

DRAFT

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Wednesday 18th June 2014 at 7.30 p.m. in the Town Hall

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllr (G) Wilson
Mrs H Richards, Town Clerk
Mrs M Coatham, Finance Officer

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Cllr Fulford

2. To receive any declarations of interest

None received

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

None raised.

4. To agree process and timescale for operation of Concession Building

The Clerk distributed draft Tender documents for the Concession Lease. It was AGREED that the draft documents would be distributed to all remaining Members for consideration and that an item would be placed on the Agenda for the Finance & Policy Committee meeting on Wednesday 25th June 2014 to discuss the documents. If agreed at Finance & Policy on the 25th June, the advert for the Notification of Tender would be placed the following week.

Cllr Connolly requested that all Members visit the kiosk to gain a full understanding of the facilities offered for the concession. Town Clerk to investigate if is feasible for members to visit the kiosk during the Annual visits of the Amenities and General Purposes Committees on the 16th July.

5. To discuss the Recreation Ground Play Area Enhancement proposals from New Forest District Council

Cllr Anstey presented the plan prepared by NFDC for the Enhancement to the Play Area at the Recreation Ground. This included two new major pieces of play equipment linked by a path which also contains activities. The design layout shows the new equipment to be located on either side of the main path through the former Rose Gardens, both on the kiosk side of the existing play area and with one new feature, a Sand Factory, located between the new kiosk and the Memorial Garden Hedge.

The Finance Officer advised Members that she had separately investigated alternatives to the NFDC proposal, which included the removal of some of the existing more worn pieces of play equipment, speaking to users (or their parents) and providing alternative new equipment – this could reduce costs. Feedback received

indicated that users would like similar equipment to that provided at Moors Valley Country Park, which is similar to that proposed by NFDC.

Members considered that although expensive, Developer Contribution grant money would fund the project. However, it was agreed that any play equipment should be kept to the northern side of the main path as it may prove hazardous should the play trail cross the main pedestrian access paths to the kiosk.

It was AGREED that the Town Clerk would contact NFDC to obtain a revised scheme, located to the north of the path and that a recommendation put to General Council to accept the proposal, subject to the re-design request.

Discussion took place regarding implementation of the accepted scheme and it was agreed to revisit this at a later date – NFDC had indicated that they would not be in a position to implement this scheme until next year and Members agreed that works could not commence until next spring at the earliest.

6. To note any items of correspondence

No items of correspondence.

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

Skatepark Maintenance - The Clerk advised that the Groundsman had sought permission to re-coat the skate park ramps – Members agreed that this should be implemented without waiting for any other remedial works to be carried out following the recent safety inspections.

Replacement Goalposts - Cllr Anstey reported on a request received from the Football club for replacement goalposts. One set of the existing goal posts needs to be replaced as soon as possible, however Cllr Anstey advised that this must be prioritised with the need to carry out pitch maintenance considered a higher priority for funding. Cllr Anstey would meet with the Finance Officer on Friday to discuss and additional quotes would be sought (the Football Club had provided one quote for £1,615.00 + VAT)

Whippets - Cllr Perkins reported that he had received reports that the Whippets had had a successful camp and race event. Cllr Connolly reported that he had received an email from the organiser, Doreen Hopkins, indicating that they would not be holding the event in Fordingbridge in future years as the costs for camping were too high.

Concession Building - Members discussed the size of the kiosk & whether this should have been larger – however Cllr Connolly clarified that it was only provided as an “add on” to the new toilet block and was never intended to be a larger café type building.

8. To note the date of the next meeting as 16th July 2014 which will be preceded by a visit to the Recreation Ground

The meeting ended at 8.00 pm