

FORDBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON 28TH JANUARY 2013

PRESENT: Councillor A. Doyle (in the Chair)
P. Allen
M. Hyde
J. Kimberley
C. McLaughlin
S. McLaughlin
A. Nash
F.V. Nash
H. Stone

7504. APOLOGIES

An apology for non-attendance from Councillor Sorrell was received and noted.

7505. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillors Doyle, Hyde, C. McLaughlin, S. McLaughlin and Stone all declared that they had a dispensation to allow them to participate and vote on the item regarding consideration of the Council's precept for the 2013/2014 financial year

7506. COMMENTS, QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

7507. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held 3rd December 2012 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the proceedings.

7508. CONSIDERATION OF FILLING A CASUAL VACANCY BY CO-OPTION: HATCHFORD WARD

RESOLVED that consideration of this vacancy be deferred to the next meeting of the Council

7509. CONSIDERATION OF THE PRECEPT FOR THE 2013/2014 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Clerk reported that the Council had agreed its budget for the next financial year and to meet its requirements a precept of £94,744.05 would be necessary. The Clerk reported that a basic financial strategy had also been discussed in the light of the government's new regulations regarding Council Tax Benefit. He advised that to maintain the same level of council tax as last year for residents of Fordbridge would require a precept of £105,000.

RESOLVED that the Council require a precept of £105,000 for the 2013/2014 financial year

(Councillor Hyde asked for it to be recorded in the Minutes that he voted against the decision)

7510. REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

The Chairman reported that she had represented the Council, together with other members at the funeral of former member Eric Collins. She remarked on the very moving eulogy at the service celebrating his life. She also confirmed that this year's charity event will take place on 20th April 2013

7511. STAFFING COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of the Staffing Committee held 7th January 2013 were presented to the meeting.

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

7512. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
 The Minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Health and Recreation Committee held 14th January 2013 were presented to the meeting.
 RESOLVED that the Minutes be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.
7513. FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
 The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held 14th January 2013 were presented to the meeting.
 RESOLVED that the Minutes be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.
7514. APPOINTMENT OF A REPRESENTATIVE ON ANOTHER BODY: HS2 COLESHILL JUNCTION COMMUNITY FORUM
 RESOLVED that consideration of this appointment be deferred to the next meeting of the Council.
7515. ACCOUNTS
 RESOLVED that the report listing accounts paid as submitted be approved
7516. REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS
 The Chairman provided a brief outline of a CAFÉ meeting including reports from the Police targeting illegal quad bikes and also drugs. She also advised that there had been a report regarding development of the new school. She also reported that CAFÉ are planning to hold another community event.
7517. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS
 Councillor Jamieson reported on the response to the recent bad weather and the impact of changes to housing benefit for those people deemed to have too many bedrooms. He also reported on the ongoing campaign to introduce the "Living Wage" for staff at Solihull M.B.C. and the affect of changes to government funding of Council Tax Benefit. He also remarked on community projects undertaken by the City Technology College.
 Councillor F.V. Nash reported that the main issues which she had been dealing with related to dog fouling, people seeking re-housing, concerns about benefits and the gritting of selected additional locations.
7518. W.A.L.C. ANNUAL BRIEFING SEMINAR
 The Clerk submitted an invitation to attend the above event on Saturday 2nd March and outlined the program for the day. He also confirmed that the cost of attending the seminar to be £39 per delegate.
 RESOLVED that Councillors C. McLaughlin & A. Nash be nominated as the Council's delegates
7519. CONSIDERATION OF THE COUNCIL'S GENERAL POLICY REGARDING ACKNOWLEDGING LOCAL ACHIEVEMENTS
 A brief discussion took place on how the achievements of local people could be celebrated including letters of congratulations, certificates of achievement, publicising in the Council's newsletter and possibly an awards day.
 RESOLVED that consideration of this matter be deferred to the next meeting of the FGP committee and the Clerk try to draw together a report for that meeting
7520. 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