

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on Wednesday 21st July 2021 at 7:30pm at the Town Hall (Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Council)

Present: Cllr Moulard – Chairman
Cllrs Anstey, Goldsmith, Hale, Jackson & Paton.

In Attendance: Mr P Goddard, Town Clerk
Cllr Adams, Earth, Goldsmith and Lewendon (Public Gallery)
A representative of the Salisbury Journal
A representative of the Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society
("RFFS")

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllrs Wilson, White and Bellows (NFDC)

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

No declarations were made.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 19th May 2021 and report any matters arising

Cllr Anstey proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 19th May 2021 be signed as a true record. All in favour. No matters arising.

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

No matters were raised.

5. Matters relating to the Recreation Ground

- To consider matters relating to the refurbished Pavilion

The Clerk reported that the Pavilion has been passed back to the Town Council and a number of Cllrs had been and inspected the building. There are a few issues regarding the final account which the Clerk will discuss with the Buildings Manager when they meet. Cllr Paton felt the refurbishment was good but observed that the undecorated stairwell did not look good (but would be addressed when redecorated by the rugby club) and that the fire-retardant lacquer in the entrance hall was still tacky. The Clerk said he would raise this with the Buildings Manager. Cllr Adams suggested a letter from the architect was required regarding the product. Cllr Hale said the refurbishment was a great improvement but suggested the vulnerable first floor windows should have grills put over them. Cllr Moulard asked about the maintenance of the building going forward. The Clerk advised that he was due to meet with the users of the building to discuss this and also confirmed that he had a list of the products used for the refurbishment. Regarding the two outward facing toilets, the Buildings Manager advised that it was only anticipated that these would be used by the users of the Pavilion or for special events such as the Summer Festival rather than being for general use. The toilets are ceramic (unlike the public toilets) so could be easily vandalised. Cllrs Adams had discussed the toilets with the RFO who had suggested that the toilets could be used by the public during busy times, such as the summer holidays. Cllr Anstey thought the toilets would just be available for the sports teams using the Pavilion so that they could be used without having to unlock the main building. Cllr Adams and Paton understood that the toilets were for general use. The Clerk would discuss this with the Buildings Manager. Cllr Paton commented on the poor state

of the public toilets and was disappointed that they had not been thoroughly cleaned before the summer. Cllr Moulard suggested that a cleaner could do this.

- To consider the re-opening of the Paddling Pool.

The Clerk had previously reported that Swim England advised opening the pool would need to be in line with government guidance on social distancing and social gathering limits of up to 30 people outside. Now that this guidance no longer applied Cllrs could consider re-opening the refurbished pool. Cllr Paton and Cllr Hale both suggested that the pool should be re-opened. Cllr Goldsmith proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and there **RESOLVED**: to re-open the paddling pool. All in favour.

- To consider charges for fly casting assessments

The Clerk advised that previously the Town Council had not charged for fly casting assessments. However commonly these assessments do not just take place in the river but are also undertaken on the playing fields. Recently the Town Council was asked to cut the grass of one of the football pitches to assist with the assessment. The Clerk ran through the other charges applied by the Town Council for its facilities. Cllrs discussed the nature of the assessments and what an appropriate charge would be. Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Anstey and therefore **RESOLVED**: to charge £30 for fly casting assessments at the Recreation Ground. All in favour.

- Fencing around the play area

The Clerk noted that the Town Council had previously considered moving fencing at the Recreation Ground to segregate the play equipment from the river frontage (which would then no longer form part of the play area) but had decided against it. The Clerk reported that ground staff had repeated issues with people taking dogs to the river frontage currently within the play area. Generally, these members of the public did not realise that the river frontage was part of the play area given the distance between the play equipment and the river and once it was explained that the river frontage formed part of the play area they were happy to take their dogs away. However, some members of the public become aggressive and recently a member of the public was both verbally and physically aggressive towards a member of the grounds staff. The Clerk suggested that to make it clearer what constituted the play area, the low-level fencing with spaces along the boundary of the play area adjacent to path between the memorial gates and the memorial gardens could be replaced with a metal play park fence with a single gate for access and clear signage. This would more clearly mark the boundary of the play area, which may reduce the number of people taking dogs into the play area. Cllr Paton had no issues with that and noted that it was shame that there was an issue with a few users of the park. Cllr Hale said this new fencing was preferable to the previous proposal to segregate the play equipment and the river. The Clerk was to look at costings for a new fence.

- Car Park fencing

The Clerk reported that contractor hoped to commence the work on the car park fence next week. Cllr Moulard raised the possibility of a pop-up car park, charging for parking at the Recreation Ground. Cllr Paton had raised this with the NFDC and any issues in doing this appear to relate to change of use (which would not be the case in this instance) so she did not believe there would be anything to stop the Town Council progressing this should it so wish. Cllrs discussed the mechanism for payment and asked the Clerk to research card payment machines and also check if the Town Council's public liability would cover a charging car park. Cllr Paton suggested it would be an opportunity to generate income and suggested half of the takings could go to charity. Cllr Jackson felt that this idea should be pursued and also consideration should be given to the car park longer term potentially in collaboration with the NFDC.

- Litter at the Recreation Ground

The Clerk raised the issue of the amount of litter at the Recreation Ground over the summer months. The RFO had suggested that perhaps the Council looks at some casual labour perhaps just over the weekends. Cllr Paton suggested any casual labour would not

need to use the van but could just collect and wheel barrow rubbish to the skip at the Recreation ground.

6. To report any matters concerning Open Spaces

- Jobs for Lengthsman – 6th August 2021

Cllr Perkins had already notified the Clerk of two footpaths that needed attention. The representative from the RFFS advised that the NFDC had done some work by the bus stop and at the school.

7. To note any items of correspondence

There were no items of correspondence.

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

No report.

9. To note the date of the next meeting as 15th September 2021

The meeting closed at 8:09 pm