

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on Wednesday 19th July 2023 at 7:30p.m. at the Town Hall (Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Council)

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

In Attendance: Rachel Edwards, Asst Town Clerk
Cllrs Cameron, Hale, Hinton and Lewendon (Public Gallery)
Cllr Phil Woods (NFDC)

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Millar and Perkins.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

No declarations were made.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 24th May 2023 and report any matters arising

Cllr Paton proposed, and it was seconded by Cllr Jackson and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on 24th May 2023 be signed as a true record. No matters arising.

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

No matters were raised.

5. Matters relating to the Recreation Ground

• **To receive an update on applying for Bathing Water Status**

Cllr Wilson said that she was against applying for bathing water status as she thought it meaningless, with insufficient legislation to improve the river or the water quality. She reported that the only two rivers to have achieved bathing water status both had 'poor' water quality. She said that if no application is made, then people would continue to swim at their own risk, however if bathing water status is granted then FTC would be obliged to post signage potentially saying the water quality is poor. Cllr Bailey recommended that FTC and FAB (Fordingbridge Avon Bathers) talk to each other to address concerns. Members agreed that their concerns should be summarised in an email to FAB.

Action: Clerk to send email expressing concerns

• **To receive a report from the Recreation Ground working party**

The Clerk confirmed that £110k is available from CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funds for improvements at the Rec. The Fordingbridge Turks Football Club and the Fordingbridge Rugby Club have both agreed that the pitches could be moved. Cllrs White and Wilson met with students from Burgate School regarding the Rec and reported that students were concerned about personal safety and wanted additional lighting and CCTV; they also found the Kiosk expensive and wanted to be able to purchase refreshments after 4pm when the kiosk is normally closed. Cllr Wilson wondered whether the Sports Club might open later to meet students' needs. Cllr Paton thought the prices at the Kiosk comparable to other food venues locally.

Cllr Paton proposed, and it was seconded by Cllr Bailey and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the Recreation Ground Working Party can start to form a package of works needed and to seek quotes. All in favour.

Cllr White reported that a resident would like to form a weekly walking group to improve fitness and mental health on Mondays at the Rec. Cllr White said that the Rec lends itself to a circular walk and this is another reason to redo the pathway.

Cllr Bailey reported that temporary signs are needed immediately but that in the Autumn the school could be asked to design signs for permanent installation. Members agreed that the sign on the car park gate should specify the time it is locked, as "sunset" is too vague and open to misinterpretation. The Recreation Ground toilets are open from 8am – 5pm in the winter (GMT) and from 8am – 8pm during British Summer Time; the gates could have the same opening times.

Action: Cllr Bailey to investigate signage, including symbols to be used

- **To receive an update on setting up a parkrun**
The Sports Club and Rugby Club are supportive of a Parkrun in Fordingbridge. Cllr Millar is in contact with NFDC but there is no further update.
- **To consider a request to put up a sign promoting the whippet club**
Councillors discussed the size of a sign; they thought a sign on a building would be acceptable but did not want another large sign on the roadside. Cllr Jackson suggested that signs be standardised in the Rec. Councillors discussed having a large Welcome to Fordingbridge sign in the Rec listing the groups that meet there. Cllr Paton proposed, and it was seconded by Cllr Wilson and therefore **RESOLVED**: that in principle and subject to approval, a sign could be put up promoting the Whippet Club.

6. To report any matters concerning Open Spaces

- **Jobs for the Lengthsman – 7th August 2023**

Councillors asked that the vegetation overgrowing the boardwalk at Sweatford Water Meadow be cut back. Also, the vegetation by the river at Whitsbury Road Play area by the river.

Councillors discussed the state of the High Street and asked that all traders be written to asking them to weed and tidy outside of their premises to smarten up their area of the street and enhance the town.

7. To note any items of correspondence

No items of correspondence.

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

Nothing further to report.

9. To note the date of the next meeting as 20th September 2023

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.