

## **FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of a meeting of the Finance & Policy Committee held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall, Fordingbridge**

#### **Present:**

Cllr Connolly – Chairman

Cllrs Adams, Anstey, Lewendon, Fulford, Hale, Paton, Price, (A) Wilson & (G) Wilson

#### **In attendance:**

Mrs M Coatham, Finance Officer

Ms. K Mason, Town Clerk

Mrs H Richards

#### **1. To accept apologies for absence**

There were apologies from Cllrs Buchanan & Perkins

#### **2. To receive any Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Adams declared an interest in agenda item 5, Payment of Accounts, but remained in the room to speak.

#### **3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014 and report any matters arising.**

Cllr Price proposed and Cllr (G) Wilson seconded and it was **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014 be signed as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

#### **4. To receive any matters raised by members of the public**

No matters were raised.

#### **5. To receive details of Monies Collected and Payment of Accounts**

The Finance Officer advised members:

##### Budgets 2013/14

**Finance & Policy:** This will be overspent by approx. £10k. This is due to unbudgeted expenditure on Christmas Lights, essential tree work carried out before 31<sup>st</sup> March and staff costs.

**General Purposes:** Budgets are on target.

**Amenities:** This will be overspent by approx. £6.5k. This is due to Architect fees for the Concession Building (these will be paid back via Developers Contributions but possibly in the next financial year) and staff costs.

There is a likelihood that money will need to be spent on repair of play equipment and matting following the flooding of the Whitsbury Rd and Recreation Ground Play areas. However, this is still unknown and will be assessed when the flooding has receded.

**Insurance Quote** – The Finance Officer advised that the Town Council had come to the end of a 5 year fixed fee for insurance provision which was set at £11,500. The new quote received for the annual premium is less because risk is now calculated differently. The amount quoted is £8,300 or £7,700 annually if signed up for a further 5 year contract. The policy will required to be renewed in June 2014.

The Finance Officer & Clerk advised members that excellent service had been provided from Zurich.

A quote was being sought from Came & Co who also specialise in Parish & Town Council Insurance provision.

It was AGREED that a decision will be made at the next Finance & Policy Committee when both quotes are available.

**Building Valuation** – The Finance Officer advised that the Council's building stock needed to be valued for the updating of the asset register. Woolley & Wallis had quoted £570 + VAT. It was AGREED to accept the quote.

**Bungalow Boiler** – The Clerk advised that the boiler in the bungalow needed repair as it was leaking and losing pressure. The boiler had been replaced 7 years ago. It was AGREED that quotes should be brought to the General Council meeting next week for a decision to be made.

The Clerk to look into a Landlord Safety Certificate on the bungalow.

**6. To consider the following grant applications:**

Avon Valley Dementia Pals – Members discussed the application.

It was proposed by Cllr Hale and seconded by Cllr (G) Wilson and **RESOLVED:** that a grant of £250 be given to Avon Valley Dementia Pals.

**7. To receive any Finance & Policy matters referred from Committee**

Staff & Remuneration Committee - to consider a human resource package.

The Clerk advised that she was still waiting for quotes. Following a meeting of the Staff & Remuneration Committee in March a recommendation would be made.

**8. To discuss tariffs for the Town Hall & Recreation Ground.**

The Finance Officer advised members that General Purposes Committee and the Amenities Committee both had issues concerning hire fees which would need to be discussed at their March meetings prior to fees being set for 2014/15. These included additional expenditure for an alcohol licence at the Town Hall.

**9. To discuss the progress of Developers Contribution monies & projects.**

The Clerk advised that at the NFDC Cabinet meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February it had been agreed that £235,000 be released for open space provision at Fordingbridge. This included funding the new Concession Building & toilets, paddling pool upgrade, a new MUGA and new play equipment in the children's play area. There was still money set aside for improving public access to Bishops Pond (£10k).

The footpath through St Mary's Church had not received funding but there had been money made available under the transport provision for changes to the entrance of Burgate School to make it safer for students.

The Clerk to bring further details of the open space funding to the next meeting of the Amenities Committee.

**10. Allowances for Town Councillors.**

It was proposed by Cllr Hale & seconded by Cllr Lewendon and **RESOLVED:** that members would not claim an allowance for being a Town Councillor. Cllr Fulford abstained.

Cllr Fulford expressed concern that persons with low income might not be able to consider being a Town Councillor without the provision of an allowance. Cllr Anstey concurred, explaining that some employers gave additional time off with pay for Council duties but this was not always the case.

It was AGREED that costs be brought to the next Finance & Policy Committee meeting for the provision of paper agendas, minutes and committee papers for members.

**11. To note any items of Correspondence**

Nothing to report.

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

Nothing to report

**13. To note the date of the next Finance & Policy meeting as Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

The meeting ended at 8.25 pm.