

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee held on Wednesday 27th April 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, Jackson, Lewendon, Mouland, 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 Paton 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 30th March 2022 and report any matters arising

Cllr White proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hale and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 30th March 2022 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

Matters Arising: All items on the agenda this evening

4. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 13th April 2022 and report any matters arising

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Earth and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 13th April 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.

Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Jackson 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 – none received

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

- Staff & Remuneration Committee – approve spine point increases and employer pension contributions

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Wilson and therefore **RESOLVED**: to approve the spine point increases and employer pension contributions. All in favour.

9. To receive an update on building matters

- **Town Hall update** – Fields of Architecture had agreed to produce drawings for the reduced scheme over the next month. The existing application is still being considered by the planning authority.
- **Toilet Block update** – the Buildings Manager had provided a report about the likely cost of the reduced scheme and noted that it was not a sensible/viable option: it would be more cost effective to demolish the existing building and replace with a bespoke seating area. Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr White and therefore **RESOLVED**: to demolish the toilet block. Eight members voted in favour, two abstained. **Action: the Clerk to obtain quotes for demolition.**

10. To approve continued membership/affiliation of HALC/NALC and ICCM

Discussion took place about the cost of these memberships, it was noted that both of these were of value to the officers, particularly in relation to policy updates and training.

Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Moulard and therefore **RESOLVED**: to approve continued membership/affiliation of HALC/NALC and ICCM. All in favour.

11. To discuss Buildings Management: fire policy and requirements

It was noted that the Council were required to review its existing fire policy to ensure that all Council property was covered appropriately. Cllr White confirmed that a review was underway and a report would be made to Council in the next couple of months.

12. To review the following policies and registers

- Equality & Diversity Policy
- Social Media Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Expenses Policy Disciplinary Procedure

The above policies had been circulated prior to the meeting having been updated in line with current guidance. Cllr Earth proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and there **RESOLVED**: to approve the policies listed. All in favour.

13. To note any items of correspondence

No correspondence

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

- A member raised concern over the increase in dog waste at Sweatfords Water – although this area was managed by NFDC it was agreed to review the signage.
- Concern was raised about the lack of water in the meadows and the impact on wildlife, NFDC have been notified.

15. To note the date of the next meeting as 25th May 2022

The meeting ended at 8:16 pm.

