

## **FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at 7.30pm**

held remotely using appropriate technology in accordance with The Local Authorities and Police and Crimes Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 ("the 2020 Regulations") which came into force on 4th April 2020.

**(Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Council)**

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

**In Attendance:** Mr P Goddard, Town Clerk  
Mrs R Edwards, Asst Town Clerk  
Mrs K Downie, Information Officer  
Mrs R Croker, Footpath Officer  
Cllrs Adams, Earth, Goldsmith, Jackson & Lewendon (Public Gallery)  
A representative from the Salisbury Journal

#### **1. To elect a chairman**

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr White and therefore **RESOLVED**: that Cllr Mouland be elected as Chairman of the Amenities Committee. All in favour.

#### **2. To receive any apologies for absence**

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Mouland and therefore **RESOLVED**: that Cllr White be elected as Vice Chairman of the Amenities Committee. All in favour.

#### **3. To receive any apologies for absence**

No apologies were received.

#### **4. To receive any declarations of interest.**

No declarations were made.

#### **5. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and report any matters arising**

Cllr White proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

#### **Matters Arising**

Agenda item 7 – the water bottle refill station has not yet been installed. On the basis that the kiosk, play area and skate park are all closed due to Coronavirus, this hasn't been a priority. Once lockdown is lifted the water bottle refill station can be installed fairly quickly.

*Cllr Perkins entered the meeting.*

#### **6. To receive any matters raised by Members of the Public**

No matters raised

#### **7. Matters relating to the Recreation Ground**

- **Paddling Pool**

A contractor has quoted £4400 to lift all the slabs around the paddling pool, lay a proper base and clean and re-lay the slabs. The same contractor has been asked for

a price to spot-fix all the loose slabs and repoint where appropriate. This second quote hasn't yet been received.

Another contractor has been asked to quote for both a full re-laying of the slabs and a spot fix. The Clerk will meet with them tomorrow morning at the pool.

Regarding the pool lining, the pool contractor that the Buildings Manager is liaising with has advised that they would not be comfortable with just rendering the cracks and has recommended a full re-rendering and repainting of the pool. The Building Manager's alternative temporary recommended fix based on his meeting at the pool with Ambassador Pools would be to just repaint the pool with the specialist paint. The Buildings Manager thought that the Groundsmen could do this.

There are short term and long-term fix options for both the slabs and the pool itself. The Buildings Manager's recommendation is that if the long-term fix for both are pursued then it would be worth going out to tender.

Cllr Paton asked if the pool could be usable this year if the lockdown restrictions were lifted. The Clerk said that pools may not be allowed to be used for quite some time. He suggested that this could be a good year to have the pool mended properly, rather than continuing with temporary fixes. It was agreed to wait for the figures from contractors. If there was any update in the government guidance and it looked as if the pool could open this year then it may be that we do one last temporary fix and complete the main work in 2021 before the summer opening.

Cllr Wilson asked about the possibility of extending the paved area and incorporating a couple of benches so that parents could be in the pool area with the children. The Clerk reported that this is something that could be incorporated in a tender package.

- **Skate Park**

Members agreed to keep the skate park closed on the basis that the responsibilities detailed in the Government guidance could not be met.

Cllr Paton asked if this year could be the window of opportunity for repairing the Skate Park banks as they look a mess. The Groundsmen's preference would be to sow some grass seed while the skate park is closed. The Clerk needs to buy a new 25kg sack of hard-wearing grass seed. The intention is to grass all that area that is currently bare. Cllr Paton asked if it would make sense to put some of that matting down that you can plant the grass seed through. She reported that where the bikes ride through it, it all gets turfed up and even if you put more grass seed down, the same thing is going to happen again.

**Action: Clerk to buy grass seed and look into matting**

- **Pavilion**

BrightSpace Architects have been instructed to produce the drawings and schedule of works and performance specification which would allow for the submission of building regulations application discussions with NFDC building control through to approval and obtaining costs from contractors.

- **Kubota**

The Clerk reported that a new Kubota tractor has been purchased at a cost of £5300 and comes with a 2 year warranty. The old machine has been taken away and the Clerk is hoping for £500 part exchange giving a net cost of £4800.

- **Brownsey's Field**

On behalf of the rugby club, Cllr Moulard asked if the rabbits on Brownsey's field could be dealt with. The Clerk confirmed that he had seen the email from the rugby club and would deal with the rabbits. He would also send the latest plans for the pavilion refurbishment to both the rugby club as requested and also to the football club.

**Action: Clerk to deal with rabbits**

**Action: Clerk to send pavilion plans to rugby club and football club**

**8. To report any matters concerning Open Spaces**

a. Jobs for Lengthsman – 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Cllr Paton reported that Witts Way was becoming overgrown again and needed cutting back.

The Asst Clerk reported that HCC was not cutting the Priority Cutting List this year and HCC has asked if parishes are able to take on this work instead.

Members agreed that the lengthsman could be asked to work extra time in order to get the paths cut.

Cllr Wilson reported that footpath 87 from Green Lane – Marl Lane needs strimming.

**Action: Clerk to ask Groundsman to trim footpath 87 from Green Lane – Marl Lane**

The Footpath Officer suggested that groups of volunteers organised by HCC could work in Fordingbridge. Cllr Wilson asked about Public Liability Insurance.

**Action: Asst Clerk to get in touch with the Whitsbury volunteer group and ask how they are organised.**

**9. To note any items of correspondence**

No items of correspondence.

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

Cllr Anstey reported that there may be a risk of Legionnaires disease in the pavilion and kiosk due to the water not being run and asked that it be borne in mind before these buildings reopen. The Clerk reported that during the period of closure, the groundsman runs the taps and flushes the toilets on a weekly basis in the kiosk and the pavilion.

**11. To note the date of the next meeting as 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

The meeting closed at 7.55pm