

## **FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 8:00pm**

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

**Present:** Cllr Moulard – Chairman  
Cllrs Anstey, Goldsmith, Hale, Jackson, Paton, White and Wilson

**In Attendance:** Mr P Goddard, Town Clerk  
Mrs R Edwards, Asst Town Clerk  
Cllr Adams (Public Gallery)  
Cllr Bellows (NFDC)  
A representative of the Salisbury Journal  
A representative of the Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society

**1. To elect a chairman**

Cllr White proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Paton and therefore **RESOLVED:** to elect Cllr Moulard as chairman. All in favour.

**2. To elect a vice chairman**

Cllr Moulard proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Anstey and therefore **RESOLVED:** to elect Cllr White as vice chairman. All in favour.

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

No apologies received.

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

No declarations were made.

**5. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and report any matters arising**

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hale and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021 be signed as a true record. All in favour.  
No matters arising.

**6. To confirm the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and report any matters arising**

Cllr Paton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hale and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021 be signed as a true record. All in favour.  
No matters arising.

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

No matters were raised.

**8. Matters relating to the Recreation Ground**

- To consider the re-opening of the Paddling Pool

The Clerk reported that the refurbishment of the pool has been completed. Neither HALC or Totton Town Council (who have unsupervised paddling pools) were able to provide guidance regarding the re-opening of public paddling pools. Swim England advised opening the pool would need to be in line with government guidance on social distancing and social gathering limits of up to 30 people outside. To manage this effectively the Council would need to be in a position where it could control the number of people using the pool. Swim England also referred to advice from the Pool Water Treatment Advisory

Group who advise that during the pandemic the only type of paddling pools suitable for public use should have water treatment along the lines of a conventional pool. The water should be disinfected and circulated through sand or other media filters. Disinfectant residuals should be high enough to give satisfactory results from monthly microbiological testing. A residual of 3-5mg/l free chlorine at a pH value of 7.2 will be necessary. This should be backed up by adequate water circulation: up to 1 cubic metre of treated water per bather, and a turnover period of one hour or less. On that basis the Clerk suggested that the pool should not be opened until 21<sup>st</sup> June (or whatever date the next stage of restriction easing is moved to). Cllrs agreed not open the paddling pool until 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021.

- Pavilion

The Clerk reported that the work should be concluded this week. There is a final site meeting with the architect tomorrow.

- Car Park

The Clerk advised that Earlcote were due to undertake the maintenance of the car park surface today finishing on Friday. Earlcote and Tim Richards inspected the car park on Monday and due to the amount of surface water it was deemed necessary to defer the work to next Wednesday (subject to a further inspection next Monday).

- Fencing around the car park

The contractor that had been instructed to undertake this work can no longer do so. The Clerk had asked the next most competitive contractor if his price quoted for the work was unchanged and was waiting to hear but noted that the cost of timber has increased considerably. The Clerk also had the name of a further contractor to contact and had also asked Tim Richards to see if Earlcote could undertake the work at the same they repair the car park surface. The next most competitive contractor had quoted £4,418.80 compared to the agreed £3,600.

- Skate Park

The Clerk reported that plastic matting has been put down, pinned and covered with earth and grass seed at the heavily used entrance to the skate park.

- Additional Land

The Clerk had spoken to the NFDC regarding the purchase of additional land to the south of the Recreation Ground using developers' funds and updated the NFDC regarding the discussions with the landowner. The NFDC's view regarding acquiring the land was not a positive one. They cited concerns regarding the location of the land, flooding concerns to the southern end of the land, and access and parking concerns. The NFDC suggested that in the short term the Town Council should focus on improving its facilities on its own land holdings.

Cllr Hale asked when the changing rooms would be available for use and the Clerk advised that the building should be handed over by the contractor next week. Cllr Mouland asked about plans to improve the first floor and the Clerk advised that in the first instance the stair well should be looked at as it is visible on entering the building. Cllr Anstey asked what the position was regarding actual use of the changing rooms in terms of numbers of people given Covid restrictions and Cllr Mouland advised that the rugby club accepted that the changing rooms could not be used until further easing of restrictions hopefully on 21 June 2021. Cllr Anstey asked about the use of the public toilets with an external door and the Clerk advised that it was envisaged that they would not be generally open but would be available for use if required at specific times to provide additional facilities. Regarding the additional land, Cllr Hale felt that discussions with the landowner should continue in order to try and establish a price for it.

## 9. To report any matters concerning Open Spaces

- Jobs for Lengthsman – 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Cllr Wilson suggested that the Lengthsman could undertake additional weeding around the town. The weeds are sprayed once a year by the NFDC but this does not usually happen until September. Cllr Mouland noted that a number of footpaths need attention but these are outside of the town's boundary.

- To consider repairing or replacing the existing notice boards

The Clerk reported that the RFO and Information Office staff have been looking at the notice boards (three outside the Town Hall, one behind the Co-Op and one on the entrance to Roundhill). Their research suggests that new notice boards will typically be considerably smaller than our two large public notice boards and generally be glazed and lockable so Town Council staff would need to put up any notices. Quotes have been obtained to replace like for like large notice boards and replace the existing surfaces (which are in need of replacing) with self-healing pinboard. The cost for Greenbarnes to supply the pinboard will be around £1,000 for all of the boards - There may be some small movement in price as one or two of the dimensions quoted for need to be slightly adjusted. Mark Davison has quoted to replace the two large boards and apply the new pinboard to all of the boards. He has quoted £1,269.05 for the work. This is quite specialist work and the Council has used Mark Davison before and know that he will do a good job. Given this Cllrs could consider suspending standing orders to approve the quotes (provided they were happy for this work to go ahead). Alternatively further quotes would need to be obtained. Cllr Wilson suggested replacing the notice board at Roundhill with something smaller but Cllr Adams felt that the existing notice board was not big enough for the number of notices people wanted to put up. Cllrs discussed how the board might be managed, its purpose and whether use of the board should be managed through the Council's staff. Cllr White undertook to monitor the board weekly and remove notices as appropriate. Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr White and therefore **RESOLVED**: that standing orders should be suspended and the Council should go ahead with the work on the boards as quoted. All in favour.

## 10. To note any items of correspondence

There were no items of correspondence.

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

Cllr Paton raised the issue of replacing the play house. The Clerk advised that this had been looked at in 2019 and a play house had been identified at a cost of £6,000 which could be paid from an allocated reserve. However, it was then established that the cost of surfacing and installation would be in the region of £12,000. Cllr Paton thought that this should be looked at again and suggested that it may be possible to use the existing surfacing. The Assistant Clerk advised that this had been looked at and there were issues identified with re-using the existing surface. Cllr Hale suggested that funds could be used from the current year's budget to buy new equipment. **Action: Clerk to look into buying new equipment.**

## 12. To note the date of the next meeting as 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021

The meeting closed at 8:27 pm