

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Wednesday 17th September 2014 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall, Fordingbridge

Present:

B Perkins – Vice Chairman
Cllrs Price, Fulford, Lewendon and Connolly

In Attendance:

Helen Richards – Town Clerk
Cllrs (G) Wilson, (A) Wilson, Adams, and Earth

1. To accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Anstey & Paton

2. To Receive any Declarations of Interest

No declarations of Interest made

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2014 and report on any matters arising

Cllr Connolly proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Fulford and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2014 be signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Minute No 5

– Replacement Goalposts Cllr Perkins reported that the new goalposts had been received and were erected on the “Turks” pitch nearest the pavilion. The Football Club have however requested that the second pitch be enlarged and that this becomes the main playing pitch – discussions are ongoing with the Club.

– Events at Recreation Ground – Cllr Perkins informed Members that it had been brought to the Council’s attention that a Marquee was being erected adjacent to the Sports Club Building selling burgers – this is present during Rugby matches and it is believed to be operated by a Member of the Rugby Club. The Clerk has written to the Rugby Club seeking clarification.

- Rugby Pitch Flood Lights - Cllr Perkins confirmed that works had commenced on the replacement cabling

Minute No 6 – Design for new Play Area Enhancement – Revised plan awaited from New Forest District Council with all new equipment and associated landscaping provided to the North of the Memorial Driveway. Once received this will enable quotes to be sought for the project.

Minute No. 7 – Request from Game Angling group – the Clerk confirmed that the Group would not be holding their assessment session in September in the Recreation Ground.

Minute No. 8

– Land at Puddleslosh Lane for Cycle Track – Cllr Connolly confirmed that the wooded area had already been sold.

- Whitsbury Road Weed Control – The clerk confirmed that the Lengthsman had met with Graham Long from the Conservation Volunteers Group and agreed a work programme for the weed cutting.

Cllr Fulford raised concern over the weeds in the waterways in this area, particularly at the Bridge. Cllr Perkins confirmed that ultimately this is New Forest District Council's responsibility and the Environment Agency had confirmed that they would be prepared to take Enforcement action if necessary.

- Pickets Close Parking – The clerk confirmed that an email had been sent to New Forest District Council (housing) and a response received informing that the matter would be investigated.

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

No Members of the Public in attendance.

5. To Report on matters relating to the Recreation Ground

- Pitch maintenance – Cllr Lewendon advised that the Brownsey's Field was in a good condition. The Clerk confirmed that the contractor (WWCVS) had undertaken the Weed and Feed of the 3 recreation ground pitches (at the Councils expense) and also for Brownsey's Field which the Rugby Club will pay for. The Verti or Slitting Drainage works cannot be undertaken until the ground has been softened following rainfall – this will be completed as soon as possible. The Contractor had also quoted to Top Dress and Seed the pitches – Members requested that the Clerk obtain further details of pitch availability following this treatment.

- Use of Pavilion & Changing Facilities – Cllr Perkins reported that the Football Club had received a request from the Rugby Club for their respective referees to share changing facilities should their fixtures clash – this is not allowed under Football regulations. The provision of changing facilities is reduced by a) Rugby Club use of changing facilities for storage and b) the upstairs changing facilities being currently out of use due to leaking showers. Members requested that the Clerk seek an estimate of costs involved in repairing/refurbishing the upstairs showers and also the cost of hiring a mobile shower unit – this would need to remain in place during the playing seasons and until the new pavilion is built. The clerk is also requested to seek clarification of what is being stored in the changing rooms and whether this could be stored elsewhere – possibly in the de-commissioned toilet block.

Cllr Perkins reported that the Groundsman had informed him that there is a loose tile on the roof of the Pavilion – Town Clerk to instigate repairs.

- Paddling Pool – The Clerk confirmed that the new supply to the Pool was now completed and awaited Sembcorp inspection. The Pool would shortly be closed for the Winter. Cllr Perkins reported that refurbishment/replacement of the Paddling Pool must be discussed. Cllr Fulford raised the invitation from Dene Brunton, NFDC to meet to discuss Developer Contributions and putting forward new bids – Clerk to arrange meeting.

- Replacement/repair to play equipment – The Clerk confirmed that the Assistant Clerk is currently working on this and new swings had been delivered this week

- Concession Kiosk – Now open and appeared to be working well. The Tenant was currently unlocking the Disabled Toilet on demand but the Groundsman was investigating the fitting of a Radar Lock. The Groundsman had requested a storage cupboard be placed in the disabled toilet for holding cleaning materials and equipment. However this would not comply with Disability Access Regulations and Members agreed that equipment etc should be stored in the Workshop. Members discussed the removal of the fence between the memorial driveway and the children's play area and AGREED that this should be discussed once the revised plan had been received for the Play Area Enhancement.

- Old Toilet Block – The full cost of decommissioning the toilets and making the building fit for storage purposes should be investigated before any decision regarding potential letting – Clerk to Action
- Works to River Avon – Cllr Perkins confirmed that the Environment Agency would be carrying out works in the near future to remove the gravel island located near the bridge. Cllr Perkins raised whether warning signs should be placed along the river bank to advise of very deep water. Cllr Connolly advised that if signs are provided this carried acceptance and potential liability for the Council.

Cllr Perkins raised concern that the larger island in the River was now almost joined onto the River Bank. Cllr Price raised concern regarding the trees on this island which had fallen into the river. The Clerk confirmed that this had been raised with the Environment Agency who would investigate – responsibility of riparian owners.

- Dev Contributions – MUGA – Cllr Connolly reported that following a meeting with the Sports Club regarding the new Sports Building, a request was received for the transfer of the Development Contribution money allocated for provision of a MUGA (£70,000) to the new Sports Building project. Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr Fulford and seconded by Cllr Lewendon and **RESOLVED:** that the allocation should remain for provision of a MUGA as this would provide additional facilities and attract new users to the Recreation Ground.

Cllr Price raised a query regarding the re-landscaping of the former Rose Garden following the completion of Kiosk; the Groundsman has undertaken initial works (re-seeding etc) but further works will be required. Members discussed the area around the Memorial Gates and requested that the Clerk action the replanting of the beds adjacent to the gates.

6. To report any matters concerning Open Spaces

Cllr Fulford reported that a request had been received for the Grass Cuttings to be removed (particularly in the Bushells Farm area); however as this is a District Council function and current policy does not allow for removal of cuttings. Concern was also raised regarding overgrown hedges in the Parish and the Clerk confirmed that the Highways Authority had been informed.

7. To Report on any Tree Works

Members noted that Victoria Road had been closed for the day (17th September) while tree works were undertaken (private owners).

8. To note any items of correspondence

Wheeler's Motorcycle Events – The Clerk advised the meeting that a request had been received from this group who hold events to raise safety awareness and also money for charity – the group would like to hold an event in Fordingbridge Recreation Ground next summer. Following discussion Members AGREED to the request in principle but that the Clerk should obtain further details regarding numbers attending and camping requirements before proceeding.

Pete White, Hampshire Fire Service - The Clerk advised Members that a request had been received to hold a music festival in the recreation ground on 2nd May 2015 to raise money for the Neuro Ward at Southampton in recognition of the treatment received by Steve White, a Fordingbridge Fire Crew Member who was injured following a fall from a fire engine. Members AGREED that this event should be supported and the use of the Recreation Ground would be offered Free of Charge. The Clerk to liaise with the Sports Club to avoid clashes with any fixtures.

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

The Clerk had no matters to report.

Cllr Connolly raised the condition of the Memorial Gates and supporting stonework of the Memorial. It was Agreed that the Clerk should obtain quotes for the cleaning of the stones and repainting of the gates. This work should be completed before the Remembrance Day Ceremony in November.

10. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 15th October 2014. Cllr Perkins reminded Members that this meeting was for Budget setting and future projects should be considered for discussion.

The Meeting closed at 8.40pm