

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on Wednesday 16th March 2022 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 and Wilson.

In Attendance: Rachel Edwards, Asst Town Clerk
Cllr Earth (Public Gallery)
A representative of the Salisbury Journal

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Paton and White. 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 19th January 2022 and report any matters arising

Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Jackson and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on 19th January 2022 be signed as a true record.

Matters arising

Agenda item 6 – Cllr Wilson reported that on some days no one parks on the open space at Allenwater Drive. She recommended waiting until the end of the summer to consider whether fencing and hedging is necessary.

Agenda item 6 – The Asst Clerk reported that the recommendation for Car Clubs is still at consultation stage. If adopted, the recommendation would be for New Planning Applications only.

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 future of the paddling pool

The Buildings' Manager advised that last year the pool had failed in a new location (on the step of the pool) rather than where the existing cracks were ground out and filled with epoxy resin. He suggested that where this new failure has occurred, the surface be hacked back to blown render to where it is sound, the space filled with 2-3mm of latex and then the surface levelled off and painted over with pool paint. The Groundsmen can do this work, so only the costs of the products would need to be covered. Taking this route would mean that the pool can reopen this summer and if similar failures occur, closed for a week and the same fix undertaken. Councillors agreed that the pool be repaired for this year.

Indicative quotes for a splash park were in the region of £165k to £175k for a single use (water) system or £265k to £285k for a recirculating system. Cllr Jackson thought the costs astronomical. Cllr Anstey queried whether siting a splash park in an area that floods would be appropriate and pointed out that sand and silt would get into the system.

- **To consider a quote for clearing the land adjacent to the slipway**

Ringwood and Fordingbridge Skip Hire have quoted to clear and level the area by the slipway at Fordingbridge Recreation Ground as follows:

- Hire of 3.3 tonne excavator with screening bucket and driver £1080 + VAT (3 days hire)
- Removal and disposal of inert waste (soil and small stones) we estimate between 7 to 10, 15yard RoRo bins £200 + VAT per bin
- 2 x 6 yard rubble skips for the larger pieces of concrete £150 + VAT per skip
- 2 x 12 yard General waste skips for the larger tree roots, burnt waste and general rubbish that is mixed into the pile once sorted £350 + VAT per skip
- Estimated total costs between £3480 - £4080 + VAT

Prior to the meeting the Finance Officer advised that should members wish to proceed, the work be done in the new financial year due to the amount of money not being inconsiderable or budgeted for in either financial year. There would also be the additional cost of any screening, fencing, seating etc. As an alternative to a seating area, the land could be used for planting trees or for adult gym equipment (if it was felt such equipment was better placed in one area rather than interspersed along the path).

Cllr Anstey proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Goldsmith and therefore **RESOLVED**: to proceed with the clearance of the slipway within the quote range £3480 - £4080 + VAT and that this work be done in the new financial year.

- **To consider the camping dates for the Fordingbridge Whippet, Lurcher and Dog Racing Club**

The Fordingbridge Whippet, Lurcher and Dog Racing Club have asked to camp at the Recreation Ground from Wednesday the 8th June to Saturday 18th June, leaving on the morning of Sunday 19th June, and so avoiding the Jubilee bank holiday weekend. Members agreed these dates.

- **To consider the income and expenditure at the Pavilion**

The Finance Officer had circulated a report prior to the meeting on the income and expenditure generated by the Pavilion and estimated an annual deficit of circa £17k. The Council is being asked for additional cleaning and more hot water by the Rugby Club and this will result in higher costs to the Council, so a larger deficit. Members agreed last September to keep hire charges at £28 for training and £53 for matches. The report notes that a match fee of £53 is unlikely to even cover the cost of the showers, water and heating for 40+ adults after a match due to rising utility costs; the cost of maintaining the pitches would not be covered at all.

An external cleaning business has quoted for cleaning the Pavilion as follows:

- Initial deep clean £95 + VAT
- Thereafter, weekly clean £54 + VAT

The Finance Officer has suggested a meeting between the sports clubs, Town Council officers and Cllr Mouland as Chair of the Amenities Committee to discuss the current situation and what, if anything, could be improved in terms of the operation of the Pavilion and its facilities. Cllr Mouland reported that the sports clubs would be willing to pay more than they do currently.

Cllr Jackson said that a total review of costings at the Recreation Ground was needed and wanted the Council to take a longer-term view, with the strategic plan being the opportunity to do this. He was in favour of increased facilities at Burgate School for the use of the

community and pointed out that this location is in close proximity to the upcoming new housing developments. He said that there are just ten years remaining on the lease for Brownsey's Field. Also, that much of the Recreation Ground floods.

Cllr Anstey reported that historically many Councils have subsidised sports clubs in order to encourage the playing of sports, however up and down the country Councils have had to withdraw facilities due to increased costs.

A discussion followed about how many users of the sports facilities were residents of Fordingbridge. It was reported that the clubs have always attracted out-of-town players and this made the teams viable which was good for the town.

Cllr Mouland said that detailed research was needed and then parishioners should be presented with the costs.

Cllr Mouland reported that the water in the Pavilion was either very hot or very cold and asked that the boiler be looked at.

Action: Clerk to arrange for the boiler to be examined

- **To consider plans for the old toilet block**

Fields of Architecture were instructed to draw up plans for the old toilet block and proposed three options.

In terms of design, the third option was the closest to what the Council originally envisaged. The cost of option 3 is estimated to be in the region of £20k to £30k. It was noted that all three options appear to include a new roof rather than retaining and repairing the existing roof.

Cllr Jackson queried why a disabled toilet was needed in this location and pointed out that the cost of installing and maintaining a toilet would be significant. Councillors discussed the possible funding of the proposals and thought that the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) could not be used as it was not a new venture.

Councillors felt they had exhausted the options of offering the building to local community groups and were concerned about the health and safety aspects of leaving a deteriorating building as it is. Cllr Anstey thought that an area of hardstanding could be used for seating and barbeques.

Cllr Anstey proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hale and therefore **RESOLVED**: to demolish the old toilet block and retain the hardstanding, subject to costs.

6. To report any matters concerning Open Spaces

- Jobs for Lengthsman – 8th April 2022

Cllr Wilson asked that the lengthsman be tasked to cut back the hedge at Tinkers Cross, before any birds start nesting there.

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

Councillor Jackson reported that Go New Forest is making a promotional film of the towns of the New Forest with much of the footage filmed by drone. Go New Forest have asked permission from NFDC to site their van in the main car park and to launch the drone from there, however permission has been withheld. Cllr Jackson would approach Bonallack and Bishop Solicitors regarding their car parking area instead.

Cllr Jackson reported that local New Forest businesses can sign up for a free listing on the New Forest website www.thenewforest.co.uk. The link to sign up is <https://gonewforest.com/business-listing-submission/> Business listings will appear on the relevant town or village page on www.thenewforest.co.uk

Action: Asst Clerk to promote on the website and Facebook

9. To note the date of the next meeting as 18th May 2022

The meeting closed at 8:10 pm