

## **FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 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 Wilson, Millar, Bailey, Shering and Paton

**In Attendance:** Paul Goddard, Town Clerk

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

Apologies were received from Cllrs Jackson and Perkins.

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

No declarations were made.

**3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 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 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 be signed as a true record. No matters arising. [Cllr Bailey joined the meeting]

**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 setting up a parkrun**

Cllr Millar reported that parkrun had come back to say the proposed parkrun looks good and advised that this was paused waiting for a circular path. ParkRun had been notified. Cllr Millar is trying to arrange a meeting with Jamie Burton from the NFDC.

**• To discuss the construction of a circular path**

Cllr Shering presented details of a detailed plan of the path. He had come up with a specification and had sought prices from three companies. He had received one price and was awaiting a further two. Cllr Shering talked through the details of the proposed path, which Cllrs then discussed. The cost is likely to be around £100k. Cllrs considered the enhancements would allow an area of the Recreation Ground to be used for a steam or car fair event and how the path benefitted the Sports Clubs, who might therefore contribute to the cost of construction. Cllrs considered seeking some funding from the NFDC from the Community/Rural Development Prosperity fund. It was noted that the deadline for applications was 31<sup>st</sup> October. Cllrs discussed the pitch adjustments that would be necessary to facilitate the proposed path. Cllrs asked the Clerk to look into the application process. Cllr Wilson said that Cllr Hinton had proposed pre the election that £110k of CIL should be allocated to the play area but it would be for the new council to agree with this. There have since been further CIL receipts so there is now around £200k that needs to be allocated to projects. Cllrs discussed the split of funding between CIL and grant application. Cllr White proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore **RESOLVED**: to make a recommendation to the Finance & Policy Committee to allocate £40k of CIL to the project and seek a grant from the NFDC for a grant of £65k to fund the balance of the project. All in favour.

- **To discuss the funding of projects at the Recreation Ground**

Cllrs discussed the play area and how it might be improved. Cllr Wilson said CIL could be used but could not be used to replace like for like. She wanted to look at engaging a company to look at designing a scheme for the overall area. Cllrs discussed whether all the existing play equipment needed to be replaced and how this might be funded using CIL, budget setting and ear-marking reserves. Cllrs also discussed the quality of more recently purchased play equipment including the surfacing. Cllrs considered the ages that play equipment should be aimed at and how ongoing maintenance should be funded. Cllr Bailey raised the issue of the paddling pool and how its future must also be considered. The Recreation Ground working group had already considered replacing the existing fencing by the memorial path, improving the accessibility to the river and the sandpit. Cllr Shering felt that, notwithstanding a bigger plan for the play area, these were areas that could be quickly improved before next summer. He had obtained quotes for the play fencing with a pedestrian gate and a vehicular gate. Cllrs discussed the positioning of the gates. Cllr Shering felt that he could implement the improvements taking into account the cost of the fencing for around £8k. Given Cllr Shering's connection to the council, Cllrs discussed obtaining at least one further quote for the proposed work. Cllr Millar proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore **RESOLVED**: to ask for funding from CIL to move on with the works to the fence, river area and sandpit, subject to getting a comparative quote. All in favour.

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

Cllr Wilson wanted to allocate CIL to engage a consultant to do some design work in the area behind the Co-Op. Also, Flaxfields should be considered. The Council has previously committed some funds to the men's shed. A consultation had taken place at Flaxfields and only one person had turned up. Cllr Bailey said the ROSPA report said the rocket should go and queried whether a play area was needed there. Cllr Wilson suggested offering the £10k to the men's shed with the group funding the rest to put a building similar to the one in Wilton and also to plant a further community orchard. Cllrs discussed whether it was a suitable location for the men's shed and possible alternatives. Cllr White proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore **RESOLVED**: to make a recommendation to the Finance & Policy Committee to allocate £10k to the men's shed for a building at Flaxfields and to look to put in a further community orchard with picnic benches. All in favour.

**7. To agree the block booking for the rugby club**

The Clerk summarised how the RFO had arrived at her proposal of a block booking charge of £7k for the rugby club. Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Millar and therefore **RESOLVED** to agree the block booking fee for this season at £7,000. All in favour.

**8. To review the request from the rugby club for a firework party**

Cllr Bailey had spoken to the chair of the rugby club. There had been some confusion as to whether this was a public event as details were being shared on social media. This in turn gave rise to concerns as to insurance, licensing and risk. It has since been clarified that this is a closed event for the sports club and family, however this needs to be made clear by issuing a statement. Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Millar and therefore **RESOLVED**: to approve the request from the rugby club for a firework event at no charge. All in favour.

**9. To agree the costs to install a barrier by the Memorial Gates**

Hampshire County Council have proposed 6m of railings to be installed outside the memorial gates at a cost of £671.75. Cllrs discussed the need for the railing, its required length and the impact on future Remembrance Sunday parades. Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded

by Cllr Millar and therefore RESOLVED: to agree the costs to install a barrier by the Memorial Gardens. All in favour.

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

No items of correspondence.

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

Nothing further to report.

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

The meeting closed at 9:05pm.