

## **FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 8:00pm**

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 (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 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020 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 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

#### **Matters arising**

Agenda item 3 – The clerk reported that he has contacted the suppliers again about the new memorial tree.

Agenda item 6 – Cllr Anstey reported that the jetty is now clear of weeds and nettles.

Agenda item 6 – Matting to go on the muddy banks around the skate park is currently being researched and prices obtained. Cllr Paton reported that Ringwood Skate Park's matting is very effective.

#### **4. To confirm the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and report any matters arising**

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr White and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

#### **Matters arising**

Agenda item 4j – Cllr Anstey confirmed that expanding the use of the Sports Club building and having a modernised building for functions, weddings and other celebrations is a long-term plan and not work that will be undertaken imminently.

Agenda item 4 – The Amenities meeting arranged for Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January has been postponed.

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

No matters were raised.

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

The Clerk believes that the land immediately outside the Recreation Ground from the hedge to the pavement belongs to HCC and has requested a full map of the slip road in order to confirm this. A licence is required to maintain the verge and ditch at a cost of £139 for the first two weeks, £56.70 for each two week extension.

The Clerk reported that the work has begun on the Pavilion and is going well so far.

The Clerk has asked for an estimate from NFDC's car park engineer of the costs of an oil separator. Because of the Recreation Ground car park's proximity to the River Avon this is necessary when undertaking resurfacing works. The car park engineer had previously estimated that the cost of redoing the car park would be between £40k and £60k; the cost of a quick short term fix would be £15-£20k. The Clerk asked NFDC whether they would meet the cost of resurfacing the car park, if going forward the car parking was paid for and the NFDC was able to generate some revenue. He is awaiting a response.

The second height barrier was installed at the Rec by R M Smith Fencing shortly after the last Amenities meeting. The Clerk is waiting to hear when R M Smith Fencing will repair the shelter and the skate park railing.

The Clerk reported that the skate park is now closed due to the new national restrictions. Signs have been put up, the lights switched off and the closure advertised on social media and the website.

The Buildings' Manager has proposed a scheme which would make cleaning the kiosk toilets more effective. The Clerk will meet with K&B Builders to discuss an alternative solution which may be simpler and cheaper. The servicing costs of the Wallgate handwashing units are £421 per unit per annum; a total of £2105 for the five units. They could be replaced with hand basins and soap, however the water supply is cold water only.

The Buildings' Manager is looking at the paddling pool and fencing at the Recreation Ground. The Clerk will ask K&B Builders for their thoughts too.

The Clerk reported that Cllr Jackson has suggested acquiring more land at the Recreation Ground if possible.

The Clerk reported that a local artist wishes to run a community art project at the Recreation Ground for people to contribute to while on out for their daily exercise. People would bring stones they've painted at home and add to a large rainbow on the ground.

The Clerk reported that the Amenities Recreation Ground meeting needs to be rescheduled and he also needs to convene an extraordinary General Council meeting regarding the Avon Valley Shed proposals.

Cllr Anstey reported that the hedge alongside the football pitch needs to be cut back to the old fence posts to give the legal minimum run off distance of 72" (2 yards). He reported that allowing space for the run-off, spectators, officials and a running track would use up all the space to the road. However, the hedge needs to be kept to stop the footballs going into the road. Within the hedge are gas and water pipes and a concrete plinth.

Cllr Anstey recommended irrigating the football pitches in the summer and reported that irrigation pipes are already underneath the pitches.

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

- Jobs for Lengthsman – 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021  
No jobs were identified.

Cllr Wilson reported that a site meeting will be held with NFDC at Sweatford Water Meadows and Parsonage Park. She reported that she would like to discuss flooding, benches, access to the river at Parsonage Park and the planting of trees.

The Clerk reported that he's asked NFDC for further details on the developers' contributions at Flaxfields and how the money has been used.

## **8. To consider applying for a grant from HCC for adult gym equipment**

Various locations in the Rec for adult gym equipment were discussed. The area next to the kiosk was thought to be better suited to an extended picnic area with more benches. The Clerk suggested the riverside area on the other side of the old toilet block. Cllr Mouland liked the idea of gym equipment being alongside the path as it would be easily accessible. Cllr White suggested spacing the equipment out along the path to increase the exercise.

Cllr Paton reported that four pieces of gym equipment would cost approximately £10k. She suggested buying both adult gym and seniors equipment to meet the needs of more of the population.

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Perkins and therefore RESOLVED: to apply for a grant from HCC for adult gym equipment. All in favour.

## **9. To note any items of correspondence**

Nothing to report.

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

Cllr Mouland reported that he'd received an email from Cllr Jackson raising the following points

1. Purchase of additional land at the Rec and creation of a footpath through to Bickton
2. Greenway – the mitigation for recreational impacts
3. New Forest football facility plan
4. Car park at the Recreation Ground

The Clerk, Chair and Deputy Chair will meet on Monday to discuss the above.

Cllr Jackson said that Fordingbridge is likely to be a popular tourist destination once lockdown is eased and this could cause parking problems at the Recreation Ground.

***Action: Clerk to add an item to the General Council agenda: To consider the Council's approach to tourism in the town***

Cllr Anstey thought that using the football pitches for heavy horses and carts during the summer shows may not be compatible with securing a grant for improvements to the pitches. Cllr Jackson reported that the grant is for all ages and FTC should still bid for the money.

Cllr Perkins reported that the flooding outside the Memorial Bungalow frequently stretches to the other side of Ringwood Road and asked that HCC do something about it.

## **11. To note the date of the next meeting as 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

The meeting closed at 8:35 pm