

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Wednesday 17th July 2013 at
7.40 p.m. in the Town Hall**

PRESENT

Cllr Perkins - Chairman
Cllrs. Paton, Lewendon & Fulford

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

Prior to the meeting a site visit by members took place at the Whitsbury Road Play Area and the Recreation Ground.

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Cllrs, Anstey, Connolly, & Price

2. To receive any declarations of interest

None received

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 15th May 2013 and report on any matters arising

It was proposed by Cllr Paton and seconded by Cllr Fulford that the minutes of the meeting held on the 15th May 2013 be signed as a true record. All in favour, Carried.

Matters Arising

8. To Report on matters concerning Open Spaces

Cllr Perkins advised that he was still awaiting a response from the Environment Agency regarding the cutting of weed at Sweatfords Water.

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

No public present.

5. To report on matters relating to the Recreation Ground

Pitch Maintenance

Following agreement at the meeting on the 15th May 2013 for the sum of £2,000 to be made available towards the pitch maintenance at Brownsey's field, Abbots had revised their quotation to take account of the lower spend available and the work had been carried out. Members had noted at the site visit that there was a small area of grass by the football pitch which appeared considerably greener than the rest of the area but it was unclear why. The Asst Clerk to check with the the Groundsman if he knew of the reason. All pitches were looking rather brown due to the hot weather. The groundsman from Ringwood had been asked to meet with Derek Jones to discuss line marking and look at pitch maintenance issues.

ROSPA Visit

The Asst Clerk reported that Cllr Anstey had received all the reports from ROSPA relating to the recreation areas and skatepark. There were no major repairs or problems to report although Cllr Anstey had asked that the inspector clarify one or two comments made in the reports which were unclear. This had been done

Chairman
18.09.2013

satisfactorily with the exception of an area of the skatepark for which a response was awaited.

ROSPA Water Inspection report

This related to the paddling pool and river bank area of the Recreation Ground. No major areas of concern were raised.

Paddling Pool

Cllr Perkins advised that the new pipe had been laid to the paddling pool. New valves and connections had also been fitted which Sembcorp now needed to check and a site visit had been arranged. Further maintenance work to the coping stones and paddling pool itself would be considered in the autumn.. Members had noted that the paddling pool was being well used in the current hot weather.

Replacement Play Equipment

Cllr Perkins confirmed that the replacement play equipment had been fitted. The Asst Clerk to check with the groundsmen that the bearings had been replaced on the bump see-saw as it still appeared to wobble. Members had commented during their site visit that the play area looked tidy.

6. To discuss the provision of disabled access to the Whitsbury Road Play Area

Members made a site visit to the Whitsbury Road Play Area following further correspondence from Mr Steve Hodges, a disabled resident, and a letter from his MP, Desmond Swayne. In response to a request last year from Mr Hodges to provide easier access to the play area, Members had agreed to obtain quotations for installation of a suitable footpath. The quotations received put the cost of providing a footpath in the region of £10,000 for which there was no budget provision. Mr Hodges was advised of this in May 2012. Mr Hodges had again raised the issue in June of this year and had been advised that the Council was unable to commit funding to providing wheelchair access to the play area and that the severe adverse weather conditions experienced through last summer and winter had raised a number of issues including whether installing a path would be viable. Members discussed the possibility of moving the play area to higher ground, however the area in question is both narrow and much nearer to the road and again there would be the cost of relocating the equipment and preparation of the ground and new play surfaces for which there is no budget provision. Both The Recreation Ground and Queens Gardens have disabled access provision. The Clerk had replied to Mr Swayne confirming what action had been taken by the Council to date. Mr Hodges had requested a face to face meeting to discuss the matter further which was to be arranged with Cllr Connolly.

7. To Report on Tree Inspections

NFDC had carried out tree inspections for all trees in the recreations areas, Stuckton Road Cemetery, Bishop's Pond, Fry's Field Allotments and the "football field" at Parsonage Park. Reports had been produced detailing the location, species, work required and a cost for each job. The work required had been given colour coded priority, trees numbered and shown on a map also. The total cost quoted by NFDC for the work amounted to £4,500 - £5,000. Members AGREED that it would be necessary to obtain alternative quotations to be discussed at the September meeting with a view to priority work being carried out in October. Cllr Fulford asked whether

the quotation from NFDC allowed them to take the wood and suggested that alternative quotations should allow the Council to keep the wood to sell. The Asst Clerk to check what provision has been made with regard to the quotation from NFDC.

8. To Report on any matter concerning Open Spaces

Cllr Paton advised that it had been reported to the Clerk that the Sweatsford Water Meadows had not been cut and had become quite overgrown making it difficult to see where the footpaths were. Asst Clerk to check with the Clerk that a request had been made to NFDC to carry out this work.

9. To note any items of correspondence

Nothing to note.

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 18th September 2013

The meeting ended at 08.10 pm