

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Amenities and General Purposes Committee meeting held on Wednesday 17th July 2024 at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall (Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Council)

Chair: Cllr Shering
Present: Cllrs Hinton, Howard, Lewendon, Millar and Paton

In Attendance: Paul Goddard, Town Clerk
Rachel Edwards, Asst Town Clerk
Cllr Woods (NFDC)

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Anstey, Perkins and White.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

No declarations of interest.

3. To elect a vice chair

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

4. To confirm the minutes of the Amenities and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 15th May 2024 and report any matters arising

Cllr Paton proposed, and it was seconded by Cllr Hinton and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2024 be signed as a true record. All those that attended in favour. No matters arising.

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

Cllr Woods asked about the casual vacancies in the Office of Councillor for Fordingbridge Town Council. The Clerk reported that:

- The casual vacancy that arose as a result of Cllr Bailey's resignation will be filled by co-option.
- An election will be held to fill the casual vacancy that arose as a result of Cllr Wilson's resignation, as requested by ten electors for the Parish in writing. The election date is set for 15th August 2024 and, is expected to cost Fordingbridge Town Council in the region of £6k. Should the election be uncontested, it would cost FTC approximately £300.
- The notice of vacancy following Cllr Cameron's resignation is still open. If by 23 July 2024 14 days after the date of the notice excluding Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays, a request for an election to fill the vacancy is made in writing to the Returning Officer, New Forest District Council by TEN electors for the Parish, an election will be held to fill the vacancy. If no request for an election is received the vacancy will be filled by co-option.

6. Matters relating to the Recreation Ground

- **To review membership of and to receive an update from the Recreation Ground Working Party**

The membership of the Recreation Ground working party currently comprises of Cllrs Millar, Paton, Perkins, Shering and White, with two vacancies following Cllrs Bailey and Wilson's resignations. Members agreed to wait until new members have joined the Council before filling these vacancies.

The Clerk reported that he and Cllrs Paton and White were to meet with HAGS regarding the new play equipment.

- **To consider final details for the circular path and moving of pitches**
The Clerk met with the Rugby and Football clubs who said they were happy with the proposed plans. Additional costs would be incurred in moving the rugby pitch and posts, digging out the old cricket pitch and reurfing to allow pitch run-off and moving the floodlights. The Clerk said the allocated CIL would cover these additional costs but that approval at a General Council meeting would be needed.
- **To consider a camping proposal from the Whippet Club**
The Whippet Club requested a reduced rate of £10 per pitch per night for the Whippet Club Camp in the Recreation Ground in 2025. The 2024 rate is £15 per pitch per night and these rates are reviewed annually.

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Howard and therefore **RESOLVED**: to reject the request for a reduced camping rate of £10 per pitch per night for the Whippet Club camp in 2025. All in favour.

7. To consider tasks for the Lengthsman – 2nd August 2024

Cllr Paton reported that she had delivered letters from the Town Council to two residents, and both had cut their hedges as requested. Members requested that a thank you note be sent.

Action: Office to write a thank you note

Cllr Hinton reported that the grass has been allowed to grow at the Augustus Park development for biodiversity reasons and is scheduled to be cut at the end of July.

Members discussed communal roadside areas as discussed at General Council on 3rd July 2024, agenda item 14.

Action: Clerk to ask HCC for money to take on additional tasks

No tasks were identified for the lengthsman.

8. To report on any matters concerning Open Spaces

- **To consider an extension of the Falconwood to Marl Lane path**
Some short-term work was recently undertaken to improve the condition of the path from Falconwood to the railway bridge at Allenwater Drive. NFDC have proposed applying for CIL funding to further enhance this path and have recommended that the application should include continuing the pathway from the railway bridge through FTC's open space behind Allenwater Drive and Pealsham Gardens. The Town Council would be responsible for the maintenance of the path on their land.
- **To consider landscape enhancement proposals for the football field at Allenwater Drive**
The NFDC has proposed improvements to the football field at Allenwater Drive involving laying a hoggin path and additional tree and meadow grass planting, while retaining large areas for play and exercise.

Cllr Hinton proposed, and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore **RESOLVED**: that in principle the Town Council would be willing to grant consent for these works to be undertaken on their land and await further details.

9. To report on matters concerning St Mary's Closed Churchyard and Stuckton Road Cemetery

Cllr Shering reported that the fence between the St Mary's churchyard and the track has fallen down.

Action: Clerk to report to NFDC

10. To report on any matters relating to the use of the Town Hall

The Clerk reported that the clock has now been fixed.

Cllr Shering asked about the Town Hall works and was told that Structural Engineers have been contacted and sent drawings and the Clerk is in the process of following this up.

11. To report on any matters relating to the Information Office

Nothing to report.

12. To report on any matters concerning Footpaths

Cllr Woods (NFDC) reported that the footpath to Sandy Balls is overgrown and asked that FTC write to Sandy Balls Holiday Village to request that it be cut.

Action: Clerk to write to Sandy Balls Holiday Village

13. To report on any matters concerning Allotments

The Clerk reported that the grass at the Augustus Park allotments is very high. He will arrange for it to be topped and then for the boreholes to be installed.

14. To note any items of correspondence

A request has been received to film an advert for a car jump starter and tyre inflator at the Recreation Ground car park. It would involve one camera, one model with dog and a crew of fewer than 10 people and would take under two hours early on a weekday morning. Members agreed the request in exchange for a donation to the Sports Club.

Action: Clerk to find out if the Recreation Ground has been registered as a filming location

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

Nothing further to report.

16. To note the date of the next meeting as 18th September 2024

The meeting closed at 8:30pm.