

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee held on Wednesday 30th March 2022 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, Lewendon, Moulard, Paton, White, & Wilson.

In attendance: Mr P Goddard, Town Clerk
Mrs M Coatham, Finance Officer

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Jackson and Perkins

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 23rd February 2022 and report any matters arising

Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Earth and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 23rd February 2022 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

Matters Arising: Pigeon Control Update – second quote requested from the current gutter clearance contractor, they confirmed that they would be willing to install spikes but then would be unwilling to clean the gutters going forward as the spikes would prevent access and create more issues. A further letter of complaint had been sent to the local MP who had in turn requested a speedy resolution. Members discussed whether the landlord should be approached to clean the alleyway on a regular basis to remove the waste as installing pigeon spikes did not appear to be an appropriate solution.

Action: Clerk to contact the landlord to discuss.

4. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd March 2022 and report any matters arising

Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 23rd March 2022 be signed as a true record. All members present at the meeting in favour. No matters arising.

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

None.

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

Cllr Adams referred to the RFO's report to members. As it was year end, the RFO noted a few additional payments which had been submitted after the report was circulated last week: Cracknell Timber (gate), refund of EROB, Avon Valley Property & Maintenance, Biffa bins, BT Onebill, Zurich Insurance (additional premium following building revaluation), two lengthsman invoices, Zoom charge and toilet bins for May. A revised schedule was prepared.

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

7. To consider grant applications under Section 137/CIL

- Avon Valley Men's Shed – members considered the grant application submitted by the Men's Shed. Members supported the application in principle but were concerned about the lack of premises to store the large items of kit – it was agreed to review some potential locations and report back to the group. All in favour.

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

- Amenities – to approve the principle of demolition of the old toilet block
Cllr Adams felt the brief had been misunderstood and that the toilet block should be referred back to the amenities committee. Members discussed whether the proposal for a covered

seating area should be reviewed by a general builder, whether it was necessary to get planning approval to modify or demolish the building and whether additional toilet provision was needed at the Recreation Ground. Cllr Adams proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon to refer the matter back to the amenities committee. Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore RESOLVED: that the demolition of the toilet block goes ahead unless at the meeting with the architect tomorrow he believes there are cheaper, scaled back options. Eight in favour, two against.

Action: Clerk to speak to architect tomorrow.

Action: Clerk to clarify planning permission requirements with the NFDC

9. To receive an update on building matters

- **Town Hall update** – The Clerk is meeting the architect tomorrow

10. To approve the continuation of the SLA with NFDC for the dog waste bins

It was agreed that the RFO discuss the reduction in number of bins with NFDC prior to approving the annual SLA. It was noted that this might mean approval mid-month would be required. Members also discussed alternative vehicle provision for the grounds staff in the future.

11. To review the following policies and registers

- Anti Bullying and Harassment Policy
- Grievance Policy
- Disciplinary Procedure
- Leave and Sickness Policy

The above policies had been circulated prior to the meeting having been updated in line with current guidance. Cllr Anstey felt the anti-bullying policy might better cover a larger organisation. Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and there RESOLVED: to approve the policies listed. All in favour.

12. To note any items of correspondence

No correspondence.

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

Nothing to report.

14. To note the date of the next meeting as 27th April 2022

The meeting ended at 8:16 pm.