

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Wednesday, 18th July 2012 at 7.30 p.m. in the Town Hall

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllrs Adams, Hale, Shering, (A) Wilson & (G) Wilson
Ms K Mason, Town Clerk

Prior to the meeting a site visit by members took place on the Recreation Ground.

1. To receive apologies for absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Perkins & Price

2. To receive any declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of Interest

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 16th May 2012 and report any matters arising

It was proposed by Cllr Paton and seconded by Cllr Connolly that the minutes of the meeting held on the 16th May 2012 be signed as a true record. All in favour, Carried.

Matters arising:

Table Tennis Table - The table was vandalised within a week of being in place so had been dismantled and removed to the workshop compound. Repairs had been carried out. It was proposed by Cllr Paton and seconded by Cllr Connolly that the table be offered to Burgate School. All in favour, Carried.

Pitch Maintenance – Cllr Connolly advised that advice was being sought from NFDC regarding the correct maintenance procedures required for the pitches. This included the goal mouth areas which needed new soil and reseeding.

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

No members of the public were present.

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

Proposed new Sports Facility – Cllr Connolly advised that the chosen architect, Michael Weakley Architects had been instructed to begin the process to seek planning permission.

Public Toilet Refurbishment update – It was AGREED to ask Michael Weakley Architects to give a presentation at the next Amenities Committee meeting on 19th September outlining ideas for a toilet and concession building at the Recreation Ground. Cllr Fulford suggested that there may be scope to phase it with the building of the Sports Facility and make savings.

The Clerk to ask NFDC if Developers Contribution monies be made available for the project.

Memorial Gardens layout proposals – Cllr Connolly suggested that the Memorial Gardens were not well used or maintained and could be laid out differently to best utilise the space

and create better access. Currently the Memorial Gates are locked to prevent youngsters riding their bikes over the flower beds taking a short cut to the Skate Park.

Cllr Lewendon reminded members that the Memorial Gardens are those which are inside the hedge linked by a driveway from the Memorial Gates.

Cllrs Fulford suggested reducing the size of the gardens to lie between the current Memorial Garden hedge and the gates to make them more manageable and with better access so they can be used more.

Cllr Paton suggested that residents be asked for their ideas. The Clerk advised this could be achieved in a variety of ways via the website, leaflets, competitions etc. and an open evening could be arranged to show the ideas.

It was AGREED to discuss further at the next Amenities Committee meeting on 19th September as the siting of the proposed concession and toilet building would need to be taken into consideration.

'No Dogs' notices – NFDC had advised they were ordering new signs directed at dog owners which will show the NFDC logo and state 'BE A RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER, DON'T LEAVE IT PICK IT UP' It will also quote the legislation (The Dogs (fouling of land) Act 1996. To avoid a fixed penalty of £50 or a fine of up to £1,000.

The previous Dog Fouling byelaw was superseded by the above legislation. The Children's Play areas at Whitsbury Road, Queens Gardens and the Recreation Ground were included in an NFDC order in 1998 when the previous legislation was in force so are not displaying signs with the correct legislation.

It was AGREED to order the correct signage from NFDC.

The Clerk advised that confusion had arisen by signage in the Recreation Ground preventing dogs on the pitches. Members of the public watching games often took their dogs with them but they were invariably on leads and did not stray onto the pitches. It was AGREED to keep signage preventing dogs on the pitch.

Paddling Pool Maintenance quote – Spruce Pools of Salisbury visited the Recreation Ground and inspected the paddling pool. They submitted a quote for works they considered necessary to bring the pool up to standard which included fitting a new lining. It was AGREED to obtain further quotes and discuss again at the next Amenities Committee meeting.

CCTV on Whippet track – The Clerk had received information about various types of outdoor CCTV cameras following the recent vandalism of the Whippet track. Cllr Paton agreed to review the information and bring it back to the next meeting for discussion.

Life buoys – Cllr Anstey reported that there was conflicting information regarding advice from the Environment Agency as to whether life buoys were necessary in public open space by rivers. The Fire Brigade are responsible for health and safety matters on rivers. Cllr Anstey agreed to research the issue.

6. To report on any matters concerning Open Spaces

Footpath at Whitsbury Road Play Area – Members AGREED that the cost of laying the footpath was expensive at £12k and budgetary provision had not been made for the current financial year. The small grant scheme run by HCC would only pay part of the costs up to a

limit of £5k. It was AGREED not to go ahead with the footpath as other play areas within the town had access for persons with mobility difficulties.

7. To discuss an inspection regime of Council equipment and the Council's duty of care

The Clerk advised that Cllr Anstey and herself had attended a seminar on insurance cover held by Zurich Insurance. It had highlighted the important of regular inspections, inspection policies and setting standards of care and repair. This was vital evidence in the event a claim is made against the Council. The Clerk advised that appropriate forms had already been drawn up and these were being introduced to the grounds staff to complete and record on a regular basis.

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

The Clerk advised that the GIS system, the cost of which was subsidised by NFDC, was currently being negotiated by NFDC for the next 3 years. The Clerk will advise members when the new fees have been agreed. The system can be used to map footpaths, trees benches etc. thus having all items that the Council are responsible for on one system. This will aid the office in dealing with queries.

NFDC had advised their costs for carrying out tree inspections on behalf of the Council at £41.38 per hour.

It was proposed by Cllr Paton and seconded by Cllr Connolly that subject, to further enquiries of local arboriculturalists hourly rates, inspections would be initiated and a tree policy written for Council consideration. All in favour, Carried.

9. To note any items of correspondence

Whippet Club – have confirmed that they wish to book the Recreation Ground for their annual meet next years on Wednesday 19th June to Tuesday 2nd July 2013.

FCVAG - requested a barrier be placed at the end of Bishops Pond to prevent unauthorised access. The Clerk to organise. They also reported dumping of garden waste at Bishops Pond by local residents. It was AGREED to write to local residents asking them to desist and place a sign 'No Dumping'.

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 19th September 2012.

The meeting ended at 9.15 pm