothing to report.

**10. To note the date of the next meeting as 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020**

The meeting closed at 9:07pm