

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance & Policy Committee held on Wednesday 28th March 2012 at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall Council Chamber, Fordingbridge

Present:

Cllr Adams – Chairman

Cllrs Anstey, Connolly, Lewendon, Hale, Paton, (A) Wilson & (G) Wilson

In attendance:

Miss D Vine, Asst Clerk

Deborah Gordon, Finance Officer

1. To accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Fulford and Cllr Price

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest

There were declarations of interest received from Cllr Adams and Cllr Connolly for Payment of Accounts.

3. To report any matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on the 29th February 2012

Youth Shelter – The Asst Clerk advised that we are awaiting confirmation of a delivery date which had been chased up.

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations – Finance Officer, Deborah Gordon advised that two cheques, for £750 and £200 had been received from the Twinning Association and Joys Perfumery in sponsorship. These would be incorporated in the accounts for the new financial year. Cllr Anstey asked whether insurance arrangements had now been finalised and advised that he had attended a meeting of the Safety Advisory Group on the 23rd March 2012 ,but infact the meeting concluded before he was able to make any comment! Cllr Connolly advised that we were still awaiting a judgement which would now not be forthcoming until the premises licence had been agreed. The Asst Clerk advised that the application for the premises licence had been completed following some amendments required regarding parking facilities for the event and it was anticipated that this would be sent to NFDC licensing this week. Cllr Connolly advised that his proposal for presenting under 11's with commemorative mugs would not go ahead.

New Sports Club facilities – Nothing further to report. A meeting was still awaited between the steering group and NFDC.

Fordingbridge CAB – The grant of £1,000 and additional payment of £200 for the copier had been made.

VIC – Cllr Adams confirmed although agreement had been given for the lease for a further year, it had expired and so it would be necessary to negotiate a new one. Cllr Connolly advised that if problems arose in negotiating a lease for future years, the Salvation Army premises were empty and could provide a feasible solution.

4. To receive details of Monies Collected and Payment of Accounts

Finance Officer, Deborah Gordon distributed a report on monies collected and payment of accounts which were noted by Members. Cllr Lewendon commented that the bus shelter in Salisbury Street was in a state of disrepair, with a panel missing and leaks, therefore could the monies allocated to bus shelters be used to repair this. Cllr (G) Wilson advised that attempts had been made to ascertain who was

responsible for repair but there was no contact number visible on the shelter. The pavement area outside the Post Office where the bus stop is situated is due to be widened and it was agreed to try and ascertain when this might be done as it could affect the bus stop but if the project was not to be completed in the short term then it was agreed to obtain a sheet of polycarbonate and ask Andy Lane to fit it and seal the leaks. Cllr Hale noted that the Town Hall maintenance budget showed quite a high unspent amount. Deborah Gordon advised that this figure did not include approximately £13,000 for work to be done as the quote had just been accepted, but this would be carried over.

5. To receive any Finance Policy matters referred from sub committees

Ice Cream Concession – Two tenders had been sent to interested parties, only one had replied, Jims Super Whips, who had operated the concession last year. It was AGREED to grant the concession to him again this year.

New Forest Access Report - Cllr Connolly advised that he would prepare Terms of Reference and refer back to Members before forming a committee to involve interested parties.

6. To discuss the sale of Council Land

Cllr Adams reported that two requests had been made to the Council concerning the possible transfer of ownership/responsibility for two areas of land, one in Normandy Way and one at the rear of a property in Parsonage Park Drive. Photographs of both areas were distributed to Members. The area of land at the rear of Parsonage Park Drive relates to a triangular grass plot on a footpath/cut through which runs between Parsonage Park Drive and Pealsham Gardens. Cllr Paton advised that the purpose of these areas was to “open up” the pathway and was common practice when new developments were built, and therefore should be left as such, as extending a fenceline would make the pathway area much narrower and also the Council could be seen to be setting a precedent. Members agreed that, from the photographs shown, the area in question was in need of maintenance as it was quite overgrown, and therefore a regular programme of maintenance for all such areas should be drawn up for the groundsmen to work to. It was AGREED that a reply be sent to the owners of the property at Parsonage Park Drive declining their request.

Cllr Lewendon believed that the request made in respect of the land at Normandy Way was reasonable. The piece of land concerned related to two grass areas either side of the driveway. Cllr Connolly wanted to know what the land would be used for. Cllr Paton felt that members should obtain some idea of value of the land. Cllr Adams suggested that Members should go and have a look at the area concerned and seek further advice before making a final decision. Members AGREED to look at this further.

7. To discuss the Town Council website

Cllr Adams expressed concern that the cost of revamping and maintenance of the new website had not been referred to Members for agreement. Cllr Connolly apologised as he thought that it had been agreed, there had been some delay as the original person undertaking the job was unable to fulfil the requirements and so the project had been given to TLC who also maintain Ringwood Town Council’s site. TLC had confirmed that they would charge £300 for the revamp and thereafter £50 per month for regular monthly updates/maintenance, price fixed for 2 years from 1 April 2012. Cllr Adams commented that he thought this seemed expensive. Cllr Connolly said he was surprised at the £50.00 pm cost as he thought it was £30 pm. Cllr (A) Wilson advised that BT charged £600 pa so it probably was a reasonable rate. Cllr Adams asked that the Clerk/Asst Clerk enquire as to what conditions are

attached as no contract has been signed. The Asst Clerk advised that the site was still very much a work in progress but agendas and minutes were now being added.

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

Nothing to report.

9. To note any items of Correspondence

A letter had been received from Fordingbridge Citizens Advice Bureau thanking the Council for the grant of £1,200 and continued support.

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 Wednesday 25th April 2012

The meeting ended at 8.20 pm