

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on Wednesday 17th November 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, Wilson & White.

In Attendance: Paul Goddard, Town Clerk
Martine Coatham, RFO
Cllrs Adams, Earth, Lewendon & Perkins (Public Gallery)
A member of the public
A representative of Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society
("RFFS")
A representative of the Salisbury Journal

1. To receive any apologies for absence

No apologies received.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

No declarations were made.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 15th September 2021 and report any matters arising

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Anstey and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 15th September 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 a quote for play equipment parts

The Clerk had circulated a quote from Proludic for two replacement trampoline beds plus rods and mounting tool in the sum of £1,142.70 exclusive of VAT. The replacement parts were needed as the beds were fraying and the metal strips that run through them were becoming exposed. The Clerk advised that they had not deteriorated to the extent that the metal had frayed and could hurt someone but they would need replacing. Cllr Paton suggested that the lifespan of the product and the delivery charges should be queried. Subject to receiving an adequate response to those queries, Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Anstey and therefore **RESOLVED:** to proceed with the quote for replacement parts. All in favour.

Cllr Moulard advised that he had been shown a report on the Recreation Ground produced by Redlynch Leisure. Cllr Jackson said he had received the report, which was comprehensive, that morning and he would circulate it to members. He said it showed in a positive light what could be done at the Recreation Ground. Whilst the cost was significant he felt that funds could be found from sources such as the mitigation fund. Cllr Moulard enquired about the clearing of the slipway area.

6. To report any matters concerning Open Spaces

- To consider a proposal from Fordingbridge Greener Living for a Community Orchard

The proposal for a community orchard had been circulated to members. Cllr Wilson felt the proposal was a really good idea and could see no negatives. Cllrs discussed which

committee the orchard would sit under and it was felt that this should be the amenities committee. Cllrs discussed how much maintenance would be required for the orchard. Cllr Wilson felt it would be limited to maintaining the fence and cutting the grass. The member of the public, on behalf of Fordingbridge Greener Living, advised that it would be a community asset so it would be managed by the community in conjunction with the landowner. Cllr Anstey felt the orchard would enhance a currently poorly used area. The member of the public cited the three orchards in Salisbury as an example of how it might be run, saying there could be a community apple day where the community picked and pressed the apples. The RFO advised that the financing would need to be considered but that members could vote in principle. Cllr Anstey proposed and it was seconded by Cllr White and therefore RESOLVED: to in principle support the proposal for a community orchard. All in favour.

- Jobs for Lengthsman – 3rd December 2021

Cllr Paton said that the path by the junior school was very narrow and needed cutting back. The representative from the RFFS thought that it was on the HCC cutting list. Cllr Paton also suggested that grass beyond Flaxfields was in poor condition and needed cutting.

7. To discuss budget proposals for 2022/2023 financial year and make a recommendation to the Finance & Policy Committee meeting on 24th November 2021

Cllr Wilson noted that the precept did not have to be set until the Council has been notified of the tax base. Cllrs discussed the draft budgets circulated by the RFO. There was considerable discussion about how the costs of future projects might be met, including raising the precept, using CIL funds, grants and making use of PWLB loans. The manner in which CIL was used and the likely amount and timing of future CIL was also discussed. [Cllr Perkins joined the meeting] There was discussion in relation to various projects and improvement schemes including: the children's play area, new grounds machinery, updating the first floor of the Pavilion, greening up the route between the new development and the school and town, the workshop, improving the Recreation Ground car park, a new boiler at the Pavilion, the paddling pool (the recent repairs should be re-raised with the contractor) and the toilet block. The principles of agreeing the budgets and the funding of loan payments from within budget was also considered. There was also discussion about making some increased budget provision in relation to General and Ground maintenance and the amount of that increase. Cllr Hale suggested increasing the maintenance budget to £33k and the children's play area budget to £12k which would increase the amount required from the precept from £88k to £99k. Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Goldsmith and therefore RESOLVED: to recommend the sum of £99,207 was needed from the precept for the 2022/2023 amenities budget. All in favour.

8. To note any items of correspondence

There were no items of correspondence.

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 19th January 2022

The meeting closed at 8:36 pm