

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Amenities Committee meeting held at 7pm on
Wednesday 3rd April 2019 in the Town Hall**

(Minutes draft until approved at the next meeting of the Committee)

Present: Cllr Anstey – Chairman
Cllrs Hale, Lewendon, Moulard, Paton, Perkins and White

In Attendance: Mr P. Goddard, Town Clerk
Mrs R Edwards, Asst Town Clerk
Cllr Adams (Public Gallery)
Cllr Wilson (Public Gallery)

1. To receive any apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

No declarations were made.

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

No matters raised.

4. To consider the purchase of play equipment

Members considered the purchase of second-hand wooden play equipment.

Cllr Anstey had recently taken the training course “Introduction to Inspection and Repair of Play Equipment”. He showed Councillors a photograph from the course of a wooden support beam from a five year old swing. It had rotted from the centre. Members agreed that was alarming.

Cllr Paton entered the meeting

Cllr Anstey reported that the training course advised not to use wooden play equipment. He said that the seller of the second-hand wooden play equipment has offered to pay for the dismantling and reinstallation of the equipment.

The Town Clerk advised that the equipment had already been dismantled by non-specialist contractors, rather than by specialist play equipment providers.

Cllr Perkins entered the meeting.

The Town Clerk advised that at a recent meeting NFDC had advised not to purchase second hand wooden equipment. He said it would also have been better to have been able to inspect this equipment in situ before it was dismantled.

Cllr Paton said she is still in favour of buying the equipment. The price appears to be good and even if some parts need to be replaced, then the buyer still gets a lot for their money. Cllr Anstey agreed that there is lots of play equipment for the money and even if some is not suitable to erect, there is still value for money.

The Town Clerk had asked the original installers of the play equipment about reinstalling it in a different location. They advised that this could be problematic because of the need to take out concrete, remove bolts and so on.

The Town Clerk reported that there could be a funding issue: £6,000 has been allocated from reserves to pay for play equipment. Cllr Hale asked if CIL money could be used to fund the play equipment instead. The Town Clerk said that would be possible, however he had reservations about the dissipation of CIL funds if used for individual projects without a firm overall plan in place. NFDC advised that Fordingbridge Town Council should allocate the total s106 funds on one large project such as the Pavilion. NFDC recommended that the CIL funds should be considered in the context of an overall plan for the town rather than projects in isolation.

Cllr Anstey asked about the reinstallation of the equipment. Cllr Paton suggested that smaller pieces of equipment could be installed by the groundsman and reported that similar had been done previously. She suggested that experts reinstall the larger pieces of equipment and queried whether the original installer would reinstall, now that the equipment has been taken apart. She advised that there are two possible locations for the equipment at the Recreation Ground and that the Council should go ahead as soon as possible so it is in place in time for the summer.

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Perkins and therefore **RESOLVED**: to purchase the second-hand play equipment. All in favour.

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

Cllr Wilson (Public Gallery) advised that Princess Diana's flower bed should be replanted before the new WW1 Memorial is installed.

The Town Clerk reported that the new Groundsman is due to start work on Tuesday 16th April.

6. To note the date of the next meeting as 15th May 2019

The meeting closed at 7:15 pm