

## FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 8:05 pm at the Town Hall (Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Council)**

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

**In Attendance:** Paul Goddard, Town Clerk  
Cllrs Hale & Lewendon (Public Gallery)

**1. To receive any apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Hinton and White.

**2. To receive any declarations of interest.**

No declarations were made.

**3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and report any matters arising**

Cllr Earth proposed, and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

Agenda point 5: Heidi Shering had suggested a meeting with either the Burgate School trustees partnership group or with Heidi, the eco lead and students. Cllrs agreed a meeting should be held with the eco lead and students at a venue to be chosen by the school.

**Action: Clerk to arrange meeting**

Agenda point 5: The wild swimmers box is to be fixed to the Sports Club. Cllrs discussed getting rivers designated as a bathing area. Cllr Millar agreed to explore the benefits and obligations of having the river designated as a bathing area.

Cllr Anstey noted that branches remained at the Rec following recent tree work.

**4. To receive any matters raised by Members of the Public**

No matters were raised.

**5. Matters relating to the Recreation Ground**

The Clerk referred to the report produced by the Recreation Ground working party. Cllr Millar clarified the details of the appended plan.

Cllr Wilson advised that the Town Council had written to HCC regarding having some railings installed outside the memorial gates, which would allow the gates to be opened safely and address accessibility issues. Cllrs discussed the detail of the report including:

- The benefit of having an enclosed play area and getting quotes for fencing
- The relative size of the play area and picnic area
- The risks of dogs and children being in the water together
- The likely lifespan of the paddling pool and consulting with residents when it can no longer be used
- The condition of the play surfacing and removing the old play house surfacing and re-grassing it

Cllr Jackson suggested that Cllrs should feed comments and observations to the clerk to collate and pass on to the working party. Looking at the play area is the start of a wider project looking at the Recreation Ground as a whole. He said it was a good first draft and the working party needs to look at proposed amendments and consider the likely costs.

The clerk reported that the kiosk toilet repairs were being progressed, Tim Richards was instructing and getting timings from the asbestos and demolition companies in relation to

the old toilet block, Matt Bright was instructed to cap off the water supply to the block and Earlcote had graded and compacted the Recreation Ground car park. Cllr Paton suggested the Town Council could instruct the contractors directly. Cllr Paton had obtained a quote for a circular swing with five swings that would cost £7k for the equipment and installation. Cllr Wilson suggested that the Town Council could look at using CIL and it should be for a whole package including other things such as signage. Cllr Jackson spoke about putting together a costed project and approaching the NFDC for funds. Cllr Jackson queried whether meeting every other month was the best way to progress things and Cllr Paton said the project could be progressed outside of formal meetings and if necessary extraordinary meetings could be convened. Cllrs also discussed the river bank, visibility of the river, vegetation on the bank providing stability to the embankment and an environment for flowers, birds and water voles. Cllrs also discussed extending the kiosk as part of a wider plan for the Recreation Ground.

**6. To report any matters concerning Open Spaces**

- **Jobs for the Lengthsman – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023**

No jobs identified.

**7. To note any items of correspondence**

None.

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

Cllrs discussed having a visual inspection of the embankment at the start of the season, looking at the Memorial Gardens prior to the dedication of the Memorial Gates and the working party looking at the clubhouse.

**9. To note the date of the next meeting as 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

The meeting closed at 9.04pm.