

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 16th November 2016 in the Town Hall

(Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Committee)

Present:

Cllr Anstey – Chairman

Cllrs Price, Lewendon, Paton, Fulford, Connolly & Perkins

In Attendance:

Mrs H Richards, Town Clerk

Mrs M Coatham, Finance Officer

Cllrs Earth, Hale, Adams, Bailey & Wilson

1. To receive any apologies for absence

No apologies received.

2. To receive any declarations of interest

No declarations made

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 21st September 2016 and report on any matters arising

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Price and therefore

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 21st September 2016 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

Cllr Paton entered the meeting

There were 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

Cllr Bailey entered the meeting

Play Equipment Repairs – 2 quotes received for works identified on ROSPA reports in the sums of £17,812 and £7,512.15. The Chair advised that consideration should be given to replacing some of the older equipment instead of repairing it and suggested that one item could be replaced this year – Chair to inspect existing equipment to consider replacement.

Cllr Perkins entered the meeting

Paddling Pool – The Clerk reported on attendance at a meeting with other local councils who provide paddling pools. Fordingbridge Pool is operated on a manual basis with no chlorination plant or pump being used; useful information was gained regarding problems and costs when using plant and also regarding the replacement of pools with water play areas.

Car Park – Works now completed

Changing Rooms & Storage – The chair advised that the plans for rebuilding the pavilion had proven too costly and other options were being explored – the cost of refurbishment of the existing building had not been ascertained.

Cllr Wilson entered the meeting

Members were asked to consider whether the Council should provide changing facilities and agreed that the Council should.

The Finance Officer advised that a quote had been received for the provision of mobile changing facilities in the sum of £45,000. This would be for delivery of unit to site only and demolition of existing building, making good and connection of services would be additional costs.

The Chair advised that the Council should check if the existing building is structurally sound – Clerk to contact local company for advice.

The Finance Officer suggested that other options could be investigated – The conversion of the Old Toilet block had not progressed – the Council have advised the Rugby Club that works cannot be carried out by volunteers and any contractor must provide adequate insurance cover.

Concern was raised regarding the need to tender for works to the pavilion, however the clerk advised that at this stage advice is required as to the feasibility and scope of refurbishment, a full specification and tendering process could then be undertaken for identified works.

Block Booking Turks Football – The Finance Officer advised that discussions were on going regarding block booking however a higher income had been received for pitch use.

The Chair reported on unauthorised parking on the track from the car park to the Sports Club – this happens when the car park is full. Clerk to write to the sports club.

6. To report on any matters concerning Open Spaces

Nothing to report.

7. To report on any Tree Works

Tree Surveys – The clerk reported that problems had arisen with the Annual Tree Survey due to staff absence (at New Forest DC) and a change to the reporting system however the Assistant Clerk was working on seeking a quote for the required works

8. To discuss budget proposals for 2017/18 financial year and make a recommendation to the Finance & Policy Committee meeting on 30th November 2016

The Finance Officer advised that no grant would be received from New Forest District Council in the new Financial Year. Advice had also been received regarding Business Rates payable for the Information Centre (VIC) and Town Hall. The VIC previously received 100% relief as formerly run by the Tourism Group and the Town Hall received 100% relief as the sole premises of the Council. The rateable values for the 2 premises total in the region of £8,500 although confirmation is awaited of the exact amount that will be due. Both of these premises are managed under the General Purposes Committee.

The Chair advised that subsequent to previous discussion with the Kiosk Concession holder regarding the management of the fishing rights at the Recreation Ground, problems are being experienced with some users not purchasing tickets.

Members discussed whether the grounds men should be supplied with a uniform (or at least polo shirts with the Councils logo on it). Although it was agreed that this would identify staff as working for the Council – no decision was reached.

Pitch Maintenance – The chairman advised that the additional spending on pitch maintenance had been a good investment with improved quality of the pitches.

Youth Shelter in Car Park – The Finance Officer reported that this had been in a bad condition for several years, a quote has been sought for removal or replacement and will be reported to Amenities in January.

Play Equipment replacement – Need to investigate if grants are available towards costs.

Youth Shelter in Rec – replacement panel needed

Skate Park repairs – immediate repairs needed and replacement considered – PCSO holding event with youths at Salvation Army Hall on 14th December PA to attend and seek feedback regarding facilities at the rec.

Cllr Connolly expressed concern that the Council have and were considering spending money on provision of facilities for youths but did not employ professionals to maintain the memorial gardens to a satisfactory standard.

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Price and it was therefore **RESOLVED**: to recommend to the Finance and Policy Committee to accept the budget proposal prepared by the Finance Officer attached as Appendix A.

All in favour.

9. To note any items of correspondence

No items of correspondence to report.

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

The Clerk had nothing further to report.

Cllr Lewendon reported that the Toilets at the Recreation Ground were recently locked at 4 o'clock on a Saturday – Clerk to investigate.

11. To note the date of the next meeting as 18th January 2017

The meeting closed at 8.35pm