

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on Wednesday 19th January 2022 at 7:57pm at the Town Hall (Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Council)

Present: Cllr Mouland – Chairman
Cllrs Anstey, Hale, Jackson, Paton, Wilson & White.

In Attendance: Rachel Edwards, Asst Town Clerk
Cllr Adams (Public Gallery)
A representative of Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society
("RFFS")
A representative of the Salisbury Journal

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Goldsmith. Also, 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 17th November 2021 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 17th November 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 the buildings at the Recreation Ground in the context of a strategic plan

Cllr Mouland reported that the Sports Club is badly deteriorating; the wood is rotting, the masonry falling apart and the roof in very poor condition. He proposed replacing the building in the same position but raised above the flood line to the same level as the adjacent pavilion. A local builder estimated that this would cost in the region of £330k to do. Cllr Mouland said that with all the potential new housing in the town, the Recreation Ground will only get busier, and the town needs to supply a facility to meet the local needs. Cllr White reported that the benefit of Cllr Mouland's proposal would be additional social space for the town, for example for weddings.

Cllr Paton thought this worth considering but wanted all ideas to be put forward. She particularly wanted the paddling pool to be changed to a splash park if the funds are available. Cllr Mouland agreed that a water feature was key in the Rec.

Cllr Wilson asked that the old toilet block be turned into a shelter similar to those found at the seaside – with a dividing wall along the centre of the building (east to west) and benches facing out over the river to the north and the sports pitches to the south. She asked that one toilet be retained and the walls be plain rendered so any graffiti would be easy to clean off. She said there were possibilities for reinstating electricity. Cllr Paton reported that the Men's Shed group are looking for projects and may like to renovate the building, should the Council decide to keep it.

Cllr Moulard referred to the plans drawn up by Redlynch Leisure for the Recreation Ground. He particularly liked the look of the giant ship play structure which would be visible from the road.

Cllr Hale wanted the footpaths in the Memorial Gardens upgraded to a more suitable surface.

Cllr Jackson reminded councillors that funding would be available in the form of grants from various bodies and there would also be money from developers' contributions from the new housing and not to be afraid of the cost. Cllr Jackson also reported that improvements in the Rec would encourage visitors to stay longer in Fordingbridge and the town would benefit as a result. He recommended that a five-year plan be drawn up.

The Asst Clerk reported that there would be a second report from K&B Builders regarding the work done on the paddling pool and that this would be an agenda item at the next meeting.

The Asst Clerk reported that a new hornbeam tree would be planted at the Recreation Ground in two weeks' time for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. A plaque would be added in June at the Jubilee weekend.

Cllr Wilson reported that new gym equipment would be installed in the Recreation Ground near the kiosk this week.

6. To report any matters concerning Open Spaces

- Jobs for Lengthsman – 4th February 2022

No lengthsman jobs were identified.

Cllr Wilson reported that vehicles are parking and turning on the open space at Allenwater Drive and the ground is becoming a quagmire as a result. She reported that parking space was in short supply along this stretch of road and suggested that in order to protect the land, low diamond fencing and hedging be installed to allow parking but not the turning around of vehicles.

Action: Asst Clerk to look at the cost of this and discuss with Cllr Heron (HCC)

Action: Asst Clerk to ask NFDC if there are plans for a Car Club in Fordingbridge as mentioned in the recent draft Parking Standards SPD consultation to alleviate the pressure on parking spaces in towns

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

Nothing to report.

9. To note the date of the next meeting as 16th March 2022

The meeting closed at 8:20 pm