

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Wednesday 20th November 2013 at
7.30 p.m. in the Town Hall**

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllrs Adams, Buchanan, Hale, (A) Wilson & (G) Wilson
Ms R Croker, Footpath Officer
Ms K Mason, Town Clerk
Mrs M Coatham, Finance Officer

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Cllrs Connolly & Lewendon

2. To receive any declarations of interest

None received

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 16th October 2013 and report on any matters arising

It was proposed by Cllr Fulford and seconded by Cllr Price and **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 16th October 2013 be signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Whippet Track – the Chairman praised the Whippet Club for the work they have carried out on the Whippet Track. The bald patches have been restored and the whole track is in excellent condition.

Skate Park – The Chairman reported that the company who has been asked to replace the roller bar in the skate park will also look at the large ramp which has lifted away from the tarmac base.

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

No matters raised.

5. To report on matters relating to the Recreation Ground

Football Pitches – the Turks pitch is already showing signs of bad wear after only two months of the season. The Groundsman will continue to monitor the pitch and games may have to be postponed if the weather is too bad, causing adverse wear of the pitch.

Cllr Perkins entered the meeting.

6. To discuss budget proposals for 2014/15 and make recommendations to be taken to Finance & Policy Committee on 27th November 2103.

Front Deck - The Front Deck wheel which sheared off has now been repaired but the machine is now getting old and will need replacing in the next 2 years. It is used to cut all the open space areas and also Stuckton Rd Cemetery and St Mary's Churchyard.

The Finance Officer and Chairman of Finance & Policy have looked into leasing a new machine but over 4 years it was a higher cost than purchasing one and there would not be the residual value which can be used for a trade-in or sale. Members concurred that the current machine needed to be replaced in the next 2 years and at the moment there was still a trade-in value attached to it.

It was proposed by Cllr Anstey and seconded by Cllr Fulford and **RESOLVED:** that a recommendation be made to the Finance & Policy Committee to release money from the reserves to pay for a new machine.

Tree Maintenance - it was AGREED that the tree maintenance budget should be separated out from the grounds maintenance budget.

Recreation Ground fees – members discussed the current fees and AGREED that they should be kept at the same level for the forthcoming financial year.

7. To report on any matter concerning Open Spaces

Whitsbury Rd, Picket Close junction – Cllr Fulford expressed concern at the resident parking which is taking place on the open space at the junction of Whitsbury Rd & Picket Close. Large work vans and cars are parking on the grass and residents are coning off areas. Parking is also taking place on the highway by the junction making it difficult for cars to exit. The Chairman agreed to look at the problem and with the Clerk liaise with the Highways Officer.

8. To note any items of correspondence

Nothing to report

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

Nothing to report.

10. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 15th January 2014.

The meeting ended at 7.50pm.