

**FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 7:30pm  
(Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Committee)**

**Present:** Cllrs Anstey, Cameron, Hinton, Howard, Lewendon, Millar (Chair), Paton, Shering, and White

**In attendance:** Rachel Edwards, Asst Town Clerk  
Martine Coatham, Finance Officer  
Cllr Phil Woods, NFDC

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

Apologies received from Cllr Perkins. The Asst Clerk advised that Cllr Wilson had resigned from the Council. Cllr Millar asked that thanks for Cllrs Wilson's work on the council be noted and that she would be missed on the Council.

**2. To receive any Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Shering noted an interest in item 5 on the agenda (payment of accounts) and would not be involved in the discussion relating to the relevant invoice from Crownshade. Cllr Cameron declared an interest in item 6 on the agenda (grant application from Fordingbridge Scouts) and would not be involved in the discussion or decision relating the grant award.

**3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and report any matters arising**

Cllr White proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Anstey and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024 be signed as a true record. All those that attended in favour.  
**Matters Arising** – none raised.

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

Cllr Woods (NFDC) reported that complaints had been received about the roadworks. The workmen hit a gas main which caused a delay of half a day but they are now back on schedule.

**5. To receive details of Monies Collected & Payment of Accounts**

The monthly reports had been circulated by the RFO prior to the meeting.

Cllr Anstey proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Millar and therefore **RESOLVED**: to approve the schedule of payments of account and that the amounts collected are correct. All in favour (bar Cllr Shering who had declared an interest).

**6. To consider grant applications under Section 137/CIL**

- Hope for Tomorrow

Cllrs discussed previous applications from Hope for Tomorrow and noted that the Council had awarded £1000 in 2022 and £800 in 2023. Cllr White proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore **RESOLVED**: to approve a grant of £800 for the service provided for the particular level of care. All in favour.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Fordingbridge Scouts

Cllr Cameron moved to the Public Gallery, having declared an interest. Cllrs discussed the application from Fordingbridge Scouts for a grant towards the cost of new accessible toilets and shower and noted that the Council had last awarded a grant in 2015 of £500. Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr White to approve a grant of £750. Cllr Shering proposed to approve a grant of £1000, there was no seconder. It was therefore **RESOLVED**: to approve a grant of £750. All in favour (bar Cllr Cameron who had declared an interest).

Cllr White awarded an additional £250 from the Mayor's allowance to 1<sup>st</sup> Fordingbridge Scouts towards the cost of the new toilets and shower.

- Avonway Friends on Friday

The RFO reported that a £500 grant had been awarded to Avonway for the Friends on Friday lunches. However, these are not currently running due to a shortage of volunteers, but it is hoped they will restart in September. Members agreed to review the situation in September.

**7. To receive any Finance & Policy matters referred from sub-committees** – none received

**8. To receive an update on building matters**

- Circular path – additional fencing costs

Cllrs asked whether the Rec would be fenced off as a whole or in sections while this work is undertaken, and whether the sports pitches would be inaccessible then. They discussed when the pitches will be moved, who will move the rugby goalposts and the cost of moving the pitches and posts; also, who is responsible for the cost of replacement rugby posts when needed.

Cllr White reported that the Avon Valley Shed's proposed location is immediately to the rear of the Sports Club. He said there would be no need to dig up the new circular path to lay services to the proposed building, nor to move the Whippet track.

Cllr Hinton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr White and therefore RESOLVED: to approve the additional costs of £3260 + VAT to supply, erect and remove on completion 130 Heras fencing panels (approx. 455m) and 1 pair of gates for a 5-week period. All in favour.

**Action: Clerk to ask the contractor for the quickest feasible schedule of works**

**Action: Clerk to clarify the above points and present the contractor's schedule of works at the General Council meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024**

**9. To approve the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24 and to note the following:**

- Internal audit report: Members noted that internal audit had taken place on 18<sup>th</sup> June and noted the report from IAC with three minor observations relating to receipt of burial fees, changes to the asset register and the Clerk to sign future pay increase confirmations for the RFO. The RFO noted that all of these will be actioned during the current year.
- Public Rights Notice: the public rights period for this year starts on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June until Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August and will be posted following this meeting.
- Revised Asset Register: the updated asset register for year end to March 2024 was approved.

The RFO summarised to Cllrs the content of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2023/2024.

Cllr White proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore RESOLVED to approve the Internal Audit report. All in favour.

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr White and therefore RESOLVED to approve the Public Rights notice. All in favour.

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Howard and therefore RESOLVED to approve the Revised Asset Register. All in favour.

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Millar and therefore RESOLVED to approve the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/2024. All in favour.

**10. To approve repairs to the front deck (including consideration of replacement deck)**

Cllr Millar proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore RESOLVED to approve the estimate of repairs to the front deck. All in favour.

***Action: To consider at the next Amenities and General Purposes Committee meeting how to fund a second front deck in the future.***

**11. To review the following policies and registers – none this month**

**12. To note any items of correspondence – none received**

Pennyfarthing Homes confirmed that a private management company will take on the Tinkers Cross Open Spaces, with residents contributing to the service charges on this and the other strategic sites.

**13. To receive a report from the Clerk and any other relevant business**

Cllr Anstey noted that the address of the dishwasher was incorrect on the asset register.

The RFO reported that the grounds person is getting quotes for GPS line marking services for the sports pitches and advised that at a cost of approx. £1100 pa, there was insufficient budget.

***Action: Cllr Shering to investigate the cost of moving the pitches***

**14. To note the date of the next meeting as 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024**

The meeting ended at 8.24 pm