

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee held on Wednesday 25th February 2015 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall, Fordingbridge (Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Committee)

Present:

Cllr Connolly – Chairman
Cllrs Adams, Lewendon, Price, Anstey, Hale, (A) Wilson, (G) Wilson, Earth & Perkins

In Attendance:

Mrs H Richards, Town Clerk
Mrs M Coatham, Finance Officer

1. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies received from Cllrs Paton & Fulford

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest

Cllr Adams declared an interest in Agenda Item 5, Monies Collected and Payment of Accounts but remained in the meeting.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 28th January 2015 and report on any matters arising.

Cllr Price proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Anstey and therefore **RESOLVED**; that the minutes of the meeting held on 28th January 2015 be signed as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

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

No Members of the Public present.

5. To receive details of Monies Collected and Payment of Accounts

The Finance Officer reported on the February accounts. Cllr (G) Wilson confirmed that the sum of £50 received from Cllr Bellows was a community payment contribution towards the Late Night Shopping event.

Concern was raised regarding potential expenditure required for repairs to the Chapel located in Stuckton Road Cemetery and whether the Council has any liability – ownership/responsibility is uncertain, Town Clerk to investigate.

Discussion also took place regarding expenditure on Line Marking Paint, the Finance Officer clarified total spend per annum.

The Finance Officer also advised Members of the significant problems recently experienced with the Council's bank resulting in problems with online access, payroll and delays in payment of accounts.

6. To receive any Finance & Policy matters referred from sub-committees

No matters referred from sub-committees.

7. To consider the following grant applications

- **Revitalise**

Members considered the request for grant funding received from Revitalise, a charity which provides breaks for disabled people and their carers. Following discussion Members agreed that this service & request did not meet the criteria of the Grant Policy . It was

proposed by Cllr Lewendon and seconded by Cllr Adams and therefore **RESOLVED**: that no grant would be offered.

8. To discuss Developer Contributions

The Finance Officer summarised the latest allocations of Developers Contributions received from New Forest District Council. The previous allocation for works at Bishops Pond has been removed. Members agreed that landscaping works to the Memorial Gardens and the Play Area Enhancement should be progressed as soon as possible. An allocation for repairs to the car park at the Recreation Ground will be discussed at the Amenities Committee meeting on 18th March 2015.

9. To discuss insurance cover

The Finance Officer advised Members that the insurance premium had risen by approximately £100.00 on annual renewal; however this now includes the new Front Deck Mower and also buildings insurance for the new concession kiosk.

10. To discuss a charge for the Fordingbridge Fire Station Music in the Park event at the Recreation Ground

The Chairman gave details of the event to be held on the 2nd May 2015 to raise money for the neurological unit at Southampton Hospital which had recently cared for an officer from the station following an accident at work. All other contributors to the event (bands etc) are giving their time free of charge. Camping would also form part of the event. Members considered that the camping should be charged at the normal rate of £5 per unit per night. However while the organisers would not be charged for the hire of the recreation ground, no additional expense could be borne by the Council. In particular concern was raised over litter and rubbish removal following the event.

Cllr (G) Wilson proposed and Cllr Earth seconded and it was therefore **RESOLVED**: that the hire of the ground should be free of charge for the event provided that the organisers are responsible for the provision of a skip and for the clearance of the site following the event. The charge of £5 per unit per night for camping would also apply.

The Finance Officer then advised members that it was not proposed to increase the charge for camping at the Recreation Ground in April; however there would be a small increase for other hire charges for both the Recreation Ground and Town Hall. Allotment rents would remain the same and the Clerk is to prepare a report for the General Purposes Committee meeting on 18th March 2015 regarding Burial Regulations and associated review of the charging structure.

11. To discuss the Information Office Costs

Chairman advised members that the Service Level Agreement for the partnership with New Forest District Council had ended in February. The Council receives grant funding for approximately half of the costs involved with providing the Information Office. The Clerk gave details of correspondence received from New Forest District Council confirming that council's wish to continue the partnership. No increase in grants made to the Town Council could be offered, however Members **AGREED** that this valuable service to Fordingbridge residents should be continued. Town Clerk to discuss with New Forest District Council.

12. To note any items of Correspondence

The Chairman gave details of correspondence received detailing the Community Clear Up day on 21st March 2015. Members agreed that due to the short notice given to organise volunteers for the event, the Council would not take part. Litter collection within the town was excellent, however some outer areas needed attention. Concern was raised over the number of items left behind on the highway following road works.

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

Cllr Perkins advised that following his recent meeting with the Environment Agency at the Recreation Ground (River Avon) a letter had been received detailing the position with works required to the island – the owner of the land is unable to instigate any remedial works.

14. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 25th March 2015.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm