

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee held on Wednesday 29th May 2024 at 7:30pm
(Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Committee)**

Present: Cllrs Anstey, Hinton, Millar (Chair), Paton, Shering, White and Wilson

In attendance: Paul Goddard, Town Clerk

1. To elect a Chair of the Finance & Policy Committee

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

2. To elect a Vice-Chair of the Finance & Policy Committee

Cllr Millar proposed and it was seconded by Cllr White and therefore **RESOLVED:** to elect Cllr Hinton as Vice-Chair. All in favour.

3. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllrs Howard, Lewendon, Cameron and Perkins. The Clerk advised that Cllr Bailey had resigned from the Council. Cllr Millar asked that thanks for Cllrs Bailey's work on the council be noted and that he would be missed on the Council.

4. To receive any Declarations of Interest

Cllr Shering noted an interest in item 7 on the agenda (payment of accounts) and would not be involved in the discussion relating to the relevant invoice from Crownshade.

5. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 24th April 2024 and report any matters arising

Cllr White proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 24th April 2024 be signed as a true record. All those that attended in favour. **Matters Arising** – none raised.

6. To receive any matters raised by Members of the Public – none raised

7. To receive details of Monies Collected & Payment of Accounts

The monthly reports had been circulated by the RFO prior to the meeting – The Clerk noted the exceptional expenditure for the removal of the fallen tree at the cemetery and the fence installation at the Recreation Ground. Cllr White noted how good the fence work was.

Cllr Millar proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton 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).

8. To consider grant applications under Section 137/CIL – none received

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

10. To receive an update on building matters

The Clerk was obtaining quotes for the supply and installation of new fencing at the play area in Queens Gardens. Cllr Shering would be happy to quote again for the installation work. Cllrs discussed the proposals for new play equipment and the ROSPA reports on the existing play equipment and concerns regarding the recommended work arising from it. Cllr Millar raised a concern from a local resident regarding a local play equipment company not being included in the final shortlist of companies but was advised that the proposal that had been submitted was overbudget. Cllrs discussed filling Cllr Bailey's roles both to evaluate the new play equipment and in a broader health and safety capacity. Cllr Anstey agreed to help evaluate the play equipment

and agreed he would take on a defined health and safety role broadly limited to play equipment, as a health and safety ambassador (not officer). Cllr Anstey would review the play inspection reports and report back in terms of maintenance work requirements and priorities. Cllrs Paton, Cameron and Anstey would review the shortlisted proposals for new equipment and make a recommendation to General Council.

Quotes had been received for the proposed circular path, which would be reviewed by the buildings manager so that he could make a recommendation to General Council. The Clerk was arranging a meeting with the buildings manager in that regard.

Pre-application advice had been sought from the NFDC regarding installing the base and casing for a generator to the rear of the Town Hall.

11. Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24

Members noted that internal audit was booked for 18th June 2024. Cllr Millar noted thanks to the RFO for her work in relation to the audit.

12. To review the following policies and registers

- Resilience Plan

Cllrs discussed the resilience plan. The Avonway contact needed updating, the telephone cascade updated for additional Cllr volunteers, a WhatsApp group should be created and the Clerk should be able to authorise emergency expenditure. Cllr White agreed he would stand in for the Clerk in his absence to instigate the resilience plan if needed and he would also update the plan as above. Cllr Hinton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Millar and therefore RESOLVED: that the Resilience Plan be approved subject to the changes discussed. All in favour.

13. To note any items of correspondence – none received

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

The Clerk noted:

Sponsor a player a player for Hyde Band for £25, which the mayor agreed could be met from his budget.

Hyde Band – a £200 contribution is proposed to be made to Hyde Band for performing at the forthcoming D-Day commemoration on 6th June.

Bonallack & Bishop – a quote for registering the Town Hall (and land) and the Frys Field allotments with the Land Registry had been received for £800 to £1,000 plus disbursements and VAT. Cllrs agreed that the Council should proceed with the registration.

15. To note the date of the next meeting as 26th June 2024

The meeting ended at 8.18pm