

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Wednesday 19th March 2014 at 7.30 p.m. in the Town Hall

PRESENT:

Cllr Anstey - Chairman
Cllrs. Perkins, Price, Paton, Fulford & Lewendon

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllrs Hale, (A) Wilson & (G) Wilson
Miss D Vine, Assistant Town Clerk
Mrs H Richards, Clerk elect
1 Member of the Public

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Cllr Connolly

2. To receive any declarations of interest

None received

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd January 2014 and report on any matters arising

It was proposed by Cllr Lewendon and seconded by Cllr Perkins and **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd January 2014 be signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Front Deck – Asst Clerk to confirm with Finance officer that this has been ordered.

Sweatsford Water – No further update had been received from Steve Jones at NFDC. Cllr Perkins advised that some residents in Whitsbury Road had suffered flooded gardens and had been referred to NFDC. Cllr Price advised that action was being taken to rectify the issues with the riverbank.

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

None raised.

5. To report on matters relating to the Recreation Ground

Concession & Toilet Building – Cllr Anstey advised that a meeting had taken place between Michael Weakley and Bournemouth Water in relation to the new service and meter stopcock for the concession building together which would include a new header tank and pipework to serve a standpipe close to the paddling pool which would prevent loss of pressure when filling the paddling pool. It would also provide the air break and therefore avoid any cross contamination which concerned Bournemouth Water. Cllr Fulford requested confirmation

Developer contributions had now been received from NFDC to enable the work to proceed. The Asst Clerk to advise Michael Weakley who will draw up the contract for M Castle Builders to sign and ascertain a start date for the work. Cllr Fulford asked for confirmation that sufficient consideration had been given to flooding provision as the proposed building is to be built in a high risk area, although no flooding has occurred and also that provision would be made in the contract in the form of penalty clauses for late completion. Asst Clerk to check with Michael Weakley.

Cllr Anstey advised that members would need to discuss proposals for operation of the Concession Building at the May Amenities meeting with a view to a recommendation being made to the Finance and Policy Committee on the 28th May 2014. Papers detailing options would be forwarded prior to the Amenities Meeting for consideration.

Flood Damage – Cllr Perkins had carried out an inspection of the Recreation Ground, areas of which were still quite muddy where water had receded. Debris on the riverbank to be cleared by the Ground Staff. The Environment Agency had confirmed that river bank erosion caused by recent flooding at the Recreation Ground was the responsibility of the riparian owner. Cllr Perkins to request a site meeting with the Environment Agency to provide advice on the best course of action.

Cllr Anstey advised that it would be necessary for a riverbank bench to be removed and relocated as a result of loss of part of the embankment. The Groundsman is aware.

New Sports Facility – Cllr Anstey attended a Meeting with the Sports Club and NFDC on 6th March 2014 to discuss funding for the Sports facility. Cllr Connolly has spoken to Cllr Heron to request a letter of intent from Hampshire County Council to nominate money, which will assist in the funding process. Quotes are to be obtained in respect of employing a professional fund raiser as the funding process can be complex. Cllr Fulford suggested that Action for Market Towns could be of assistance in this process without the need for additional expenditure. Asst Clerk to investigate and advise Cllr Anstey.

Recreation Ground Hire Rates - Juniors – Cllr Anstey had started researching charges made by other Recreation Grounds and it appeared that no other recreation Grounds charge less than Fordingbridge Town Council. Schools charge less but tend to be subsidised. Cllr Anstey to speak to the Finance Officer to see whether a block booking with a VAT concession would reduce the cost. Pitch only hire could also reduce the cost. Members felt that a small increase in fees should be made each year. The Asst Clerk to check previous Amenities Minutes to ascertain what had been agreed in respect of an increase for 2013/2014.

6. To report on any matters concerning Open Spaces

Cllr Anstey advised that the Sports Club had been contacted by an events company in relation to organising a half marathon/fun run/extreme sports event one weekend in September 2015 using the Recreation Ground. The event would be called the Fordingbridge Marathon. Both the football and rugby clubs had confirmed they were supportive and that it would not interfere with fixtures. Members were supportive of the idea and awaited further details.

7. To report on Tree Works

The Asst Clerk confirmed that the maintenance programme had commenced and would be ongoing.

8. To note any items of correspondence

None

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

Cllr Fulford asked when the paddling pool was likely to be refurbished. The Asst Clerk advised that NFDC were currently working on the design programme for the Recreation Ground which had been agreed as part of the Developer Contribution package and included the paddling pool, and further details were awaited. Cllr

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Paton advised that replacement sand was required for the sandpit, and the mini roundabout required attention as the surface had become uneven and could be a trip hazard. Cllr Anstey re-iterated that he had asked that certain areas of the recreation ground be taped off.

Cllr Anstey had attended a recent local councils event where two companies were showcasing MUGA'S, and had requested brochures.

10. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 21st May 2014

The meeting ended at 08.05 pm

Chairman
21.05.14