

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee held on Wednesday 28th April 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, Mouland, Paton, Perkins, & Wilson

In attendance:

Mr P Goddard, Town Clerk

Mrs M Coatham, Finance Officer (RFO)

A representative from the Salisbury Journal

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr White.

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest

Cllr Adams declared an interest in the payment of accounts.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 31st March 2021 and report any matters arising

Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 31st March 2021 be signed as a true record. All in favour. No matters arising.

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 Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Wilson and therefore **RESOLVED**: to approve the schedule of payments of account and that the amounts collected are correct, subject to item 13 on the agenda.

6. To consider grant applications under Section 137/CIL

- None received

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

- Amenities – car park

The Clerk reported that the Amenities committee had proposed to agree a quote of £4,998 plus VAT from Earlcote for maintenance work on the Recreation Ground car park. It was noted that this figure was within budget and under the amount to require referral to Finance & Policy.

8. To receive a report on building matters:

- **Town Hall Update**

The Clerk had chased the architects for the demolition report and updated heritage statement in relation to the proposed work on the Town Hall. He had also asked for confirmation that there would be no additional cost to update the report.

- **Changing Rooms Update**

The Clerk reported that the refurbishment should be completed on 14th May and CCTV is due to be installed this week. Windows have been broken (vandalism) and the cost of repair will be £441. The Clerk has instructed K& B Builders to undertake these repairs which sit separate to the main contracted work.

9. To consider a request from Avon Valley Churches to use the Recreation Ground in August

The Church had requested use of the recreation ground for 200 – 300 people on 21st August 2021 for a closed event (BBQ). A request had been made to waive the charge for the Recreation Ground and to fund the cost of portaloos. Cllrs discussed the proposal and it was agreed that August was the busiest time at the Recreation Ground and that introducing additional members of the public at a closed event and parking was not viable.

Cllr Adams proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Goldsmith and therefore **RESOLVED**: not to approve the use of the Recreation Ground. All in favour. Action: The Clerk to write to the Church confirming the decision whilst noting support for the event in a different location.

10. To consider the provision of TUFF/Playscheme sessions for 2021

Cllrs discussed the proposal for the provision of two sessions of Turn Up For Fun (TUFF) each week during the summer holidays. The cost of the TUFF proposal was £2,100. It was noted that the school had let their playing field to a football club for the first two weeks of August and that only the inside space/playground would be available to run the playscheme this year. The pool would not be available. It was felt that this provision would not support the number of children requiring places at a playscheme. It was noted that the Playscheme Manager had submitted her resignation due to ill health having run the scheme for ten years. Reluctantly members agreed that the Playscheme could not proceed this year, but future provision would need to be discussed to support its return in 2022.

Action: The Clerk to develop a proposal for discussion. The logistics of having the TUFF proposal at the school was discussed and whether alternative locations could be used. Other options such as story-telling at the Recreation Ground were also discussed and should be explored further. Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hale, that the Council accept the proposal of TUFF subject to a suitable location being agreed. All in favour.

11. To consider window design/artwork in the town centre

The Clerk advised that a number of shops had had windows decorated and a suggestion had been made to decorate the windows of the town hall, at a cost of £120. A second suggestion had been made for the Town Council to sponsor a “seasonal” painting theme for businesses in the town. Cllrs considered both proposals and how they might be funded. Cllr Goldsmith proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Wilson and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the Town Council paint the town hall windows funded from the mayor’s allowance. All in favour.

12. To review the following policies

- Nil

13. To approve continued membership/affiliation of HALC/NALC and ICCM

The RFO noted the costs for membership appeared in the payment of accounts for the month and the Clerk noted that both memberships are beneficial to the Council.

Cllr Adams proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore **RESOLVED**: that membership/affiliation of HALC/NALC and ICCM continues. All in favour.

14. To note any items of Correspondence

None.

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

It was agreed to send a letter of thanks and flowers to the retiring Playscheme Manager.

Cllr Lewendon raised the issue of a number of alarming, criminal activities that were taking place in local rural areas. Discussion took place about the police response to these dangerous activities within the council boundaries. It was agreed to write to the new Police and Crime Commissioner after the elections in May (copying in Cllr Edward Heron) raising the Council’s concerns

16. To note the date of the next meeting as 26th May 2021

The meeting ended at 8:10pm