

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on Wednesday 16th November 2022 at 8:20 pm at the Town Hall (Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Council)

Present: Cllr White – Chairman
Cllrs Anstey, Goldsmith, Jackson, Millar, Paton, White & Wilson

In Attendance: Cllr Hale (Public Gallery)
Paul Goddard, Town Clerk
Martine Coatham, RFO
A representative from the Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society
("R&FFS")

1. To receive any apologies for absence

No apologies.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

No declarations were made.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 20th July 2022 and report any matters arising

Cllr Goldsmith proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Anstey and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 20th July 2022 be signed as a true record.

No matters arising.

It was noted that there was no meeting in September due to the death of the Queen.

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 Recreation Ground hire charges for 2023/2024

Cllr Millar suggested considering a discount for the clubs for early settlement. The RFO advised that the rugby club had a block booking and the football club were looking at doing the same. The RFO advised that it was proposed to increase the charge for camping from £6 per pitch per night to £20 per pitch per night given the cost of the works on the Pavilion and the significant increase in utility costs. Cllr White felt that this was competitive. Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Earth and therefore **RESOLVED:** to approve the proposed hire charges. All in favour.

- To confirm ground works quotes from M J Abbott on rugby pitches

The RFO advised that the cost (£3,331) was for works on the rugby pitch and the block charge to the rugby club would be increased to meet this cost. Cllr Anstey proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Wilson and therefore **RESOLVED:** to approve the quote. All in favour.

- To review the tree works schedule and agree works

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Earth and therefore **RESOLVED:** to approve the tree works. All in favour.

Cllr White advised that he did not want the Council to miss out on open space funds and CIL. He suggested to improve the Recreation ground two pieces of new play equipment should be acquired, a zip wire and a climbing tower, funded from CIL. Cllr Wilson suggested the Recreation Ground should be a destination venue and that new equipment should be funded from CIL and that the Council should ask the NFDC for the off-site formal space contribution from developers to be used for a new MUGA at the Recreation Ground. Cllrs agreed that irrespective of longer term plans some repairs were needed now to the play matting in the

worst condition. Cllrs discussed the merits of the new equipment, a longer term plan for the Recreation Ground, the timing of the Strategic Plan, the time frame for asking the NFDC for funds from the off site contributions and other possible projects at the Recreation Ground. Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Earth and therefore RESOLVED: to ask the NFDC for the formal public off-site contribution to fund (or part fund) a MUGA at the Recreation Ground. Six in favour, one against and one abstention. Cllrs discussed the general condition of the matting in the play area and what longer term improvements could be made.

6. To report any matters concerning Open Spaces

- Jobs for the Lengthsman – 2nd December 2022
None

7. To discuss budget proposals for 2023/2024 financial year and make a recommendation to the Finance & Policy Committee on the 23rd November 2022

Cllrs considered the draft budget and discussed the terms of the kiosk lease, future staffing needs, the bungalow, the cleaning of the Pavilion, the use of sports facilities by non-residents and the extent to which the clubs use of facilities is subsidised by the Council, the requirement of third-party pitch maintenance, the demolition of the Old Toilet Block and maintenance of the car park. [During the course of these discussions standing orders were suspended due to the time.] Having considered the budgets, it was agreed to make a recommendation to the Finance and Policy Committee a budget proposal of £106,000 to be funded from the precept.

8. To note any items of correspondence

None.

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

The Clerk advised that district councillor, Annie Bellows had funds in the region of £200 to £250 that could be used towards an amenity project in the town.

10. To note the date of the next meeting as 18th January 2023

The meeting closed at 9.37 pm