

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Wednesday 19TH November 2014 at 8.20pm in the Town Hall, Fordingbridge (Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Committee)

Present:

Cllr Anstey – Chairman
Cllrs Price, Paton, Perkins & Fulford

In Attendance:

Helen Richards – Town Clerk

1. To accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Connolly & Lewendon

2. To Receive any Declarations of Interest

No declarations of Interest made

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 15th October 2014 and report on any matters arising

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Perkins and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 15th October 2014 be signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Minute No 3

- Old toilet Block – The Clerk advised that following the survey, plans had been received for two future options for the old toilet block to be converted to usable space. An estimate of costs for the options was awaited. The Mayor had spoken with Cllrs Bellows and Heron regarding potential conversion.
- Cllr Perkins reported that no action had been taken regarding the clearance of trees from the River Island – Town Clerk to contact Environment Agency Enforcement to investigate.
- Hedges at Whitsbury Road – weeds now dying back, problem resolved.
- Events at Recreation Ground (charity events organised by Fire Service & Wheelers Motorcycle Group) further details awaited from organisers.

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

The Clerk informed Members of an issue that had arisen with the Whippet Racing Club – when the race track was unsuitable for use (adverse ground conditions) members of the club transferred to the strip of land adjacent to the road, along the edge of the football pitch (this practice had been carried out previously with agreement of the Council following damage to the race track). The Groundsman challenged the Whippet Club as no ongoing agreement had been made and problems arise when dog walkers as advised to keep off of the pitches but Whippets are allowed on to race.

Following discussion members AGREED that the Whippet Racing Club will be allowed to use the area adjacent to the road if their race track is unsuitable for use. The Groundsman is to be responsible for advising the Whippet organisers if the track is out of bounds and also if the pitch area is unavailable for any reason (pitch maintenance or matches).

Cllr Anstey updated Members on the earlier discussions with Mr Patrick Brown , a local resident who races Whippets in Andover, regarding ownership of the Whippet Racing traps. The Club Secretary confirmed that these belong to Fordingbridge Whippet Racing Club – Cllr Anstey to contact Mr Brown regarding joining the Club to enable him to use the facilities in Fordingbridge.

Brownsey's Field - The Chairman reported that the Rugby club had requested to install drainage equipment (well and sumps) to pump water from Brownsey's Field back to the River – Town Clerk to confirm whether permitted under terms of lease.

Use of Pavilion & Changing Facilities – The Clerk reported that following a request for 2 Football Matches and 2 Rugby games to be held on the afternoon of 29th November, the clubs had resolved how to accommodate all players and provide changing facilities.

Riverside Kiosk – Cllr Anstey reported that the tenant had recently received a first inspection by New Forest DC Environmental Health Officer and received the highest level of standards – level 5. Cllr Fulford requested that the Tenant is congratulated on this achievement.

Goal Posts – The Chairman reported that the football goal post on the pitch nearest the road were loose and needed to be secured and also the horizontal bar is buckled and requires straightening. It was agreed that goalposts should be inspected weekly and defects reported by the Groundsman – Town Clerk to action.

The Chairman raised concern over the condition of the surface of the Recreation Ground car park and the access road thereto. The areas of tarmac adjacent to the speed bumps on the access road require urgent repair. The surface of the car park also needs attention and requires levelling.

6. To discuss the proposal from White Star Running to organise a Fordingbridge Marathon.

The Chairman reported on meetings and correspondence with the organiser and that further details had been requested. The organiser had expressed a desire to present the proposal to Council and following concerns over parking for the participants and spectators, Members AGREED that the Clerk should approach New Forest DC and request free parking on the day of the event.

7. To report any matters concerning Open Spaces

Sweatsford Water Meadows - The Clerk reported that a meeting with New Forest DC, had taken place at which time the Town Council's requirements to bring the land up to an acceptable standard prior to transfer to the Town Council were discussed, A further meeting with was scheduled to discuss maintenance works required and in particular the replacement of the boardwalks.

Cllr Fulford raised concern over the water levels, the need for clearance of the waterways and the Environmental impact of fly-tipping and lack of maintenance in the area.

Members also discussed ownership of Sweatsford Water and land at Whitsbury Road.

8. To discuss surrender of land at the Former Redbrook Filling Station

This item was removed from the Agenda and not discussed as the Lease of this and related items is not a matter for the Amenities Committee.

9. To Report on any Tree Works

Nothing to report

10. To note any items of correspondence

No items of correspondence

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

The Clerk had no matters to report.

Cllr Fulford reported that another parish had raised an issue over the lengthsman, Robert Heron, being unable to undertake works in water – Town Clerk to investigate and clarify.

12. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 21st January 2015.

The Meeting closed at 9.20pm