

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on Wednesday 18th November 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 Moulard – Chairman
Cllrs Anstey, Hale, Paton, Perkins, White and Wilson

In Attendance: Mr P Goddard, Town Clerk
Mrs M Coatham, RFO
Cllrs Adams, Earth, Goldsmith, Jackson & Lewendon (Public Gallery)
Cllr Bellows (NFDC)
A representative of the Salisbury Journal
A representative of the Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society
A representative of Fordingbridge Greener Living

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 16th September 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 16th September 2020 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

Matters arising

Agenda item 4 – The Clerk confirmed that the memorial tree proposed for the Recreation ground had been requested from Scentsational Plants.

Agenda item 5 – The Clerk reported that the hedge and verges at the Recreation Ground have now been cut.

Agenda item 6 - It was reported that the NFDC had stopped its staff working on pavements adjacent to roads where the national speed limit applies, which applies to a proportion of the Recreation Ground and further guidance is awaited from Hampshire County Council (“HCC”) regarding working adjacent to highways. Regarding a ‘No Jumping’ sign on the bridge, HCC advised that they would only put out signage regarding the direction of traffic and felt such a sign would be more of an amenities issue for the NFDC as local authority or the Town Council but the HCC local area highway office would need to agree any proposed sign. The Clerk reported that the post adjacent to the height barrier at the Recreation Ground had been moved to allow access to the playing fields by an ambulance if required.

4. To confirm the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 21st October 2020 and report any matters arising

Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Anstey and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2020 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

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

No matters were raised.

6. Matters relating to the Recreation Ground

The Clerk reported that the skate park lights have been installed and the grounds staff report that they are working well; we are looking to get quotes for matting for the banks of the skate park that are bare and eroded; the Water bottle filler has been installed at the kiosk; the new lifebuoy post has been installed; Winter bedding in the memorial gardens has been planted; the second height barrier will be installed tomorrow (failing which it will be Monday or Tuesday next week subject to staff sickness at the contractor); at the same time the contractor will remove a panel from the youth shelter to ensure the panels are cut to the correct size; and tenders have been received for the Pavilion refurbishment and are with the Buildings Manager for review. The Council will hopefully have a recommendation for the Finance & Policy Committee to consider next week. Cllr Anstey advised that the jetty needed clearing as it was used for egress by open water swimmers; that the entrance to Memorial Gardens by the toilet block needed raking and building up to prevent puddles forming; the soil banked at the car park needs removing and the moving of the metal fence to separate the play area from the river needs to be looked at and then the area by the river could be used for the planting of trees which will provide shade.

7. To report any matters concerning Open Spaces

- To consider a proposal from Fordingbridge Greener Living (“FGL”) regarding planting trees in Open Spaces

Cllr Wilson explained that the proposal involved densely planting trees in small areas and to fence them in. The fencing materials would cost around £130 and Fordingbridge Greener Living will do the planting and fencing. The proposed areas for planting are Parsonage Park, Allenwater Drive and the Recreation Ground. The representative from FGL advised that it was proposed to plant the trees in February and should reach maturity in between 10 to 20 years. The trees would be planted 3 per square metre, which increases bio-diversity. The trees will be managed by FGL for the first few years, thereafter they will not require any management. Cllr Wilson suggested that if it was successful other areas including NFDC land could be looked at for further planting. FGL will liaise directly with the NFDC and would also be looking for other areas for planting.

Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Perkins and therefore **RESOLVED:** to adopt the tree planting proposal of FGL. All in favour. Cllr Anstey queried the proposed location of the trees at the Recreation Ground and Cllr Wilson advised an appropriate spot could be identified prior to the proposed planting in February.

- Jobs for Lengthsman – 11th December 2020

None were identified.

8. To discuss budget proposals for 2021/2022 financial year and make a recommendation to the Finance & Policy Committee meeting on 25th November 2020

Cllr Mouland advised that he had met with the RFO to review the proposed budget and budget had been circulated to Cllrs. Cllr Anstey proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore **RESOLVED:** to recommend the proposed amenities budget for the 2021/2022 financial year to the Finance and Policy Committee. All in favour.

9. To note any items of correspondence

The Clerk raised as correspondence an email from Cllr Bellows asking if the Town Council had any questions regarding the NFDC's Waste Strategy Proposal. Could the Council pass them on to her in advance of a waste strategy Q&A session she was attending on 25th November 2020

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

Nothing to report.

11. To note the date of the next meeting as 20th January 2021
The meeting closed at 7:48 pm