

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee held on Wednesday 31st March 2021 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 Committee)

Present: Cllr Adams – Chair;

Cllrs Anstey, Earth, Goldsmith, Hale, Jackson, Lewendon, Moulard, Paton, Perkins, White & Wilson

In attendance: Mr P Goddard, Town Clerk
Mrs M Coatham, Finance Officer (RFO)

1. To receive any apologies for absence

No apologies received

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2021 and report any matters arising

Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hale and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 24th February 2021 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

Item 6: The RFO confirmed that payment had been received from All the Cool Stuff.

Item 13: The vote was to document that the Town Council had reviewed the policies being considered.

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

No matters raised.

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

Cllr Adams referred to the RFO's report to members. No queries were raised.

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Moulard and therefore **RESOLVED**: to approve the schedule of payments of account and that the amounts collected are correct.

6. To consider grant applications under Section 137/CIL

- Sandleheath Sea Scouts

The RFO advised that there are 110 users 60% of which are in Fordingbridge. It is the only Sea Scout group in the area. The group urgently needs to train up leaders so it can continue to take children out on the water. The reserves held are allocated to maintain the group's building.

Cllr Anstey proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Moulard and therefore **RESOLVED**: to give £289 to Sandleheath Sea Scouts. All in favour.

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

- Amenities – paddling pool

The Clerk reported that the Amenities committee had agreed a quote of £5,182 plus VAT from K&B Builders for maintenance work on the paddling pool. The work can be completed by the second May bank holiday. The RFO felt that it could be part funded by the £6,000 earmarked reserve for play equipment.

Cllr Jackson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr White and therefore **RESOLVED**: to approve the quote of £5,128 plus VAT from K&B Builders for works to the paddling pool at the Recreation Ground. All in favour.

8. To receive a report on building matters:

• **Town Hall Update**

The Clerk reported that the Conservation Officer's comments had been passed to Heritage Advisory. Sheerin Bettle are suggesting that a demolition plan should be produced for the proposed work and the Heritage Advisory report should be updated to address some of the concerns raised by the Conservation Officer. Cllr Jackson felt the project had become protracted and wondered whether there was anything that could be done to expedite matters. Cllrs discussed how best to progress matters and asked the Clerk to check that there would be no additional charge to update the report.

• **Changing Rooms Update**

The Clerk reported that he had approved a further additional cost of £528 plus VAT in relation to external lighting but this was still within the agreed contingency. The Clerk had also given the go ahead for CCTV and he hoped it would be installed in the next two weeks. The refurbishment should be completed on 14th May.

9. To approve the quotation from Intratest for structural testing to allow the installation of hanging baskets for 2021

The RFO advised with the right test results for the columns it may be possible to issue a two year certificate.

Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Goldsmith and therefore RESOLVED: to approve the quotation from Intratest of £550 for structural testing for 2021. All in favour.

10. To approve the continuation of the emptying and servicing of the dog waste bins by NFDC

Cllrs discussed the cost, the means of transporting the waste by Town Council staff, the fact that dog waste can now be put in normal refuse bins and the ownership and condition of the bins. The RFO advised that the new agreement commences tomorrow (albeit the NFDC only sent it out last week). The RFO also advised that the cost is not just for collection but includes the disposal of the waste. The RFO suggested that the dog bins should be photographed and they could be replaced with standard waste bins. Cllr Wilson will send photos of the dog bins to the Clerk who could then speak to the ground staff. She suggested that the Town Council enters the agreement and looks at alternatives going forward. [Cllr Perkins joined the meeting]

Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Earth and therefore RESOLVED: to approve the continuation of the emptying and servicing of the dog waste bins by NFDC for 2021 (with the proviso that alternatives are looked at going forward). All in favour.

11. To approve the fee to value the recreation ground

The Clerk advised that in order to get the Recreation Ground registered at the Land Registry (which is prima facie evidence of ownership) the land needs to be valued. Registration would be useful if there was a need to have an unlawful encampment removed in the future. Woolley and Wallis had quoted £750-£850 for a valuation and Symonds and Sampson have since quoted £500. Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore RESOLVED: to approve the £500 fee for Symonds and Sampson to value the recreation ground. All in favour.

12. To review the following policies

- Nil

13. To identify priority projects for CIL funding to present to the Annual Town Assembly

The RFO had updated the CIL projects spreadsheet and allocated them to short, medium and long term. She suggested that each Cllr votes for their preferred three projects in order to identify the projects to take forward. The outcome can be reported at General Council. A specification can then be agreed for the preferred projects and costings obtained. The preferred projects can be taken to the Annual Town Assembly so that residents can provide comments. Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Jackson and therefore RESOLVED: that the footbridge across the river should be removed. All in favour. Cllr Lewendon suggested that it was difficult to comment on some of the projects, such as play areas and bus shelters, as the new developments may have a bearing on

them. Cllr Wilson suggested irrespective of the developments the bus shelter in Salisbury Street should be replaced. The assistant Town Clerk is looking to establish who at the Royal Mail should be contacted to ascertain whether the Town Council could put a bus shelter on their land. Cllr Wilson suggested that to use the Town Hall as a registry office should not cost any money and there should be money available to meet the costs of training a staff member as a registrar. Cllr Jackson advised that the LCWIP were looking at the footpath to Godshill. Cllrs discussed the best route for a footpath. In addition to notifying the Clerk of their preferred projects Cllrs agreed to suggest which projects should be removed from the list. Cllr Wilson suggested spending some CIL money (circa £2,000) for pumps on the new allotments. Cllr Anstey agreed and said if there was a cost required to start with the allotments in a good condition then that should be incurred. Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Moulard and therefore RESOLVED: that CIL money should be used for pumps at the new allotments. All in favour.

14. To consider developing a three year plan

Cllr Jackson suggested that the Town Council should consider developing a three year plan. Cllr Wilson had circulated a plan produced by a council of a similar size town. Cllrs discussed the expense involved, the likely benefit, the level of planning required for future projects and the implications of the proposed new developments to the town. Cllr Adams suggested that in identifying future CIL projects the Town Council was forward planning. Cllrs considered how the work for a plan might be undertaken, how it would sit alongside the Neighbourhood Plan, the uncertainty of the speed and level of development and the corresponding uncertainty regarding CIL receipts. Cllrs also considered funding constraints on forward planning if CIL was not received and how this might be addressed. Cllrs Jackson, Anstey and Paton said they would be prepared to work on a three year plan. Cllr Jackson suggested that in the first instance the principle of preparing a three year plan should be considered by the Council. Cllr Jackson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Anstey to agree the principle of having a three year plan. Five in favour, Seven against.

15. To note any items of Correspondence

The RFO noted the letter of thanks received for the grant from New Forest Disability.

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

Nothing to report.

17. To note the date of the next meeting as 28th April 2021

The meeting ended at 8:27pm