

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on Wednesday 24th February 2021 at 7:00pm

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, White and Wilson

In Attendance: Mr P Goddard, Town Clerk
Mrs M Coatham, RFO
Cllrs Adams, Earth, Lewendon and Goldsmith (Public Gallery)
A member of the public

1. To receive any apologies for absence

No apologies received.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

No declarations were made.

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

No matters were raised.

4. To agree a quote for fencing at the Recreation Ground car park

Cllr Moulard summarised the quotes for the work to replace the fencing at the Recreation Ground car park: RM Smith Fencing have quoted £5,860, Jonty Lefroy has quoted £4,790.80 if he puts in a gate where the ambulance can access the playing fields or £4,418.80 without the gate and Steve Biedermann has quoted £3,100 (or £3,600 if the Council opt for the diamond top/bird mouth fencing). Cllr Paton queried why an extraordinary meeting had been convened to consider quotes for fencing. She felt that if work is going to be done on the car park surface then that should be done first otherwise there was a risk when the surfacing work was undertaken any new fencing might be damaged. Cllr Moulard advised that some time ago it was agreed that a mound and ditch bank was not the way to go and options re new fencing should be explored. The Clerk advised that he was aware that Cllr Adams and Jackson shared Cllr Paton's view but suggested that now might be a good time to do the work while there were fewer people about before lock down restrictions were eased and before the Recreation Ground got busy in the Summer. The Clerk said at least one of the contractors was going to use a tractor to do the work so if there was a temporary surface put in first the tractor may damage it when the fencing was then installed. Cllr Anstey said it was appropriate to get costings and then compared the respective quotes. He commented that cementing in the posts was needed as then if someone wanted to access the playing fields with a vehicle they would have to damage the fencing. Cllrs discussed whether it would be possible to agree a quote now but defer the work. Cllr Paton suggested that costings should be obtained for all projects and they could then be prioritised. Cllr Hale suggested putting a time limit on getting work done on the car park surface before just going ahead with the fencing work. Cllrs discussed obtaining costings for resurfacing the car park and the Clerk provided details of a quote from K&B Builders for both a temporary fix and a more permanent surface, albeit Tim Richards, the Buildings' Manager felt that the specification proposed needed to be revisited.

Cllrs discussed seeking funding for the work from the NFDC, whether surfacing work could be done without damaging the fencing and whether a larger parking surface should be provided to create more spaces. The RFO advised that there was nothing to stop a decision being made on the quotes now and holding off doing the work. She believed the fencing is at least a metre from the car park surface so she thought it would be unlikely to be damaged by subsequent resurfacing work and the point of doing the work now would be to try and prevent a reoccurrence of vehicles accessing the playing fields and the whippet track during the Summer. Cllr Anstey commented that concreted in posts might impact on the Summer Festival and lockable posts that would allow access when required should perhaps be considered. Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore RESOLVED: that the Council provisionally accept the Steve Biedermann quote but put it on hold for two months to establish the position with the car park surfacing. All in favour

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

Nothing to report.

6. To note the date of the next meeting as 17th March 2021

The meeting closed at 7:15 pm