

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance & Policy Committee held on Wednesday 27th August 2014 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall, Fordingbridge

Present:

Cllr Connolly – Chairman

Cllrs Adams, G Wilson, A Wilson, Perkins, Earth, Hale, Anstey, Lewendon, Paton & Fulford

In Attendance:

Helen Richards – Town Clerk

Martine Coatham – Finance Officer

1. To accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Price

2. To Receive any Declarations of Interest

Cllr Adams declared an interest in Agenda Item 5 – Monies Collected and Payment of Accounts

Cllr Perkins declared an interest in Agenda Item 5 – Monies Collected and Payment of Accounts

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 30th July 2014 and report on any matters arising

Cllr G Wilson proposed and Cllr Anstey seconded and it was **RESOLVED**: that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 30th July 2014 be signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Minute No 3 Burgate Fields Parking - Cllr Connolly reported that there were no developments regarding this issue and the Transport Committee at New Forest District Council had yet to meet.

Minute No. 5 Naming of Kiosk – The name of the kiosk was discussed and resolved at the General Council meeting on the 6th August 2014 that the building be called Riverside Snack Bar. Subsequent to this the Tenant informed the Council that signs had already been ordered referring to the building as The Kiosk – the Chairman therefore agreed to allow the tenant to change the agreed name to Riverside Kiosk.

Minute No. 6 – Goalposts – New football Goal Posts have been delivered and are in the process of being erected.

Minute No. 7 – Grant Award – The Chairman reported that a letter of thanks had been received from Victim Support for the Grant Award of £100.00.

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

No Members of the Public in attendance.

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

The Finance Officer reported on the accounts for August, and detailed the following expenditure: Playscheme Expenses, Purchase of 4 no. Benches for the Recreation Ground and Pitch maintenance carried out by a contractor. The servicing of the Aish pumps at the Pavilion has recently been carried out with a report that the pump housing needs replacing, for which a quote of over £900 was received. The Groundsmen are to attempt to repair the housing as a replacement would be costly for an expected short life when the Pavilion is replaced in the near future. The Finance Officer

reported that the expenditure for the provision of the hanging baskets from Scentsational Plants would be partially offset when monies are received from the Rotary Club.

Members queried the cost for maintenance of St Mary's closed churchyard and whether the income received from NFDC was a set amount or on an incremental basis – Town Clerk to investigate.

The Finance Officer closed her report by stating that there were no concerns with the budgets at this stage except for the Reserves which are low and must be considered when setting precept for next year.

The Chairman requested that all Committee Chairmen arrange to meet with the Finance Officer during October for a 6 month review of budgets.

6. To receive any Finance & Policy matters referred from sub-committees.

No items referred from sub-committees.

7. To discuss costs and future charges for the Whippet Club

The Finance Officer reported that the Clerk and herself had met with representatives of the Whippet Club following their challenge of the costs charged for the Camp held in early June. The Club has not raced since the festival, although each Sunday and Wednesday had been booked for use of the track. This anticipated use means that the track must be maintained by the Groundsman and kept ready for racing. The Finance Officer suggested that a annual fixed fee which would allow unlimited racing and unlimited pitches at the annual camp would be a more suitable way of charging. This would ensure that the Council received an income towards maintenance works and would not miss out on income if race events did not take place.

Another Whippet Racing Club, who are based in Fordingbridge have expressed an interest in racing at the Recreation Ground. The ownership of the equipment used and stored at the Recreation Ground for the Whippet Club is unknown, although the Council have never been asked to repair equipment or insure it. Members considered that it is important to maintain and encourage a variety of different Sports Clubs to use the Recreation Ground and associated facilities. Members therefore AGREED that Cllr Anstey, Chair of Amenities Committee, would instigate and chair a meeting between both Whippet Clubs to investigate either merging the two clubs or allowing both clubs to use the facilities separately.

8. To receive a Report on the 2014 Playscheme

The Finance Officer reported on this year's Playscheme, outlining the costs, income and success of the shortened time period. The Scheme was subsidised by the Council by £915.35. The Chairman confirmed that a letter of thanks would be sent to Sue Little, Playscheme Organiser, for her dedication and financial management in order to reduce costs. The Clerk also gave thanks to the Finance Officer for her work on the Playscheme and monitoring of costs.

9. To agree a Protocol for Recording and use of Social Media at Council Meetings

Members discussed this item but agreed that further information regarding legislation was required before the Councils protocol could be agreed. It was AGREED that the Clerk would distribute additional information and the matter would be referred to the next meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee on 24th September 2014.

10. To note any items of Correspondence

The Chairman reported on a Flyer received regarding a Charity Cycle Ride in France and a supporting Quiz Night to be held on the 12th September at the Cartwheels Inn, Whitsbury. A verbal request had

been received regarding the Council sponsoring the event – however Members AGREED that as the charities were not locally based, no sponsorship would be given.

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

The Clerk had no matters to report and no other items were raised.

12. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 24th September 2014.

The Chairman then suspended the Standing Orders to allow for Agenda Item 13 to be discussed in closed session due to the confidential nature of its content.