

FORDBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON 28TH APRIL 2014

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

7670. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for non-attendance as all members of the Council were present at the meeting.

7671. 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.

7672. COMMENTS, QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Richard Chance (6 Nineacres Drive) attended the meeting to outline details of the "Strollers and Striders" group and a request to use a room at the Fordbridge Centre every two weeks, free of charge, as a meeting point for the group.

7673. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held 10th March 2014 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the proceedings.

7674. 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

7675. REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

The Chairman reported on the success of the Chairman's Charity Dance, which was a well attended and enjoyable evening. Councillor F.V. Nash thanked councillors and the Clerk for their work on the day. Letters of thanks from the Mayor of Solihull and Chief Supt. Sally Bourner were presented to the meeting. The Chairman also reported that he had opened, attended and enjoyed the M.A.P.A. fund raising event at the Fordbridge Centre.

7676. STAFFING COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of the Staffing Committee held 31st March 2014 were presented to the meeting.

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

7677. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Health and Recreation Committee held 7th April 2014 were presented to the meeting.

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

7678. FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held 7th April 2014 were presented to the meeting.

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

7679. REPORT BY CLERK TO THE COUNCIL: PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSALS BY THE STAFFING COMMITTEE TO REVISE WORKING PRACTICE AT THE FORDBRIDGE CENTRE AND TRANSITION TO THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS

The Clerk submitted a report outlining a plan encompassing the best practice for conducting consultation in preparation for implementation of the changes proposed by the Staffing Committee. The plan included details of an initial meeting with all staff, individual meetings with staff, a specific consultation period and how the proposed redundancy would be handled.

RESOLVED that the plan for implementation of the Council's proposals to revise working practice at the Fordbridge Centre as outlined in the Clerk's report be approved.

7680. ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED that the report listing accounts paid as submitted be approved

7681. REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

Councillor Allen reported on a meeting of the trustees of St. Leonard's Day Centre. She advised that the Centre has funding until March 2015 and is looking to recruit new members following the closure of Jubilee House.

7682. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Councillor Jamieson reported on his fears regarding local people's awareness that they may be due financial assistance in respect of the "Bedroom Tax". He advised that Fordbridge is being moved up the priority list for superfast broadband and that there has been good feedback regarding the external improvements to the tower blocks. He also reported on plans to re-submit a bid for a University Technical College.

Councillors F.A. and F.V. Nash reported on the ongoing objections to proposals to develop a floodlit sports pitch at John Henry Newman school.

7683. STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FROM THE PREVIOUS CHAIRMAN IN RESPECT OF THE CONDITIONAL ELEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN'S ALLOWANCE

The Clerk reported that the previous Chairman had advised him that she had made further payments to each of her nominated charities arising from the conditional element of the allowance and would supply copies of letters of acknowledgement in due course.

RESOLVED that the Clerk write again to Mrs. Doyle requesting a statement of expenditure to explain how she arrived at the surplus figure

7684. W.A.L.C. TRAINING EVENT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION REQUIREMENTS FOR PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS"

The Clerk reported that the above event which was discussed at the Finance and General Purposes Committee was being staged free of charge to member Councils.

RESOLVED that the Clerk attend on behalf of the Council and report back to a later meeting

7685. STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES FOR THE 2014 CHAIRMAN'S CHARITY DANCE

The Clerk submitted a statement of receipts and expenses relating to the 2014 Chairman's Charity Event. He confirmed that the revenue raised by the event amounted to £1,877.00 and the cost of staging the event was £785.68.

RESOLVED i) that in accordance with Council policy

the cost of staging the event be underwritten by the Council.
ii) that in accordance with the provisions of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 a total donation of £3,091.32 be made to Prostate Cancer UK
iii) that a representative from Prostate Cancer UK be invited to attend the annual meeting of the Council

7686. CONSIDERATION OF PLANTING ADDITIONAL SHRUBS AT THE GATEWAY SITE AT BOSWORTH DRIVE

Councillor Allen and the Clerk submitted proposals to plant additional shrubs at the gateway site at Bosworth Drive to provide an all-year round display with a consequent reduction in the summer bedding plants.

RESOLVED that the Clerk ask the Council's grounds maintenance contractor to draw up a plan and provide details of costs.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN