

## FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2012 at 8.00 p.m. in the Town Hall

**PRESENT:**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Anstey, Perkins & Price.

**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 11<sup>th</sup> January 2012**

Table Tennis Table – The table will be in place by the Easter holidays.

Boules Court – it was agreed at General Council that the court did not need work done to it.

Skatepark Floodlights – The Clerk asked if lighting was part of the original planning permission. It was agreed that it was not as no lights had been added. The application will be submitted to NFDC.

Containers – the Clerk reported that one container was now in situ in Brownsey's Field being used for storage of sports equipment.

Sports Club Insurance – The Clerk reported that the Club insurance will cease on 20<sup>th</sup> April and the club will then be insured on the Town Council's policy.

**4. To report on any matters relating to the Recreation Ground**

Public Toilet Refurbishment – Cllr Hale had put together a sketch of the combined toilet block and concession, double the footprint of the current building. It was AGREED to send the sketch to NFDC Planning for comments prior to having plans drawn up and submitting an application.

Pitch Maintenance – A maintenance timetable has been received from the contractors who made the rugby club on the Brownsey's Field. This will be used for the rest of the Recreation Ground pitches.

Goal Mouths – Cllr Connolly asked if the goal mouths could be cleared of stones and re-turfed at the end of the playing season. The old cricket square also needs to be removed. The Clerk to organise.

Heron's Croft – it was AGREED to send a letter to the owners of Herons' Croft asking if the Town Council could be advised if they were going to sell the property in order that they were aware of the Town Councils' interest.

Proposed New Sports Facility – the group has consulted the Environment Agency and NFDC Planning for informal comments on the proposals before asking the two consultants to present their ideas and costings.

Memorial Gardens – The Clerk reported that the rowan tree and sweetgum tree had been planted in the Memorial Garden and Riverside Walk, respectively.

Cllr Connolly advised members he was working on a design to increase the Children's Play area which gets very busy in the summer months and reduce the size of the Memorial Gardens which are rarely used. This would mean that the Memorial Gates could be opened as they would lead to the garden only. In the past they had been used by cyclists as a short cut across the gardens to the skatepark, hence why they were closed. Cllr Connolly agreed to bring his idea to the next meeting.

Paddling Pool - It was AGREED that advice and quotes be sought on repairing and possibly relining the paddling pool.

#### **5. To report on any matters concerning Open Spaces**

Whitsbury Road Play Area – three quotes were being sought for the footpath to the play area to aid mobility impaired users.

Trees – Two trees were felled last week on the edge of the Play Area next to Whitsbury Road. The trees were crack willows which were in poor condition, one with splits in the trunk and were deemed dangerous and likely to fall across the road during windy weather. There were comments from several members of the public who were concerned that they had not been informed. Members agreed to place notices in future advising if trees were going to be felled. It was AGREED to remove the stumps.

The Council will ask for advice from NFDC tree dept on the most suitable type of trees to replace those that had been felled.

#### **6. To discuss tree inspections and the Council's duty of care.**

The Clerk advised that proof of regular tree inspections by a qualified arboriculturist were deemed a necessary requirement by the insurers in the event of an accident caused by a tree on the Council's land or land it manages. The Clerk to ask NFDC if a tree survey had been carried out on trees in Fordingbridge Parish.

It was AGREED that regular inspections must take place. The Clerk to get quotes for the service.

#### **7. To consider any matters raised by Members of the Public**

There were no members of the public present.

#### **8. To note any items of correspondence**

Skate Festival – this will be held at the Recreation Ground on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April.

Water Softener – the current water softener at the Pavilion needs repairs but due to it's age the service engineer has recommended that it is replaced with a new unit. It was AGREED to follow the advice and purchase a new water softener.

#### **9. To receive a report from The Clerk or any other relevant business**

Nothing to report.

#### **10. To note the date of the budget meeting as 16<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

The meeting finished at 9.20 pm.