

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee held on Wednesday 28th July 2021 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall (Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Committee)

Present: Cllr Adams – Chair;
Cllrs Anstey, Earth, Goldsmith, Hale, Jackson Lewendon, Mouland, White & Wilson.

In attendance: Mr P Goddard, Town Clerk

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Paton.

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest

Cllr Adams declared an interest in the payment of accounts.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 30th June 2021 and report any matters arising

Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Mouland and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 30th June 2021 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

No matters arising.

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

None.

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

Cllr Adams referred to the RFO's report to members – There were no queries.

Cllr White proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore **RESOLVED**: to approve the schedule of payments of account and that the amounts collected are correct. All in favour.

6. To consider grant applications under Section 137/CIL

None.

7. To receive any Finance & Policy matters referred from sub-committees

None.

8. To receive an update on building matters

• Town Hall

The Clerk advised that there had been little change since the last update. The planning application has been submitted to the NFDC and will be on the Town Council's planning committee agenda on 18th August 2021. The Clerk has asked both the NFDC planning department and HALC whether the Town Council can comment on the application and both have said that town councils can but not all councils do. One objection has been lodged on the NFDC planning portal. One resident has queried whether the Town Council can comment on its own application, whether there was a conflict of interest and asked about consultation with residents. The Clerk suggested that consultation would be more appropriate once the planning application was decided and would be necessary if the work was to be funded in full or in part by way of a PWLB loan. Cllrs discussed the potential saving to the Council if the Information Office relocated to the Town Hall and the Clerk estimated that this was in the region of £10k. Cllr Adams advised that historically the Town Council did not comment on its own applications. Cllr Wilson raised the conflict point and queried whether the NFDC might have a conflict as the Information Office provided NFDC services. Cllr Adams raised the possibility of Cllrs commenting on the application as individual residents. **Action: Clerk to establish whether Cllrs could comment as individuals.** Cllr Anstey raised the possibility of the application going to committee and the Clerk advised that the planning consultant instructed to make the application would represent the Council.

• Changing Room update

The Clerk advised that the building had been handed back to the Town Council and some Cllrs had inspected the refurbishment. He said he was due to meet with the electrical contractor, with

representatives from the rugby and football clubs, on site for a demonstration of the fire alarm. They would also be discussing how to best maintain the building post refurbishment, which would include arrangements for cleaning. There are some small final account details to be agreed and the Clerk is liaising with the Buildings Manager in this regard.

9. To receive any Finance & Policy matters referred from sub-committees

- None

10. To note any items of correspondence

The Clerk advised that letters/emails of thanks for grants had been received from Hope for Tomorrow, the Branch and Citizens Advice New Forest. The Clerk noted correspondence from SSEN confirming that the balance of funds from the grant applied for on behalf of the Branch for fuel during the pandemic could be utilised for the foodbank.

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

No report

12. To note the date of the next meeting as 25th August 2021

The meeting ended at 7:46 pm.