

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on Wednesday 18th May 2022 at 7:50pm at the Town Hall (Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Council)

Present: Cllr Jackson – Chairman
Cllrs Anstey, Earth and Goldsmith.

In Attendance: Paul Goddard, Town Clerk
Cllrs Hale, Lewendon and Perkins
A representative of the Salisbury Journal

1. To elect a chair

Cllr Jackson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Earth and therefore **REOLVED**: to elect Cllr White as chair of the amenities committee. All in favour.

2. To elect a vice chair

Cllr Anstey proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Earth and therefore **RESOLVED**: to elect Cllr Jackson as vice chair of the amenities committee. All in favour.

3. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Paton, Wilson and White.

4. To receive any declarations of interest.

No declarations were made.

5. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2022 and report any matters arising

Cllr Jackson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Anstey and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2022 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

No matters arising.

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

No matters were raised.

7. Matters relating to the Recreation Ground

The Clerk reported that the board at the entrance to the play area was in poor condition. Its installation was not funded by the Town Council and it is not on the Council's asset register. The tender to repair the pool has been applied and the pool paint to complete the repair should be in stock next week. Grass seed has been sown on the cleared area by the slipway. Cllr Jackson said that the Recreation Ground is a great asset but it is deteriorating. He suggested producing a plan for its complete improvement and that the work needed to be undertaken within the next five years. A review should be undertaken of the play equipment, pitches and the buildings. Cllr Jackson said he would look at the costs to establish what is viable. He suggested that funds to improve the Recreation Ground may be available from the NFDC and that the Town Council would have further CIL funding. Cllr Jackson suggested just removing the board in the short term prior to undertaking a full review. Cllr Anstey suggested that looking at signage could form part of any review. Cllr Anstey made a point of order regarding the chair and Cllr Jackson took the chair of the meeting. Cllr Anstey commented on the positive improvement to the area by the slipway. The Clerk advised the work had been undertaken to tidy up the area and because the spoil was too close to the river. Cllr Jackson said a resident had advised him that the spoil would be deemed hazardous and should not be so close to the

river and the Town Council had been at risk of being prosecuted. Cllr Earth suggested the area by the slipway could have picnic benches and hedge could be put in along the boundary in the autumn. Cllr Anstey commented on the use of the Recreation Ground for the whippet clubs camping event. He had hoped to speak to Steve Avery from the NPA regarding the restrictions on the use of land for camping and he noted that the number of days that camp sites could be set up under permitted development rights had reduced back to 28 days from 56 days for 2022. **Action: Clerk to liaise with Steve Avery regarding the restrictions on the use of land.** Cllr Jackson suggested, subject to those restrictions, other events could be held. Cllr Anstey commented that the whippet club could in their own right run a camping event. However, there may be difficulties if the Town Council looked to offer the Recreation ground as a commercial campsite as there are not the facilities. Cllr Earth raised the Moto Guzzi camping events and Cllr Anstey advised that the Town Council had not charged them but they had instead made a contribution to a local charity.

8. To consider the provision of summer activities

The Clerk advised that there was no obligation for the Town Council to provide summer activities for children but there was a budget of £3k. The costs of the children's entertainer booked for the Jubilee party could be met from this budget if required. Cllr Earth advised that it had been difficult to get feedback in relation to last year's TUFF sessions. Cllr Wilson had agreed to investigate schemes running locally.

9. To report any matters concerning Open Spaces

- Jobs for Lengthsman –6th June 2022

Cllr Jackson asked about a list of open spaces and referred to the NFDC planning officer's suggestion of a large MUGA at Burgate School and a small MUGA at the Recreation Ground. He said he would speak to Cllr White first, as chair of the amenities committee, but suggested that perhaps a plan for all open spaces should be considered rather than just reviewing the Recreation Ground. Cllr Anstey confirmed that he would be prepared to be involved with a wider review. Cllrs suggested that if the Lengthsman had any capacity jobs usually done by the ground staff could be delegated to him.

10. To note any items of correspondence

The Clerk referred to correspondence from a member of the public praising the ground staff for the good condition of the Recreation Ground. Cllr Jackson referred to correspondence from the NFDC planning officer allocated the strategic sites regarding the open spaces on new developments. He felt that the officers were not taking into account the views of the elected representatives and were making decisions without properly consulting. Cllr Hale said at a recent meeting he had with NFDC planning officers he had strongly emphasised the need for the Town Council to be consulted regarding open spaces. Cllr Jackson suggested that the approach taken by the NFDC regarding management companies for open spaces may be related to money and the Town Council should make strong representations. Cllr Earth suggested waiting for the note promised by the NFDC setting out their approach to open spaces and then the Town Council should respond setting out its position. Cllr Jackson said the Town Council should make it clear that it does not want decisions to be made until the Town Council has had a chance to review the situation. Developers do not want to use the management company structure and the Town Council does not want to miss opportunities. Cllr Hale said he had made the point that the town's residents through the recent survey wanted the Town Council to take on open spaces. Cllr Anstey cautioned that the Town Council should explore the obligations that come with the different types of open space. Cllr Jackson agreed but said that the Town Council has residents support and deserves the right to investigate this matter further.

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

No report.

12. To note the date of the next meeting as 20th July 2022

The meeting closed at 8:28 pm