

**FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee held at 7.30pm on  
Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall  
(Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of Committee)**

**Present:**

Cllr Adams – Vice Chairman

Cllrs Lewendon, Anstey, Fulford, Wilson, Earth, Bailey & Perkins

**In Attendance:**

Mrs H Richards, Town Clerk (TC)

**1. To elect a Chairman**

Cllr Perkins proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Anstey and therefore **RESOLVED**: that Cllr Connolly is elected as Chairman of the Finance & Policy Committee. All in favour

**2. To elect a Vice Chairman**

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Perkins and therefore **RESOLVED**: that Cllr Adams is elected as Vice Chairman of the Finance & Policy Committee. All in favour.

**3. To receive any apologies for absence**

Cllrs Price, Connolly, Hale & Paton. Martine Coatham, Finance Officer (RFO)

**4. To receive any declarations of interest**

Cllr Adams & Cllr Perkins declared Pecuniary Interests in Agenda Item 5, Monies Collected and Payment of Accounts as suppliers to the Council, both remained in the meeting but did not speak or vote on this item.

**5. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017 and report on any matters arising**

Cllr Fulford proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017 are signed as a true record. All in favour.

Matters Arising

Minute No. 3. Christmas Lights – RFO produced schedule of locations to accompany tender document, former contractor reviewing & await response, need to ascertain effect of bank/business closures on access to electricity – need to carry out works before tender at fixed price rather than extra-over costs by successful contractor.

Minute No. 5 CIL – confirmed £33K from Hospital redevelopment has been allocated by NFDC for adult gym equipment at Whitsbury Road. Members requested that correspondence should be sent to New Forest DC, protesting at the lack of consultation with the Town Council before money was allocated. RFO has contacted NFDC. Response received (today), RFO to progress upon return.

Nothing from Michael Weakly regarding Kiosk drainage. Disabled toilet also broke and repaired.

TATA sold £150.00 – tow bar to be fitted to new van £365 + VAT.

Minute No. 6 Signs – Await further quote

Verti-drain – 3 year contract agreed by Amenities Committee £1468.08/annum. Works to commence next week.

Youth Shelter removed by G Farwell £498 +VAT.  
Chain Harrow – Purchase agreed by Amenities Committee.  
Water Leak repaired.

Pump House – quotes received (asbestos roof) need to decide if needed before replacing.

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

No members of the public present.

#### **7. To receive details of Monies collected & Payment of Accounts**

The Clerk read out a written summary of the accounts for May prepared by the RFO.  
Income – nothing significant to note – first half SLA for Information Office

Expenditure – Skate Park emergency repairs (£600) Avon Property & Heritage noted that tiles on the roof need replacing. Members agreed that a decision regarding the tiles should be made after receipt of the report from Sheerin Bettle. Report and invoice received from Sheerin Bettle – need to arrange meeting with Designer to discuss.  
Various Twinning expenses.

Members noted that the entries for TEGs pavilion and Town Hall gas had been entered incorrectly on the schedule (under wrong committees).

Cllr Lewendon accepted the accounts for payment (vice-chair unable to do so as interest declared)

Budgets – not discussed as year-end accounts to be prepared.

#### **8. To receive any Finance & Policy matters referred from sub-committees**

##### Amenities Committee 17.05.17

- CIL & S106 Allocation & Spending

The clerk advised members of the need to spend S106 funds before repayment will be required next year. A response from NFDC (today) indicates that it will be in order for the money to be transferred back to a project to provide a MUGA at the recreation ground.

Cllr Anstey then advised the meeting that following the ROSPA inspections that had taken place that day, the Skatepark needs to be replaced urgently (or closed). Members discussed whether S106 funds to be re-allocated towards a replacement skatepark instead of a MUGA.

Cllr Adams proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Anstey and therefore **RESOLVED**: to reject the recommendation of the Amenities Committee 17.05.17 to re-allocate funds towards provision of a MUGA and to refer the matter back to the Amenities Committee.

#### **9. To review the Code of Conduct for Councillors**

Cllr Fulford proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the Code of Conduct is approved without amendment. All in favour.

#### **10. To receive an update regarding the Town Hall project**

Cllr Fulford reported on the visit by Lynette Fawkes, Conservation Officer on 18<sup>th</sup> May, to discuss potential works at the Town Hall in connection with general improvements/repairs and also to provide additional office accommodation. Items discussed included:

- Maintenance of roof/clock tower and damage caused to Council Chamber

- Main Hall – suspended ceiling detracts from original design – potential for extension to the rear which should be modern in appearance but complement the original building
- Council Chamber – Wonderful room – Council must take action to repair and protect as responsibilities as Listed Building owner
- Offices, lobby, kitchen & toilets – any walls not original can be removed but must retain (& enhance) features

In conclusion, once we have a plan for repair and maintenance and future development, Lynette will be happy to work with us.

**11. To receive any items of correspondence**

The Clerk reported on a service now being offered by the Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) for specialist financial advice from Steve Parkinson, formerly of SLCC.

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

The clerk raised an urgent item, as agreed with the chairman, regarding notification received from New Forest DC that grant funding would not be forthcoming as a contribution towards the Summer Playscheme – the scheme manager has already undertaken a considerable amount of work, arrangements have been made and posters prepared. As notification has been received at such a late point in the planning of the scheme, Members were asked to consider if the Council should fund the shortfall this year in order that the Scheme can operate (£1,500 received in grant last year). The clerk confirmed that although confirmation has not yet been received of funding from Hampshire CC, this should not be effected by the loss of the NFDC grant.

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Earth and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the Town Council would fund the shortfall towards the Playscheme for this current year and that provision should go ahead. All in favour

**13. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017.**

The meeting closed at 8.45pm