

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Wednesday 15th May 2013 at
8.15 p.m. in the Town Hall**

PRESENT

Cllr Anstey- Chairman
Cllrs. Paton, Connolly, Perkins, Price, Lewendon & Fulford

IN ATTENDANCE:

Miss D Vine, Asst Town Clerk
Cllrs (A) Wilson, Robbins, Hale, Adams and (G) Wilson

1. To Elect a Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr Lewendon and seconded by Cllr Price that Cllr Paton be elected as Chairman of Amenities for the forthcoming year.

A counter proposal was made by Cllr Fulford and seconded by Cllr Perkins that Cllr Anstey be elected as Chairman of Amenities for the forthcoming year.

A vote was taken on the Counter proposal, 5 in favour, none against, 2 abstentions.
Cllr Anstey was duly elected.

2. To Elect a Vice Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr Connolly and seconded by Cllr Fulford that Cllr Perkins be elected as Vice Chairman of Amenities for the forthcoming year. All in favour, carried.

3. To receive any apologies for absence

None received.

4. To receive any declarations of interest

None received

5. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th March 2013 and report on any matters arising.

Cllr Anstey took the opportunity to thank Cllr Paton for her work over previous years.

To Receive Apologies for Absence

Cllr Fulford advised that she had offered apologies for non attendance at the meeting but this was not noted on the Minutes.

Lifebuoys

Cllr Anstey confirmed that a new lifebuoy had been ordered. Cllr Fulford asked what the legal position was with regard to taking craft onto the river. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Anstey would meet with the Clerk to discuss rights.

6. To receive any matters raised by member of the public

No public present.

7. To report on matters relating to the Recreation Ground

Cllr Anstey advised that he wished to deal with matters requiring a decision by Members and therefore the items listed would be taken out of sequence.

Rugby Pitch Maintenance

A report, prepared by the Clerk had been given to Members outlining costs for maintaining the pitches.

Cllr Anstey advised members that an agreement was needed in principle as to whether the Council wished to fund end of season maintenance before any consideration was given to actual amounts. The main area requiring maintenance would be Brownsey's Field as this had been used twice as much as the other pitches due to the weather. A quote for Brownsey's field had been received from Abbots for £7,950 with the Rugby Club offering to pay up to 50%. Members were concerned at the costs involved for just one pitch and with an overall budget of £15,000 for Grounds Maintenance for all open space provision in the town, including the Recreation Ground were mindful that these costs were disproportionate. Members accepted that as an amenity end of season maintenance would be required and after further discussion it was AGREED that the sum of £2,000 be made available from the existing budget for this season's maintenance. This would enable most of the work to be carried out by Abbots, or further quotations could be obtained by the Council for comparison. Cllr Anstey advised that it would be necessary to look at future budgeting for this work in the autumn.

Paddling Pool

The Assistant Clerk advised that Sembcorp had visited the Recreation Ground and detected a leaking pipe leading to the paddling pool and also recommended replacing valves and connections. A verbal quote of £850.00 had been obtained from an independent operative for the replacement of the pipework which could be undertaken by a "mole" which negates the need to dig trenches. Members AGREED to accept this provided a written invoice and guarantee for the work could be given. This would enable the paddling pool to be filled for the summer and further repair work to connections and the pool itself would be agreed and undertaken in the autumn.

Replacement Play Equipment

Members had previously discussed the quotation from Wicksteed to replace various items of play equipment and AGREED to replace all quoted for except the scramble nets at this time.

New Sports Facility

Cllr Connolly advised that the public viewing of the plans had been favourable. Concern was raised with regard to the running costs once the facility had been built and Members AGREED that there was a need to fully identify these as it was felt that this was too big a project for the Council to undertake, and therefore a meeting would be arranged within the next few weeks to look at and discuss the options.

New Concession

Cllr Connolly advised that a meeting had been arranged on the 24th May 2013 to discuss the allocation of Section 106 monies, and was pleased to report that initial response had been a favourable to some monies being made available for the concession. An e mail from Mr Nigel Davis had been received and forwarded to Councillors attaching details of a proposal for managing the Concession offering Café and Bistro menus as well as cookery demonstrations and catering for childrens'

parties. Members were impressed by the details of Mr Davis' proposal and the suggested menus, however the scale of his proposed project would be too large for the size and scope of the proposed Concession Building.

ROSPA Visit

It was noted that these had been carried out on the 8th May 2013 and the reports are awaited.

Whippet Track

The damaged area of the Whippet Track has been re-seeded but the cool weather has meant that the new grass has not grown as quickly as had been hoped. Re-turfing the area would prove too costly, therefore it was agreed to allow the new grass to continue to grow and if still unfit for use by June it had been agreed to allow the Whippets to use the same area as last year by the hedge. The Whippet Club have agreed opening times with the Sports Club.

Litter

Both Groundsmen had reported an increase in litter in the Recreation Ground, especially near the skatepark. Although it was not thought that it was necessarily the regular skatepark users causing a problem. Members did not think placing an additional litter bin in the vicinity would make any difference. Cllr Fulford suggested use of Community Payback but clearance is required on a daily basis. The situation would be monitored.

8. To Report on any matters concerning Open Spaces

Cllr Perkins advised that he intended to contact the Environment Agency to ask if they would cut the weed on the river at Sweatfords Water following the severe flooding of the area.

9. To note any items of Correspondence

Cllr Anstey advised that a letter from Jacksons, solicitors had been received in response to a query concerning ownership of the Sports Club Building. The letter confirmed that the building is owned by Fordingbridge Town Council as it is the Town Council who are owners of the Recreation Ground and the Landlord who has let the buildings to Fordingbridge Sports Club Ltd.

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

Cllr Connolly had been approached by a Member of the Sports Club with an offer to level and grade the Recreation car park as he has the appropriate equipment and materials. It was AGREED that the sum of £500 be made available for this work to be carried out as the car park is almost unusable when it rains.

The Assistant Clerk reported that the U16's Football Club had asked whether they could have a deal on playing on the Recreation Ground on a Saturday morning. Members were pleased that another Club was showing interest and agreed that they should be encouraged but required further information in respect of the number of games and whether they needed a full pitch before consideration of cost could be given. The normal charge would be £23.00 per session. The Assistant Clerk to ascertain additional information for a decision at the July meeting.

The Assistant Clerk advised that Churches Together wished to plant a 10ft Poplar Tree on the Riverside Walk to commemorate the Anniversary of the Queen's Coronation at their Jubilee Picnic on the 2nd June 2013. Members had previously

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agreed to allow a tree to be planted, however were concerned with regard to the type of tree selected. The Clerk to confirm that it would be suitable.

11. To note the date of the next meeting as 17th July 2013

The meeting ended at 09.05pm

Chairman
17.07.13