

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee held at 7.30pm on
Wednesday 26th July 2017 in the Town Hall
(Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of Committee)

Present: Cllr Connolly - chairman
Cllrs Fulford, Hale, Paton, Lewendon, Wilson, Price, Adams & Anstey (part of meeting)

In Attendance:
Mrs H Richards, Town Clerk (TC)
Mrs M Coatham, Finance Officer (RFO)

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Perkins & Earth & Cllr Anstey for late arrival

2. To receive any declarations of interest

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest received from Cllr Adams regarding Item 5 Payment of Accounts as a supplier to the Council. Cllr Adams remained in the room during this item but did not speak or vote.

Declaration of Personal Interest received from Cllr Hale regarding item 7 Grants under S137 – Fordingbridge & District Day Centre for the Frail and Housebound as a member of the committee of that organisation. Cllr Hale left the room during this item.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 28th June 2017 and report on any matters arising

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 28th June 2017 be signed as a true record.

All in favour.

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 & Payment of Accounts

The RFO summarised the financial activity for July and members noted the main item of income received related to Playscheme fees. With regards to expenditure, members noted the final payment for tree works relating to the annual survey and payment for the annual fire safety inspections.

There were no extraordinary items to note on the budgets however Cllr Price queried the payment made to Avon Valley Properties relating to gutter clearance at the Town Hall – the RFO clarified that this invoice was higher than normal as it also included replacement of some tiles on the roof , the gutters are cleaned every 6-8 weeks.

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

- Amenities Committee 19th July 2017 Developers Contributions

Following the recommendation of the Amenities Committee to progress the project to replace the skate park, the Chairman raised concern that the Council currently had no process for prioritising capital spending. Cllr Fulford spoke and stated that this had been talked about (the lack of process for spending) for 6-7 years with no resolution.

The urgency for progressing the skatepark project is borne out of:

- Safety concerns and a repair or close it scenario
- Proportion of S106 Developer Contributions must be spent or refunded by February 2018.

Members discussed the need for consultation and close working with the users of the park together with other stakeholders such as PCSO May. The Chair advised that the next youth steering group was scheduled for 22nd August 2017

Cllr Anstey entered the meeting.

Cllr Fulford proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Anstey and therefore **RESOLVED**: to accept the recommendation of the Amenities Committee on the 19th July 2017 that a project should be progressed without delay for the replacement of the skatepark partially funded by the developer contributions held. There should be full consultation with users to determine suitability of the various types of park and equipment and to engage users & other stakeholders in fundraising for the replacement. A small working group will be formed to discuss the project with the RFO.

All in favour.

7. To consider grant applications under section 137

Cllr Hale left the meeting during consideration of the first grant application

- Fordingbridge & District Day Centre for the Frail & Housebound

Members discussed the applications and considered that the organisation held a relatively large sum in their accounts.

1st Proposal - Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Fulford to award a grant of **£300**

2nd Proposal - Cllr Price proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon to award a grant of **£250**

The following votes were cast Proposal no. 2, 4 votes for, 3 votes against, 1 abstention
It was therefore **RESOLVED**: that the 2nd proposal to award a grant of **£250** is carried.

- Turn Up for Fun

Last funded by Town Council in 2013, no grant received from NFDC this year.

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Connolly and therefore **RESOLVED**: to award a grant of **£500**. 8 in favour, 1 abstention

- Victim Support

National accounts only available, not specific to Fordingbridge area.

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Anstey and therefore **RESOLVED**: to award a grant of **£150**.

8. To receive an update regarding the Town Hall Project

The Clerk advised that a response was awaited from Kevin Jones, Sheerin Bettle regarding organising a meeting with members of the general purposes committee. Members discussed how the project should be moved forward and suggested that the Clerk seek legal advice on the matter.

9. To receive any items of correspondence

There were no items of correspondence to report.

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

The Clerk reported that the 2 new members of staff were now in post and also that following Cllr Bailey's resignation, the Council now has a member vacancy. The Returning Officer has been informed and the statutory notice is displayed until 8th August 2017.

11. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 30th August 2017

The meeting closed at 8.47pm