

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee held on Wednesday 29th July 2026 at 7:30pm
(Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Committee)**

Present: Cllrs Anstey, Balthazar, Hinton (Chair), Lewendon, Paton, White and Wilson.

In attendance: Paul Goddard, Town Clerk and Martine Coatham, Finance Officer

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Brown, Howard, Johnston, Millar and Shering

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest: None received

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 2026 and report any matters arising

Cllrs **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 24th June 2026 be signed as a true record. All those that attended in favour.

Matters Arising:

Agenda Point 15: SID – proposed locations to be notified to HCC to start the application process.

Agenda point 9: AGAR – website accessibility test: the clerk had reported the concerns raised by IAC at year end regarding our website not being fully compliant. TLC have confirmed that it meets the requirements and no further improvements are required.

4. To receive any matters raised by Members of the Public: No matters raised.

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

The monthly reports for July had been circulated by the RFO prior to the meeting. Three invoices were under query (R&F News, Technical Heating and Ofsted) - members agreed that the Ofsted registration was no longer required and could be cancelled. The other two invoices would be settled once confirmed the amounts were correct. Cllrs **RESOLVED**: to approve the schedule of payments of accounts and that the amounts collected are correct. All in favour.

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

7. To receive any Finance & Policy matters referred from sub-committees

- **Amenities & General Purposes 22/7/26 – replacement rubbish bins**

Members had considered a report regarding rubbish at the recreation ground and at other sites around the town managed by the Council, a recommendation was made to purchase 1 additional double metal bin for the recreation ground, and 3 smaller replacement bins for Whitsbury Road, Flaxfields and Queens Gardens. The likely cost will be around £1600 to £1800 which is above the remaining budget for the year – the RFO noted funds could be used from the grounds maintenance budget to cover the shortfall. Cllrs **RESOLVED**: to approve the purchase of four additional bins as proposed. It was agreed that the double bins should include a recycling section. **Action: Officers to purchase bins.**

- **Amenities & General Purposes 20/5/26 – shelter at the cemetery**

Members had considered installing a shelter at the cemetery. Three quotes were reviewed and discussion took place about the purpose of the shelter and how it could be funded as the quotes covered a wide range. It was agreed that officers should obtain further quotes, to the values of (i) up to £1500, (ii) up to £5000, and (iii) up to £8500 for review at the August meeting of Finance and Policy. Officers to discuss potential use of the existing building with the owners. **Action: Officers to obtain quotes.**

8. To receive an update on building matters -

- **Workshop:** revised drawings approved by grounds team. These now need to be submitted for planning. Members agreed to defer the decision until the next meeting to enable the drawings obtained by Cllr Brown to be considered.
- **Area behind the Co-op:** the Clerk is due to meet the contractor on Friday to review the site before the proposals are confirmed.
- **To receive an update on the Town Hall works:** planning application submitted/decision due by 26th August. Once the final date has been reached, Cllr Hinton will make a supplementary statement covering the concerns raised. Advice has been sought regarding the access issues raised.
- **Replacement sports buildings:** Cllrs and the Clerk met with Barclay Phillips and there was a proposal to provide drawings (at cost). The RFO noted that funding for a project of this size needs to be identified before any professional costs/planning applications are submitted. Cllr White felt that the meeting had been useful and the quote would be considered at a future meeting.

9. To consider replacing the paddling pool with a new pool/splash park

Members considered the budget quotes for replacing the paddling pool with a new pool or a splash park. Four quotes were reviewed. Cllrs **RESOLVED:** to replace the paddling pool, allocate CIL to the project and apply for a grant from NFDC to facilitate the full proposal cost. All in favour.

10. To agree a scheme and the quote for work to replace the bus shelter

A revised quote had been received to include repositioning the bus stop at 90 degrees to the existing location and lowered to match pavement. Officers need to establish that land ownership is with HCC and gain approval for the works – and whether planning permission is required for change of location. Initial discussions with the Transport Team suggest repositioning the shelter will be challenging. If the revised location is agreed, there will be additional costs not covered by the grant and budget (£1000) – likely to be in the region of an additional £1500. It was agreed that the revised location would be more accessible and should therefore be investigated before accepting quotes. **Action: Officers to establish ownership of land and next steps.**

11. To review the CIL allocation and agree proposals for expenditure

Members reviewed the existing CIL allocations and additional funds received in April 2026. Cllrs **RESOLVED:** to revise the allocations as below. All in favour.

CIL Allocation	£425,244.85
Mens Shed (balance of £10k grant)	4,723.05
Enhance play area/river	10,000.00
Play equipment	88,355.43
Bandstand/covered area	20,000.00
High Street 20mph	20,000.00
Improve area behind Co-op	35,000.00
Path from Fal/Peal	35,000.00
Seed funding/Sports Club	20,000.00
Memorial Garden Improvements	15,000.00
Church Square - seed funds	20,000.00
Shelter - Stuckton Road	5,349.52
Bus Shelter – additional cost	£1000.00
Replacement Paddling Pool	150816.85
Unallocated balance	£0.00

12. To consider the CIL Local Infrastructure Funding – deadline 7th August

- **Replacement paddling pool or splash park**

Cllrs **RESOLVED**: to apply for CIL Local Infrastructure Funding to replace the paddling pool. All in favour.

13. To consider the Hampshire County Council Grant Streams

Members considered the grant streams available and agreed not to progress any at the current time but to review the bus shelter grant scheme in six months.

14. To discuss and agree arrangement and organisation of Christmas Events 2026

- Lights switch on: date confirmed 27th November 2026
- Afternoon Tea: date confirmed 3rd December 2026

These dates were noted and members agreed that Officers should start planning these events based on the 2025 format.

15. To review the following policies and registers:

- **CCTV Policy**
- **Financial Reserves**
- **Tree**

Members considered the above policies – minor amendments had been made. Cllrs **RESOLVED**: to accept the policies as revised. All in favour.

The Environmental Policy was discussed. Cllr Wilson agreed to review the policy and complete the action plan as a starting point for review. It was noted that several issues would be covered by the Neighbourhood Plan, once this was approved.

16. To note any items of correspondence: three letters of thanks had been received from Hope For Tomorrow, Turks Football Club and Ringwood & Fordingbridge Foodbank for grants made.

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

- It was noted that ParkFest had been a success and residents had shown their appreciation to staff and members.
- BBQs at the recreation ground were discussed (they are not permitted but unfortunately are still being used with the ground being charred as a result) and concern was raised about the potential fire risk. It was agreed to purchase fire beaters for the recreation ground. **Action: Officers to purchase fire beaters.**

18. To note the date of the next meeting as 26th August 2026

The meeting ended at 8.36pm