

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on Wednesday 24th May 2023 at 8:11p.m. at the Town Hall (Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Council)

Present: Cllr White – Chairman
Cllrs Bailey, Jackson, Millar, Paton, Perkins, Shering and Wilson

In Attendance: Paul Goddard, Town Clerk
Rachel Edwards, Asst Town Clerk
Cllr Cameron (Public Gallery)

1. To elect a chair

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Jackson and therefore **RESOLVED**: to elect Cllr White as Chair. All in favour.

2. To elect a vice chair

Cllr Shering proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Jackson and therefore **RESOLVED**: to elect Cllr Bailey as Vice Chair. All in favour.

3. To receive any apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

4. To receive any declarations of interest.

No declarations were made.

5. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 15th March 2023 and report any matters arising

Cllr Millar proposed, and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on 15th March 2023 be signed as a true record. 5 in favour, 3 abstentions.

Matters Arising

Agenda point 3: Councillors Jackson and Paton said they'd like to be involved in a meeting with the school. The intention is to discuss the recent survey and the eco team projects.

Action: Clerk to arrange meeting with Burgate school

Agenda point 3: The wild swimmers' box has been installed outside the Sports Club.

Agenda point 3: Cllr Millar reported that just 3 out of 200 applications for bathing water status were approved last year. For Love of Water Community Interest Company (FLOW CIC) have requested a meeting to discuss applying for Bathing Water Status at Fordingbridge Recreation Ground, Cllr Millar to arrange meeting.

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

No matters were raised.

7. Matters relating to the Recreation Ground

- **To consider membership of and to receive a report from the Recreation Ground working party**

Cllr White said he wanted to focus this year on improving the Recreation Ground. Cllr Jackson said that grant funding is available to improve local spaces to reduce visitor impact on National Parks. Members discussed fencing locations at the Rec and the importance of keeping separate river areas for dogs and children.

The Recreation Ground working party will consist of Cllrs Bailey, Jackson, Millar, Paton, Perkins, Shering and White. A meeting of the working party will be held at 6pm on Wednesday 31st May in the Town Hall

- **To consider setting up a parkrun**

Cllr Millar gave a presentation about setting up a parkrun in Fordingbridge Recreation Ground, encouraging social engagement and community. Parkruns are free, timed, 5km in length and take place at 9am on Saturdays. 5km can be achieved by 4 or 5 laps of the Rec; the course cannot cross a road or a car park. There is a £4k one-off set-up fee; grants are available to cover this. There may also be associated development costs such as a path or flood protection measures. 10 - 12 volunteers would be needed to run the event each week. Cllr Paton proposed, and it was seconded by Cllr White and therefore **RESOLVED**: to explore the idea of a Parkrun at Fordingbridge Rec. All in favour.

- **To consider the request from the Rugby Club to install a marquee to the rear of the Sports Club on Saturday 22nd June 2024 to hold Fordingbridge Rugby Clubs 40th Anniversary Celebration dinner**

Fordingbridge Rugby Club have asked permission to install a 15 x 30 metre marquee for 250 people to the rear of the Sports Club from Thursday 20th June to Monday 24th June as part of the Rugby Club's 40th anniversary celebrations. Cllr Wilson proposed, and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore **RESOLVED**: to give permission to the rugby club to install a marquee on these dates. All in favour.

8. To report any matters concerning Open Spaces

- **Jobs for the Lengthsman – 5th June 2023**

No jobs identified.

- **To consider an offer to purchase and plant trees**

Corintech have offered to cover all the costs of planting some trees on council land to help increase biodiversity and carbon capture. Councillors thought it would be good to work on a tree planning initiative together with the location and post-planting maintenance to be agreed.

Cllr Wilson thought that the play equipment could be removed from Flaxfields End as it is very dated, and replaced with trees and benches instead. Cllr White suggested that Flaxfields End be considered under the remit of the Recreation Ground Working Party.

9. To note any items of correspondence

None.

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

Cllr Shering asked who would be liable for the safety of the swimmers if Fordingbridge Recreation Ground was granted Bathing Water Status. Councillors agreed that swimming would be at the public's own risk, there is already a sign advising not to bathe in the river and that it would be good to know the quality of the water.

Councillors discussed the forthcoming retirement of the Groundsman, the need to recruit a replacement and to do work on the Memorial Bungalow. It has already been agreed to recruit extra help to empty bins during the summer months.

Action: Clerk to add bungalow to next week's Finance and Policy agenda.

11. To note the date of the next meeting as 19th July 2023

The meeting closed at 9.06pm.