

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on Wednesday 17th March 2021 at 7:30pm

Held remotely using appropriate technology in accordance with The Local Authorities and Police and Crimes Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 ("the 2020 Regulations") which came into force on 4th April 2020.

(Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Council)

Present: Cllr Moulard – Chairman
Cllrs Anstey, Hale, Paton, Perkins, White and Wilson

In Attendance: Mr P Goddard, Town Clerk
Mrs R Edwards, Asst Town Clerk
Cllrs Adams, Earth, Goldsmith, Jackson & Lewendon (Public Gallery)
A representative of the Salisbury Journal
A representative of the Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Bellows (NFDC).

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

No declarations were made.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2021 and report any matters arising

Cllr White proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2021 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

No matters arising.

4. To confirm the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 24th February 2021 and report any matters arising

Cllr White proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2021 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

No matters arising.

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

No matters were raised.

6. Matters relating to the Recreation Ground

a. To review the hire charges for the Recreation Ground from 1st April 2021

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr White and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the hire charges for the Recreation Ground remain unchanged for the coming year. All in favour.

b. To consider the camping dates for the Fordingbridge Whippet, Lurcher and Dog Racing Club

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Anstey and therefore **RESOLVED**: that there would be no camping in the Recreation Ground during the school holidays. All in favour.

c. To consider a quote for repair work to the paddling pool

K&B Builders have quoted to repair the paddling pool at a cost of £5,182 plus VAT and can complete the work before the second bank holiday in May, when historically the pool has opened for the Summer. Alternative quotes were sought from specialist pool companies but all declined the work.

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hale and therefore **RESOLVED**: to accept the quote from K&B Builders to repair the paddling pool. All in favour.

d. To consider proposals and the quote for enhancing the drainage at the kiosk toilets

The Clerk reported that cleaning the kiosk toilets is difficult due to the lack of drainage. The Buildings' Manager has proposed a solution whereby the tiles are taken up, the screed gunned out to put in a central drainage point in each cubicle and re-lay the screed with a fall to the drain. The cubicle would then need to be re-tiled and the drain connected to the existing external manhole. K&B Builders have quoted £6,937 for this work.

Separately, K&B Builders proposed an alternative solution – To take out the back row of tiles and put in a gulley that runs through the back of the cubicles on each side and out through the back wall to then be run into the drain. Whilst it is likely that this option will be considerably cheaper, there is no drop in levels so any surface water would need to be pushed through.

The Groundsman and Cleaner have said that anything that would allow them to flush out any water would be beneficial. The Town Council has a jet washer that could be used if there was a point of egress for water.

The Clerk reported that regular steam cleaning may be another option to improve the condition of the toilets. A quote for £220 per month has been received to have the toilets steam cleaned once a month for the seven months of the year when the toilets get their greatest use. Alternatively, a steam cleaner could be purchased for the ground staff and cleaner to use. A good domestic steam cleaner costs around £500 plus consumables or there are some alternative more expensive commercial options.

Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore **RESOLVED**: to get quotes for a rear channel as proposed by K&B Builders and to buy a steam cleaner. All in favour.

e. To consider quotes for CCTV at the Recreation Ground

Quotes have been received to supply and install CCTV at the Recreation Ground from the following companies.

- Central Southern Security (who supply the alarm to the workshop) have quoted £1,575 plus VAT
- Guardall Security Systems have quoted £2,500 plus VAT
- Sirius have quoted £3,795 plus VAT (albeit if the Town Council did not want the capital outlay it could be spread under a finance agreement at £75.11 per month)

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr White and therefore **RESOLVED**: to accept the quote from Central Southern Security to supply and install CCTV at the Recreation Ground. All in favour.

f. To consider allowing the Playscheme to use the Recreation Ground

Cllr Wilson proposed that the Council provides a free playscheme for children of the town from the Covid relief fund and that this be held at the Recreation Ground during the summer holiday. The Council normally subsidise a summer playscheme held at the junior school but it is unlikely that the school buildings will be available this summer due to Covid.

Cllr Wilson asked that the Amenities Committee agree in principle that the playscheme can be held at the Recreation Ground and a marquee be put up for the duration. Parents would not be asked to stay to supervise their children. Cllr Wilson proposed that the marquee could be used for junior discos or festivals in the evenings.

Safeguarding concerns were raised by Councillors about the lack of a controlled secure environment, in particular access by members of the public and also the close proximity to a fast-flowing river.

Councillors asked for further details before they made a decision, in particular for risk assessments.

Action: Cllr Wilson to provide further information after discussion with the playscheme leader

Cllr Mouland said that time is running out to refurbish the Recreation Ground car park and proposed that it be repaired instead. He has tried to source quotes but only has one to date. Members agreed that a temporary fix would be the best option and as this would come under general maintenance, to go ahead as soon as possible.

The Clerk reported on the Pavilion. At the General Council meeting of 5th March 2021 the provision of £15,000 was agreed to include the £8,817.17 of variations and the additional security cost; this provided some leeway in considering additional costs. The front section of the lean-to roof has since been found to be rotten and some work will be needed to rectify that at a cost of £2,732+VAT. In addition, security will be needed on site for one week longer than the five week period already committed to, at an additional cost of £1,858. The Clerk reported that the problem with the boiler was found to be a scaled-up valve and subject to checking the requirements of the new shower configuration, the boiler should not need replacing.

The Clerk reported that the memorial tree in memory of Nicki Hirst has been planted and looks lovely. Her husband is very pleased.

Cllr Wilson raised concerns about the groundsmen continuing to dump spoil from the cemetery adjacent to the slipway in the Rec. She reported that the public have added rubbish to this bank and it has become an impact risk zone for the SSSI river.

Action: Clerk to ask Groundstaff to clean up this area and not to add further spoil

7. To report any matters concerning Open Spaces

- Jobs for Lengthsman – 9th April 2021
No jobs were identified.

8. To note any items of correspondence

A company called Team Rubicon had emailed with a proposal to run a skatepark event at a cost of £920. Councillors said that the skate park is already well used and declined the offer.

The Rugby Club have provided details of their proposed use of pitches following the easing of lockdown for the remainder of the season until June. The Clerk reported that if the Club is charged at normal booking rates, it would come to a total of £2265 including VAT. However block booking avoids the requirement to pay VAT which would bring the cost down to £1887.50

+ VAT. The Rugby Club have already paid £787.50 and have asked for any further invoices before 31st March so they can pay the remainder in this financial year. The RFO proposed charging an additional £1000 which members agreed was reasonable. The Clerk reported that budgeted income was £5000 but will be less due to the Covid lockdowns preventing sport being played for much of the past year; Fordingbridge Town Council pays £4500pa for pitch maintenance.

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

Nothing further to report.

10. To note the date of the next meeting as 19th May 2021

The meeting closed at 8:34 pm