

## **FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of a meeting of the Amenities Committee held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016 in the Town Hall** (Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Committee)

**Present:** Cllr Anstey – Chairman  
Cllrs Paton, Price, Lewendon, Fulford, Perkins & Connolly

**In Attendance:** Mrs H Richards - Town Clerk  
Mrs M Coatham – Finance Officer

Cllrs Earth, Wilson, Adams & Hale – Public Gallery  
1 member of the Public

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

No apologies received

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

No declarations of interest received.

#### **3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and report on any matters arising.**

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Fulford and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016 be signed as a true record.

No matters arising

#### **4. To receive any matters raised by members of the public**

No matters raised

#### **5. To report on matters relating to the Recreation Ground**

Rugby Floodlights - The chairman summarised the progress on provision of the floodlights following the request by the Rugby Club for floodlights on the Recreation Ground Pitch:

- 9/2/16 Site Visit by Contractor – Issue regarding proximity of Pylons and overhead electricity cables
- 25/2/16 – Meeting Town Council, Rugby Club and Rugby Football Union. Revised siting of lighting columns to overcome overhead cable issue. Discussion regarding provision of permanent or removable columns, costings and ongoing maintenance.
- 16/3/16 – Written agreement received from landowner of Redbrook Pitch allowing positioning of floodlights (on Redbrook pitch)

Members discussed whether permanent flood lights should be provided on the Recreation Ground and AGREED that while provision here would allow the lights to be used by other users, the open recreation ground should be protected – the option for provision on Redbrook (Brownsey) land should be pursued.

Memorial Gardens – The Town Clerk and Finance Officer reported that 2 quotes had been received with regard to provision of fences, gate and paths in the Memorial Gardens (and including Car Park works). The quotes would be assessed however costs would seem prohibitive for the provision of bonded gravel paths – priority to be given to provision of fencing and new gate. The Clerk advised that an enquiry had been made to Wolvercroft Garden Centre for soft landscaping and planting works.

The Clerk reported that the temporary fencing would be removed from around the trampolines in the children’s play area and the purchase of more substantial temporary fencing would be investigated for future use.

Party in the Park – The Clerk advised members of the event to be held on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June including a picnic at the Memorial Gardens/Recreation Ground.

Pitch Maintenance – The Chairman updated members on recent discussions with the Turks FC and measures to assist with spreading the wear of the main football pitch (move pitch across). Annual maintenance will be scheduled including Weed and Feed, drainage works and regular irrigation. Following discussion regarding provision of piped irrigation, it was agreed that irrigation using the bowser was sufficient if used correctly. Town Clerk to instruct Groundsman.

Hire Charges – Members considered the recommendation of the Finance Officer for revisions to the Hire Charges. Following discussion regarding block bookings and the need to raise fees to allow more comprehensive pitch maintenance to be carried out,

Cllr Perkins proposed and it was second by Cllr Lewendon and therefore **RESOLVED:** to recommend to the Finance and Policy Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016 that the following Hire Charges are accepted with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016:

**Recreation Ground Hire charges w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016.**  
*(prices include VAT where applicable)*

Clubs may agree a block booking rate with the Finance Officer if booked and paid prior to the start of the booking.

Charges unless block booked per session:

Football & Rugby Clubs	£50.00
Juniors	£25.00
Training	£25.00
Whippet Track	£35.00 (day) £20 (evening)
Cricket	£50.00

Tournaments                      £110 daily rate, £55 half day

Camping & Caravans – Up to 20 pitches, £100 per day/night. 20 or more £100 per day/night + £5 per pitch. (Price inclusive of use of the pavilion & showers).

Commercial use of the Recreation Ground - £250 per day.

Other events hire costs to be determined by the Finance & Policy Committee.

### **Fishing Fees -**

#### Daily rate:

Adult £5.00

OAP/Under 16 yrs £2.50

#### Weekly Rate:

Adult £15.00

OAP/Under 16 yrs £7.50

#### Residents Annual Permit – **Proof of residency within Fordingbridge required**

Adult £50.00

OAP/Under 16 yrs £25.00

Groundsman, Derek Jones – 07752 988600

Finance Officer to write to Clubs advising of revised charges and highlighting the benefits of block booking.

Pitch conditions – the Chair advised Members that following a recent incident regarding pitch conditions and suitability for play and sought clarification of whether the decision should remain with the Council's groundsman or with the individual sports clubs. Members agreed that while the Clubs would not wish to render pitches unplayable, the decision should remain with the groundsman.

Whippet Track – The Chairman reported on a recent review meeting with the Whippet Racing Club at which time it was recognised that the block booking, one payment arrangement employment over the past year had worked well, with a definite income to the Council – the Whippet Club acknowledged that this arrangement had worked in their favour on this occasion and accepted that the Finance Officer would recalculate the amount to be paid over the coming year. Discussion also took place regarding maintenance required to the racing track and the Town Clerk advised that contractors would be approached for a quote. – works to be carried out in early Winter/Spring 2017.

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

There were no matters to report concerning Open Spaces

## **7. Forward Plan**

The Finance Officer distributed the Forward Plan produced with the Town Clerk & Assistant Town Clerk which details works which are required within the following 2 years. This will be linked to the proposed Business or Strategic Plan from which Annual Action Plans will be prepared for each

Committee. This will inform Members when budget setting and also allow work programmes and priorities to be set.

**8. To report on any Tree Works**

The Town Clerk reported on a request from an adjoining householder for pruning of trees located on the "Football Field", Parsonage Park. Members AGREED that as no safety issues had been identified during the Annual Tree Survey, no pruning should be carried out. Town Clerk to respond.

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

No items of correspondence received.

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

The Clerk reported on information received from the Hampshire Trust for Conservation Volunteers and requested that Cllr Hale (public gallery) discuss whether the group could give any advice or support regarding Bishops Pond.

Cllr Perkins reported on the following items:

- further erosion of the River Bank at the Recreation Ground - clerk to contact Environment Agency for advice regarding both banks and the island.
- Paddling Pool needs cleaning out
- Dog Fouling in Play Area

Cllr Connolly reported that the Finance Officer had undertaken work on the Review of the Committee Structure.

**11. To note the date of the next meeting as 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016.**

The meeting closed at 8.35pm