

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Tuesday, 18th September 2012 at 7.00 p.m. in the Town Hall

PRESENT

Cllr Connolly – Chairman
Cllrs. Anstey, Lewendon, Price & Perkins

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllrs Adams, & (G) Wilson
Miss D Vine, Asst Town Clerk
Mr M Weakley
Mrs S Little

1. To receive apologies for absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Fulford, Hale & Shering

2. To receive any declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of Interest

3. To receive a presentation from Michael Weakley Associates on proposals for a new toilet block/concession building at the Recreation Ground

A site visit by Michael Weakley and the Clerk had taken place during July and a report had been prepared by Mr Weakley for consideration by Members as to the feasibility of replacing the existing old and unattractive toilet block with new enhanced toilets together with a fixed refreshment kiosk suitable for hot and cold drinks, ice creams and general snacks. The intention would be to resite these facilities within the fenced children's play area. Mr Weakley gave a presentation to Members outlining the design of the toilets, unisex, with their own individual entrance door, one of which would incorporate a baby change area, plus a unisex disabled toilet. Four toilets would be the minimum. Fittings would include tough Wallgate WC pans and combined recess basins with driers. Lights and extract would operate via a sensor.

Mr Weakley outlined on a plan the proposed siting of the new facility which would involve using part of what is currently the Memorial Gardens but stressed that this could be redesigned within the Rose Garden which is a quieter area. Any mature trees would remain and any young memorial trees would be kept and protected or replanted with family consent. The new facility would then be incorporated into a wider public space but within a fenced area for safety. Vehicular access for delivery of goods could be achieved by opening up the area from the memorial Gates.

Mr Weakley showed Members slides of other work he had been involved with of a similar nature.

Mr Weakley took questions from Members. Cllr Adams raised a concern that if there was a major function and the Recreation Ground would these facilities be adequate and also they would be sited in the play area. Mr Weakley felt that with proposed enhanced facilities at the sports club this would not prove to be an issue. It was proposed that the existing toilet block would remain in situ until the new one was finished. A discussion took place as to whether the facilities in the refreshment kiosk should be enhanced to allow for cooked food but it was felt that a microwave should suffice and that quite often families liked to bring picnics. Cllr Connolly felt that the

facility was simple and functional. Changes to the Memorial Garden would require further consideration and discussion if the new building was to be sited therein and some Members had expressed concern previously when the issue of re-planning the Memorial Gardens had been discussed as a separate matter. Cllr Connolly suggested that Mr Weakley should submit the plans/drawings and estimate for the work and a meeting of full Council would be convened as soon as practicable after receipt to discuss the matter fully. Cllr Connolly thanked Mr Weakley for his presentation.

Mr Weakley left the meeting.

4. To confirm that minutes of the Amenities meeting held on the 18th July 2012 and any matters arising

It was proposed by Cllr Lewendon and seconded by Cllr Anstey that the minutes of the meeting held on the 18th July 2012 be signed as a true record. All in favour, carried.

Matters Arising

Pitch Maintenance – waiting to be carried out.

Lifebuoys - Cllr Anstey confirmed that Hampshire Fire & Rescue have no responsibility or remit for health and safety for any bodies of water, river, canal, stream, pond, lake or reservoir. Members felt that the Council had a duty of care to continue to provide lifebuoys. It was proposed by Cllr Lewendon and seconded by Cllr Anstey that the Council continue to supply/replace and maintain the lifebuoys. All in favour, carried.

Inspection regime of Council Equipment – A report had been submitted to Cllr Anstey concerning the condition benches around the Town. The Clerk to provide further details of the report.

Tree Inspections – Cllr Connolly advised that he and the Clerk had met with NFDC to discuss an inspection and ongoing tree maintenance programme. NFDC would provide a map showing which trees came under their ownership, those that they own and the Council maintains and those which are the Council's responsibility. NFDC would also be prepared to write a Tree maintenance programme. It was anticipated that between now and April 2013 a budget of £4-5,000 would be required for this work.

5. To receive any matters raised by members of the Public

No public present.

6. To receive a report on the Playscheme 2012 from Sue Little

Sue Little, Playscheme organiser reported that overall the scheme had proved a success averaging 45 children per session over a 9 day period, including 6 children with additional needs and 3 children currently in care. Activities included cooking, (with most of what was produced being eaten before getting home!) face painting, messy play, bush crafts and swimming. The National Parks Authority sent two Rangers for the day to show children the ecology of the Forest and the animals which could be found. The staff team worked well together and some of the younger volunteers had since undertaken further training gaining certificates in food & hygiene and health & safety and would be undertaking a first aid course funded by HCC. Feedback from parents had been very positive and as a result some of the parents of disabled children were seeking to start a Saturday Club for which funding was

available from HCC and Sue would keep in contact with that and offer assistance where possible. Overall the finances for the 2012 scheme were far better than last year, with a small deficit, however VAT could still be reclaimed so this may be negated. Grants totalling £4,874.00 had been made available this year and the indication was that these would be available for next year's scheme. Cllr Connolly thanked Sue on behalf of Members for her hard work and would look forward to a continuation of the scheme in 2013.

Sue Little left the Meeting.

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

New Sports Facility – Cllr Anstey reported that he had visited South Wilts Sports Club together with John Marsh and Ian Brown from Fordingbridge Rugby Club, to look at their facilities and design. John Marsh had prepared a report which would be circulated to Members for information and included some factors to be taken into consideration with the project at the Recreation Ground.

Memorial Gardens layout proposals- To be discussed in conjunction with the new toilet block facility at a separate meeting to be arranged.

Paddling Pool Maintenance programme – 3 quotes had been obtained for refurbishing the pool. After a short discussion it was agreed to put this item on the Agenda for the next Amenities Committee Meeting in October.

Whippet Track Maintenance Programme – The Asst Clerk advised that the track had been swept clear of glass by NFDC. The Groundsman would be carrying out levelling and repair during the coming months.

Skate Park Repair Quotes – 2 quotes had been received, however they did not quote for the same “work” and therefore could not be compared as like for like. Cllr Anstey agreed to give the Clerk/Asst Clerk details of exactly what work is required so that this could be clarified with the contractors.

8. To report on any matters concerning Open Spaces

Cllr Perkins reported on his meeting with the Environment Agency concerning the water logged area of the play park next to their pumping station in Fordingbridge. The Environment Agency did not believe that the problem had been caused when installing the pumping station but could be attributed to the high ground water levels following excessive rainfall during the summer. It was suggested but not advised that the ground level could be raised subject to necessary consents. Cllr Price advised that the area had always been wet and did not believe that bringing the level up would solve the problem. Members were concerned that if there was sustained rainfall in the future then it could compromise the flood defences for the town. It was agreed that Cllr Perkins would maintain contact with the Environment Agency on the matter.

Cllr Anstey advised that ‘no fishing warning/pylon cables’ signs needed to be erected on the Recreation Ground. The Asst. Clerk to arrange.

Cllr Anstey asked Members to agree the siting of the Fordingbridge Turks football sign so that this could be added to the Planning Application which the Turks were making. After discussion it was agreed that it should be placed on Brownseys Field some 10m from the Rugby Club sign.

9. To note any items of correspondence

An e mail had been received from Julie Steele advising that a wonderful family get together day had been enjoyed on the Recreation Ground on the 15th September 2012 and they were looking forward to meeting again next year.

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

The Asst Clerk advised that Planning permission in respect of the skatepark floodlight had been granted, one quote for the work had been received, one was awaited and one was being revised. Members agreed that once all quotes had been received a quick decision should be made to get work underway.

Following routine servicing of the pumps at the pavilion a quotation had been obtained for replacement of one of the pumps which was faulty. Two options were given for the type of replacement pump and members decided to replace as existing because it was quite likely that new fittings would be required should the the new sports club project go ahead. It was proposed by Cllr Lewendon and seconded by Cllr Anstey that Option 2 on the quotation from AISH be accepted for the supply and fitting of a replacement TT pump at a cost of £1,020.00 + VAT. All in favour, carried.

11. To note the date of the next meeting as the 16th October 2012

The meeting ended at 9.20 pm