

FORDBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON 10TH MARCH 2014

PRESENT: Councillor C. McLaughlin (in the Chair)
P. Allen
K. Dooley
M. Hyde
J. Kimberley
S. McLaughlin
L. Sorrell

7655. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillors A. Nash and F. Nash.

7656. PRESENTATION FROM NORTH SOLIHULL PARTNERSHIP REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF THE FORDBRIDGE SCHOOL SITE

John Halton (North Solihull Partnership), Ken Harrison (Solihull M.B.C.) and Chet Parmer (Stewardship Officer) attended to provide an overview on the regeneration of the existing Fordbridge School site and to answer questions from members. A summary of the information provided is set out in Appendix A.

7657. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest made by members relating to items on the agenda.

7658. COMMENTS, QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no comments, questions or suggestions made by members of the public.

7659. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held 27th January 2014 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the proceedings.

7660. CONSIDERATION OF FILLING FIVE CASUAL VACANCIES BY CO-OPTION: BENNETT'S WELL WARD, COLE WARD AND HATCHFORD WARD (3)

RESOLVED that consideration of these vacancies be deferred to the next meeting of the Council

7661. REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

There was no report given as the Chairman was not present and the Vice-Chairman was presiding at the meeting

7662. STAFFING COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the special meeting of the Staffing Committee held 3rd February 2014 were presented to the meeting.

RESOLVED that the Minutes be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved

7663. FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held 24th February 2014 were presented to the meeting.

RESOLVED that the Minutes be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

7664. ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED that the report listing accounts paid as submitted be approved

7665. REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

There were no Representatives' reports submitted to the meeting

7666. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Councillor Jamieson reported on a new bus shelter in Woodclose Road and a new tenancy for two people in Putney Walk who it transpires are exempt from the "Bedroom Tax". He also reported on joint community use of facilities involving two local secondary schools and embryonic plans for use of the Chapelhouse site

7667. STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FROM THE PREVIOUS CHAIRMAN IN RESPECT OF THE CONDITIONAL ELEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN'S ALLOWANCE

The Clerk submitted correspondence from Mrs. Doyle stressing her wish to make further donations to her originally nominated charities and to present them in person.

RESOLVED that the Clerk write again to Mrs Doyle advising her of the Council's wish that they be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Council, obtaining an assurance that she will attend and requesting that the cheques be sent to the Clerk at least two weeks in advance of the meeting (Councillor Hyde asked for it to be recorded in the Minutes that he voted against this decision)

7668. REGENERATION OF EXISTING FORDBRIDGE SCHOOL SITE

Members were given the opportunity to forward their concerns and requirements to be included in the consultation exercise for development of the site.

RESOLVED that the Clerk write to North Solihull Partnership:-
i) thanking them for attending and providing information, emphasising that consultation is fundamental and the need to communicate with those people who are most directly affected by holding a series of meetings.
ii) re-stating the Council's concerns and proposed requirements as outlined during the presentation

7669. CONSIDERATION OF A RESPONSE TO MATTERS RAISED DURING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no comments, questions or suggestions made by members of the public.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN

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APPENDIX A

Regeneration of Existing Fordbridge School site

Members were advised that no technical work had been undertaken as yet in respect of regeneration of the site and a consultation process was currently being undertaken by Solihull M.B.C. This process would lead to the production of a development brief outlining the essential, desirable and unacceptable factors within the prospective development. This brief will hopefully take on board as many of the concerns and requirements of local people as possible. The authority wants feedback and an ongoing conversation with local people. It was reported that building work on the new Fordbridge School should start in April 2014 and take approximately 12 months to complete and also details of local investment in 3G sports pitches at two local secondary schools.

Members raised concerns about maintaining access for emergency vehicles on potentially narrow roads, ensuring the provision of at least a small garden, over-development and maintaining a buffer between multi occupation buildings. There was also some concern about the potential density of the development. Information was provided about the data supplied by housing strategy and its use in identifying housing need. This highlighted the need for one bedroom flats as a consequence of the "bedroom tax". Members were re-assured that the housing needs information would be used to identify what types of property would be proposed.