

## **FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of a meeting of the Finance & Policy Committee held on Wednesday 28th August 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall, Fordingbridge**

#### **Present:**

Cllr Connolly – Chairman

Cllrs Adams, Anstey, Lewendon, Fulford, Hale, Paton, Perkins, Price, (A) Wilson & (G) Wilson

#### **In attendance:**

Mrs M Coatham, Finance Officer

Ms. K Mason, Town Clerk

1 member of the public

#### **1. To accept apologies for absence**

There were no apologies

#### **2. To receive any Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Adams declared an interest in agenda item 5, Payment of Accounts, but remained in the room to speak.

#### **3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013 and report any matters arising.**

Cllr Lewendon proposed and Cllr (G) Wilson seconded and it was RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013 be signed as a true record.

#### **Matters arising**

**Agenda item 11 – Christmas Lights**– The Chairman confirmed that tenders had been sent out for the supply and fitting of the Christmas lights. The closing date was 2<sup>nd</sup> September for receipt of closed bids.

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

**106 Agreement funding** - Mr I Lemon suggested that the Town Council advise developers who had contributed the money which projects it was being spent on to engage them fully in the process. He also suggested that members ask NFDC if the interest accrued would be included in the total amount available. The following documents are all useful in choosing projects that the money could be used for: Fordingbridge Town Design Statement, Fordingbridge Conservation Area Appraisal and an English Heritage document, *Understanding Place: Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management*. Cllr Fulford explained that these would all be superseded by a Neighbourhood Plan which the Council has discussed.

Cllr Connolly thanked Mr Lemon for his helpful comments.

*Mr Lemon left the meeting.*

#### **5. To receive details of Monies Collected and Payment of Accounts and any other financial matters**

Cllr Adams declared an interest, remained in the room.

Monies collected and payment of accounts were noted by members and signed by the Chairman.

**Playscheme 2013** – The Finance Officer advised that the scheme would cost approx. £1500 this year. The final account would be available at the next Finance & Policy Committee meeting. The maximum number of children on one day was 44 but overall although the

same number of children had registered there were less children per day in attendance than last year.

Cllr Adams asked why the Playscheme had been extended to 14 days instead of 10. The Chairman explained that it had been done so at the request of HCC who had given a larger grant.

The Playscheme will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

#### **6. To discuss the 2012/13 audit**

The Finance Officer explained the points raised by the External Auditor concerning the change in income which was due to receipts from the Brownsey Field project, now completed and updating of the Asset Register which had several anomalies in it. The Internal Auditor had queried the use of a credit card and the Finance Officer explained the procedure and checks in place and that the limit was £350. The authorisation and payment of invoices has also been agreed.

Changes to Financial Regulations as a result of the audit will be discussed at the September meeting.

The Clerk advised that there is a further water leak in the taps at Stuckton Road Cemetery which will be reported to Semcorp.

#### **7. To consider the following grant applications:**

Fordingbridge & District Day Centre for the Frail & Elderly – Members discussed the application.

It was proposed by Cllr Fulford and seconded by Cllr Hale and **RESOLVED:** that a grant of £400 be given to Fordingbridge & District Day Centre for the Frail & Elderly .

Avon Valley Concerts – Members discussed the application.

It was proposed by Cllr Price and seconded by Cllr Fulford and **RESOLVED:** that a grant of £350 be given to Avon Valley Concerts. Cllrs Adams and Perkins against.

#### **8. To discuss 106 agreement bids for projects throughout the parish.**

The Clerk advised that bids for projects had to be sent to NFDC by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013 and these required to meet the criteria under which the developers contribution had been received. Currently there was approx. £230k available. The Clerk to ask if architect costs can be included.

Members agreed that the following projects should be considered for developers contribution funding:

- Concession Building at Recreation Ground
- Footpath access through St Marys Churchyard from Church Street to Bowerwood Road
- Upgrade of paddling pool
- Allotment toilet
- Concrete table tennis table, Adult gym equipment & Multi-Use Games Area for Recreation Ground

It was AGREED that a Finance & Policy meeting be called after Planning Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> September to discuss any further bids.

#### **9. To discuss Junior football hire on Recreation Ground.**

Fordingbridge Youth Team requested to use the Recreation Ground at a reduced rate. There are currently 250 boys and girls who attend and they pay £90 per week to use Burgate School where there are 10 games on 6 pitches.

Cllr Anstey advised members that he was in communication with the Youth Team and has requested full details of their proposed use of the Recreation Ground. Cllr Anstey will report back to the next Finance & Policy meeting.

Cllr Connolly stated that this was an example of why the Town Council needed a Sports Policy and that a request had been made to Burgate School and Sandle Manor School for sight of their policies.

#### **10. To note any items of Correspondence**

Council Tax & Precept request – the Clerk advised that NFDC will be asking for comments from Town & Parish Councils following their Cabinet meeting in October when they will discuss the Discretionary Grant to be provided to parishes next year. This will be done through NFALC. Any feedback will then be discussed by NFDC at their December meeting prior to making a decision.

Cemetery Funding – a report from Ringwood Town Council will be discussed by their Policy & Finance Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> September concerning the concurrent funding of cemeteries by the District Council. It was AGREED that this would be discussed at the next Finance & Policy Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

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

Nothing to report

#### **12. To note the date of the next Finance & Policy meeting as Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2013.**

The meeting ended at 9.10 pm.