

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held at 8.15pm on Wednesday 17th July 2019 in the Victoria Rooms

(Minutes draft until approved at the next meeting of the Committee)

Present: Cllr Mouland – Chairman
Cllrs Anstey, Hale, Lewendon, Paton, Perkins & White

In Attendance: Mr P. Goddard, Town Clerk
Mrs R. Edwards, Assistant Town Clerk
Cllrs Adams & Jackson (Public Gallery)

1. To receive any apologies for absence

No apologies received.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

No declarations were made.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2019 and report any matters arising

Cllr Perkins proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hale and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2019 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

Matters Arising

Minute 9 – the wild flower seeds sown earlier this year are now flowering.

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

No matters raised.

5. Matters relating to the Recreation Ground

• To decide Toilet Opening Times

Cllr White proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Perkins and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the Recreation Ground toilets will be open from 8am – 5pm in the winter (GMT) and from 8am – 8pm during British Summer Time. All in favour.

Cllr Anstey reported that there had been a discussion on Facebook about the vegetation along the river banks in particular at Sweatford Water. Council policy is to allow vegetation to grow next to the rivers to:

- encourage plants and wildlife
- keep the embankment stable (roots)
- provide a natural barrier

Cllr White said he thought this area looked a bit of a mess and needed a tidy up. Cllr Lewendon said there could be a problem with the bridge becoming blocked by branches. Cllr Paton reported that the Scout Group did a clear up a couple of years ago and pulled out lots without cutting anything back. Cllr White reported that there is currently a road sign in the river.

Action: Town Clerk to ask the Groundsman to tidy the area up.

6. To report any matters concerning Open Spaces

Cllr Paton reported that the link paths at the water meadows are very overgrown and asked that they be cut.

7. To approve the purchase of a barrier at the Recreation Ground

The car park gates are currently kept locked to prevent unauthorised access. It is recognised that keeping the gates to the Recreation Ground car park locked is an inconvenience, however the majority of those affected could park in the NFDC car park opposite. The Groundsman is unlocking the gates by appointment to allow access for others.

Cllr Mouland proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hale and therefore **RESOLVED**: to buy a sturdy combination lock for the car park gates and to give the code to specific people within affected organisations only until such a time as a new barrier could be installed. The organisation would be held responsible for dealing with any issues. All in favour.

Quotes for a new barrier were received from

- R. M. Smith Fencing Ltd.
- New Forest Metal Work
- Barriers Direct

A further quote is expected from Matthew Bright.

The barrier would be of a fixed height of 2.2 metres and have a swing gate to allow access for caravans.

R. M. Smith Fencing had installed the railings at the old skate park and the company is known to the Council. Their quote was the cheapest at £975 and they could install the barrier at the end of August.

Cllr White proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore **RESOLVED**: to allow Matthew Bright another 24 hours to submit his quote and if it wasn't significantly better than the quotes already received, to order a barrier through R.M. Smith Fencing Ltd. All in favour.

8. To Consider Forward Planning report

Kiosk in the Recreation Ground

It was proposed by Cllr Paton and seconded by Cllr Anstey and therefore **RESOLVED**: that water meter readings at the kiosk would be taken once a week. All in favour.

Cllr Perkins asked if it would be possible to install drainage in the kiosk toilets so they're easier to clean. The Town Clerk reported that he's receiving good feedback about the cleanliness of the toilets now that they are cleaned by the cleaner as well as the groundsman.

Action: Town Clerk to ask the Buildings Manager how much it would cost to install drainage in the kiosk toilets.

Benches

Bench inspections are carried out quarterly. Cllr Lewendon queried whether it is necessary to replace two benches each year. It was decided to change this to "replace as necessary".

Memorial Gardens

Quotes have been received for changing the Memorial Garden paths to bonded gravel. Members agreed that the plants are looking good at the moment. Cllr Perkins reported that the new memorial stone is already corroding, damp is creeping underneath and the plaque is deteriorating. Cllr Adams advised that the plaque should have been heat treated to stop this happening and that the manufacturers need to be contacted about this.

Action: Clerk to contact manufacturer of plaque.

Recreation Ground Car Park

A security barrier has now been approved for the car park (agenda item 7). The car park surface deteriorates quickly after being infilled. To get it properly surfaced would be a great expense. There is the possibility to charge for parking. Cllr Lewendon pointed out that the car park is on a flood plain and that any new surfacing needs to be of a porous material.

Play Area

A Play Consultation has recently been conducted, asking residents' views as to what would best benefit the town. The results were given to members at this meeting for future consideration. The dead oak tree has been allowed to remain in the Recreation Ground for possible carving.

Sports Field

The S106 grants are currently being reviewed.

Old Toilet Block

There are plans for this building to be renovated for use by the rugby club for storage. The Town Clerk discussed with the Buildings Manager the possibility of buying containers for storage rather than renovating the old toilet block. The Buildings Manager advised that containers could be clad and roofed to make them aesthetically pleasing and could be kept adjacent to the buildings. The Town Clerk said that both financially and practically, containers would be a better option than renovating the old toilet block. However, NFDC don't like the idea of containers.

Whitsbury Road and Flaxfields Play Areas

These will be considered as part of the Play Area Consultation Review.

9. To note any items of correspondence

No items of correspondence received.

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

The Town Clerk reported that Ringwood Council have now finished the Spring work on the pitches at the Recreation Ground. They will be in touch in the Autumn to discuss further dates.

Cllr Perkins said he'd received complaints about the entrance to Fordingbridge, that it was a disgrace with brambles growing out over the paths, the hedge needing cutting and the grass verges overgrown.

The Clerk reported that the vegetation around the Welcome to Fordingbridge signs had been trimmed and the hedges would be cut after bird nesting season had ended.

Members asked if the verges could be cut in time for the Fordingbridge Festival on Saturday.

Action: Clerk to ask HCC to cut grass verges in time for the Festival.

Cllr Paton suggested that the Information Officers may be able to access a map showing responsibility of all the different grassed areas in the town.

11. To note the date of the next meeting as 18th September 2019

The meeting closed at 9:03pm