

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Wednesday, 16th May 2012 at 7.30p.m. in the Town Hall

PRESENT

Cllr Connolly– Chairman
Cllrs. Paton, Fulford, Anstey, Perkins & Lewendon

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllrs Adams, Shering , (A) Wilson , (G) Wilson
Miss D Vine – Asst Clerk
Mr I Newman

1. To receive apologies for absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Price and Hale.

2. To receive any declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of Interest

3. To report on any matters from the previous meeting of the 21st March 2012

Table Tennis Table - Grass Safety Mats have been ordered.

Skatepark Floodlights – Application has been submitted to NFDC.

Containers – Now that the container was in place the rating authority had submitted a demand for rates and were looking at backdated rates applying. Cllr Connolly will report further with the outcome in due course.

Sports Club Insurance – The Club Insurance is now included on the Town Council policy.

Pitch Maintenance – Cllr Connolly advised that NFDC had sold all its public utility pitches and therefore had both manpower and machinery, including a pitch maintenance engineer to carry out work, which would be available to the Council.

Cllr Paton entered the room.

Goal Mouths – Cllr Connolly reported that this was in hand.

Heron's Croft – A letter had been sent to the owners who had replied confirming they would note the Town Council's interest.

Paddling Pool – Quotes still to be obtained.

Skate Festival – Postponed from 29th April due to adverse weather. Held on 6th May 2012. Cllr Anstey reported that he had attended and the event was a great success and organiser Mr Paul Armes should be congratulated. The site was also left spotless after the event.

Water Softener – This had now been fitted.

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

Mr Newman indicated that he wished to speak in relation to the Memorial Garden under item 5 of the agenda.

5. To report on any matters relating to the Recreation Ground

Public Toilet Refurbishment – Cllr Connolly advised that progress was being made and that a site map had been requested to show current position and this had been forwarded. Cllr Fulford asked that plan should show sight lines to the town and take into account any trees which may be affected. Cllr Connolly advised that it might be possible to apply for funding as it is part of a project. Cllr Fulford asked if Members were aware that approx £30,000 had been allocated by HCC for the provision of a single screen journey planning kiosk for bus journeys to be positioned in the High Street, for which there had been no consultation and had not been agreed and that the money could be better spent elsewhere. Allocation of Section 106 monies was still available and the Council should apply for it before it was lost, for projects such as the toilets. Cllr Connolly confirmed that he would speak to Cllr Heron and advise that the Council was dissatisfied with decisions being taken without consultation or negotiation and would report further at the Finance & Policy Meeting on the 30th May 2012.

Memorial Gardens – Members were given a plan and proposal of how the new layout of the memorial Gardens might look. It was proposed to give the children's play area more space and to separate the Memorial Gardens planting new rose beds and a new hedge. Cllr Lewendon commented that it appeared from the plan that the Memorial Garden was being "lost". Cllr Connolly advised that the plan was not to scale and at this time only an idea of what it would look like. A visit to the Recreation Ground was scheduled prior to the next Amenities Meeting on the 18th July 2012 and Members would have an opportunity to look at the proposals further. Mr Ian Newman commented on the sad state of the Memorial Gardens at present. He felt that they looked neglected and were not a fitting memorial to those who had given their lives in two World Wars. He welcomed any proposed improvements to make the Memorial Gardens a place to be proud of. Cllr Connolly agreed and wanted to make the Gardens more accessible whilst retaining seclusion and tranquillity but also easier for the Groundsmen to maintain. Cllr Perkins suggested seeking the help retired gardeners who might wish to volunteer to help maintain the gardens. Cllr Paton suggested that perhaps the Council should seek assistance from professionals, such as Hilliers, as to what would be the best layout and maintenance regime.

Proposed new Sports Facility – Cllr Connolly advised that further meetings had taken place and he would report further as more information became available.

Cost of re-positioning the rugby posts – members considered two quotes, one from New Dimension (Builders) Ltd for £1,320 + VAT and one from Earlcoate construction for £1,080 + VAT. It was proposed by Cllr Lewendon and seconded by Cllr Perkins to accept the quote from Earlcoate Construction. All in favour. Carried.

6. To report on any matters concerning Open Spaces

Footpath at Whitsbury Road Play Area – Three quotes had been obtained for consideration and discussion. Cllr Connolly advised that this had not been budgeted for this year and therefore it would be necessary to see what funding was available, both from the Council and from Grants. Cllr Lewendon asked if all contractors had visited the site to see what was required due to the nature of the area and it was confirmed that all had. Cllr Connolly was apprehensive about installing a path in an area which had been prone to flooding in the past as it was not possible to build the path on the shortest route due to the gradient. Cllr Fulford felt that the area was

underused as the children in the area tended to be older. Cllr Paton suggested that there were other recreation areas with better access facilities. The Asst Clerk confirmed that enquires were in hand concerning funding from grants and it was agreed to discuss the matter further once information had been received.

7. To discuss tree inspections and the Council's duty of care

Cllr Connolly advised that the Clerk had not been in a position to obtain quotes due to the fact the Council had no record of which trees belonged to them. NFDC had confirmed that they were unaware of any tree surveys carried out on behalf of the Town Council but were prepared to come and give advice on what sort of programme should be followed. It would be necessary to either register with the survey company GIS who could provide a mapping facility or register with the Land Registry to get access to what the Council owns. The Clerk would arrange a meeting with NFDC.

8. To discuss options for the future of the Visitor Information Centre

Cllr Connolly advised that a paper of consolidated facts would be presented at the Finance and Policy Meeting on the 30th May 2012.

9. A request had been received to allow years 1 and 2 of Fordingbridge Town FC to use the recreation ground over the summer period as they were unable to use Burgate. Cllr Connolly suggested they could use the pitch at Allenwater but Cllr Anstey advised that parking would be problematic for parents and saw no reason why they could not use the small football pitch on the Recreation Ground which would not be subject to maintenance during the summer. It was AGREED they should still book the pitch via the Clerk but no charge would be made. Cllr Fulford advised that efforts were being made to improve community access to schools during holiday periods.

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

Nothing to report

11. To note the date of the next meeting as 18th July 2012. This will be preceded by a site visit to the Recreation Ground at 6.30 pm.

The meeting ended at 8.25 pm