

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday
16th May 2018 in the Town Hall

(Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Committee)

Present: Cllr Anstey – chairman
Cllrs Hale, Lewendon, Paton, Perkins & White

In Attendance: Mrs R Edwards, Assistant Town Clerk
Mrs M. Coatham, Finance Officer
Cllrs Adams, Earth & Fulford
Four representatives from
Fordingbridge Whippet and Lurcher Racing Club

1. To elect a chairman

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Perkins and therefore **RESOLVED:** that Cllr Anstey be elected as chairman. All in favour.

2. To elect a vice chairman

Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr White and therefore **RESOLVED:** that Cllr Perkins be elected as vice chairman. All in favour.

3. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Price who has decided to resign his position from Council with immediate effect due to ill health.

4. To receive any declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were made.

5. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 21st March 2018 and report on any matters arising

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr White and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st March 2018 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

No Matters Arising

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

No matters raised.

7. To report on matters relating to the Recreation Ground

- **Memorial Gardens**

- The Betula tree has now been planted in centre of the Memorial Gardens.
The Memorial gates have been refurbished (not the stonework yet).
A Trade account has been opened with Cherry Tree Nusery t/a Sheltered Work Opportunities Project (SWOP)

Cllr Lewendon asked if there were any plans to replace the magnolia tree in the Memorial Gardens. Cllr Perkins commented that the Memorial Gardens looked drab, dead and lifeless; there was no colour. Cllr Earth responded that new shrubs and perennials have been chosen for the borders and it is all in hand.

- **Pitch maintenance**

This has been booked and we're now awaiting a date.

- **Update on Events at Recreation Ground**

A table of events taking place in the Recreation Ground this summer was given to Members.

- **River – Removal of Tree & bank reinstatement**

Cllr Perkins reported that he has been in contact with the Environment Agency who are willing to take out the tree using their own equipment and workmen and to reinstate the bank. However, the river is currently still too high. They will give three days' notice of the work and this will be free of charge.

It has been advised that Fordingbridge Town Council write to the owner of the island in the centre of the river and send her photos of the damage. As the island is not looked after damage is caused to the Council's side of the bank and bringing down long-established trees.

Action: Clerk to write to landowner.

- **Play equipment – to consider replacement equipment**

The cost of any replacement equipment for the old toddler house is likely to also have to include the cost and reinstatement of the wet pour base. It was agreed that something suitable for the younger age range should be chosen at a cost of approximately £6000. Cllr Perkins asked if an Amenities Committee site visit to the Recreation Ground could be arranged and Cllr Paton asked if a Swing for disabled people could be purchased.

Two emails have been received from members of the public enquiring as to whether there were any plans for replacement of the playhouse.

Action: Clerk to arrange site visit to Rec.

Action: Clerk to research suitable Playhouses and also a swing seat for disabled people.

8. To consider a request for reduction in camping fees for the Whippets Racing Club

Representatives from Fordingbridge Whippet and Lurcher Racing Club asked for a reduction in the camping fees on the basis that the standard charge of £120 per night was too expensive if there were only ten units camping. They said they'd have to consider cancelling their weekend event in July if the cost was not reduced and thought it unfair that they were expected to clean the showers after use.

The RFO told members that the price was less than other nearby camping areas. Also included in this cost was the track hire (normally £36 per day). Cllr Anstey reminded members that the Council does not run a campsite but a recreation ground which allows camping for certain events. The Councillors thought the rates were good as they are and agreed they should remain unchanged.

9. To consider the Finance Officer's report for the removal of the shed & electrical works

Cllr Anstey informed members that the wall of the shed housing the padding pool pump (no longer used) moves and the shed needs to be removed as a matter of urgency. A quote has been received from Matthew Bright Ltd for removal of shed and alterations to electrical supply at a cost of £1075+VAT. A quote is awaited from another supplier.

Cllr Anstey proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the shed be removed. All in favour.

10. To consider the quotes received for the purchase of temporary security fencing

The Asst Town Clerk reported that two quotes had been received for the purchase of eight Heras fencing panels and the necessary accompanying items; the first from Safesite Facilities for £410.60+VAT, the second from Mobile Fencing & Security for £440.65+VAT.

Cllr Anstey proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Perkins and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the fencing panels be bought from Safesite Facilities. All in favour.

11. To report on any matters concerning Open Spaces

Cllr Wilson provided a report in her absence, containing photographs of dog poo bins in Fordingbridge. She suggested asking the public to comment online with the worst areas for dog poo and then targeting that area with posters. Cllr Paton suggested getting in touch with the local schools and organising a poster competition with prizes for the best.

Cllr Anstey met with David Timms, Chair of Fordingbridge Rugby Club. The buildings at the Rec are in desperate need of refurbishment. David Timms would like to present a proposal at the next General Council meeting.

Action: Clerk to invite David Timms to next General Council meeting and add item to agenda.

12. Tree Works – To consider quotes for works identified in Annual Tree survey

A quote has been received from Gristwood Toms for £3333.21 for tree work. This would include a resistograph survey and would be for all tree work.

A second quote has been received from Marcus Noke for £1935. There would be no resistograph survey and the Groundsman would be required to remove some of the debris.

The RFO recommended Marcus Noke as he has produced good work in the past.

Cllr Perkins proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hale and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the tree work is undertaken by Marcus Noke. All in favour.

13. To note any items of correspondence

A report of several local children seen throwing stones at the swans, geese, ducks and ducklings had been received by email. The Asst Town Clerk had forwarded the email onto Police and responded asking for further information and that if ever a similar situation was witnessed again then it be reported to the police immediately on 101.

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

Cllr Lewendon raised the issue of litter on Salisbury Road , at the junction with Waverley Road and outside the Surma Valley restaurant. This is where Burgate students wait for the bus. He asked if rubbish bins could be placed there, perhaps fixed to the bus stop which would need the bus company's permission. The school could be contacted and asked to encourage children not to litter.

Action: Clerk to investigate.

Cllr Perkins asked what time the toilet block in the children's play area in the Rec closed and whether it could stay open later (after 6.30pm). Cllr Paton raised the issue of the cleanliness of the toilets.

Action: Clerk to follow up with Groundsman.

The Whippets Club asked if the track could be preserved for their big event next month, knowing that the Turks were holding a large event at the Rec this weekend. Cllr Anstey reassured them that the Turks had been asked not to drive over the track and that the portable toilets were to be positioned away from the track.

Cllr Perkins asked when the paddling pool in the play area of the Rec would be reopened. The Asst Clerk said that maintenance had been scheduled for the end of the month and it would be open in time for the late May bank holiday weekend as usual. Previously when it was opened earlier in the season, children have got muddy in other areas of the park and been encouraged to wash the mud off in the pool which then blocks the filters. When the pool has previously been left without water then skateboards have been taken in and caused damage. All agreed it didn't look very nice.

15. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 18th July 2018

The meeting closed at 8.20pm