

FORDBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON 29TH APRIL 2013

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

7536. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance from Councillors Dooley and F.V. Nash were received and noted.

7537. REPRESENTATIVE FROM CENTRO ANSWERING QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

John Hayes from Centro attended the meeting to introduce himself and to answer questions from members regarding local services. A summary of the information provided and the related questions is set out in Appendix A.

7538. 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.

7539. COMMENTS, QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

7540. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held 11th March 2013 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the proceedings.

7541. CONSIDERATION OF FILLING THREE CASUAL VACANCIES BY CO-OPTION: COLE BENNETT'S WELL WARD, COLE WARD AND HATCHFORD WARD

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

7542. REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

The Chairman reported that she had been invited to a performance of "Bugsy Malone" at Fordbridge School. She advised that the show was very entertaining with wonderful singing, acting and lots of splurge! The cast acted with true professionalism and were a credit to themselves, their parents and the school.

She reported on the charity dance stating that everybody had enjoyed themselves and thanked everybody who attended. She thanked Councillor Hyde for working on the door, Aleesha Simon who acted as waitress and also Michelle and Rainsford Bent who sold raffle tickets. A letter from the Chair of the Events Sub-Committee thanking the Clerk and Councillor Allen and raising some issues from the event was reported to the meeting. The Chairman also submitted a letter of thanks from Tina Williams from "Julia's Wish" for use of the main hall to stage a function and confirming they had raised £3,500 for Marie Curie Cancer Care over the last twelve months, also thanking the Council for its donation.

RESOLVED that the clerk send a letter of commendation to the pupils of Fordbridge School for the performance of "Bugsy Malone"

7543. STAFFING COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of the Staffing Committee held 8th April 2013 were presented to the meeting.

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

7544. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Health and Recreation Committee held 15th April 2013 were presented to the meeting.

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

7545. FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held 15th April 2013 were presented to the meeting.

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

7546. 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.

7547. ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED that the report listing accounts paid as submitted be approved

7548. REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

Councillor Allen reported that she and Councillor Hyde had attended a briefing specifically for parish councils regarding "Awards for All".

Councillor Doyle reported on a meeting of Community Action in Fordbridge. She reported that the Police will be undertaking an exercise with the junior PCSO's at all schools in North Solihull and beginning at St. Anne's School regarding parking. The Police are also trying to deal with the problem of quad bikes, hopefully making use of the Polaris vehicle. The Police also have a new advanced property marking device. The planters have been returned to their original position by Crabtree Hall and the Bennett's Well site has been litter picked.

7549. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Councillor Jamieson asked members for feedback regarding the food bank. He reported on potholes in roads and £11m investment on cladding or insulation of high rise blocks. He advised that he was concerned that there appeared to be backtracking on the original plans for development of the Fordbridge school site, with no guarantees now being offered on the community use aspect of the development. This contradicted the plans provided in the original consultation. He also reported on progress in respect of the future plans at the CTC Kingshurst Academy and a possible partnership with Solihull M.B.C. and N.S.S.C, which could prove extremely beneficial for Fordbridge.

Councillor Nash reported that the investment in cladding of high rise blocks is a little way off but will be beneficial. He also expressed his concerns regarding the impact of benefit changes and people being moved from larger into smaller houses and vice versa.

7550. CONSIDERATION OF CONSULTATION BY SOLIHULL M.B.C. REGARDING PROPOSED CHANGES TO HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE

RESOLVED that consideration of this matter be deferred to the annual meeting of the Council.

7551. 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 9.10 p.m.

.....
CHAIRMAN

FORDBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON 29TH APRIL 2013
APPENDIX A

Centro

John Hayes introduced himself and thanked the Council for the opportunity to attend the meeting but advised that he had only been in post for four weeks. This would clearly affect his knowledge of the local issues but if he could not give answers at the meeting he would report back to the Council at a later stage.

The main questions related to the following subjects:-

- Erratic nature of the 71 bus service, serious overcrowding on the same service, and the possible use of double-deckers as a potential solution.
- The importance of linking people in North Solihull with job opportunities at the Airport and in Coleshill and other parts of Solihull.
- Clarification of the 97 timetable and the frequency of the service to the Airport.
- Concern was also raised regarding following correct routes and dropping off points around Chelmsley Wood Town Centre.
- Security and anti-social behaviour on buses.
- The view was offered that services into Birmingham are generally good, to Solihull are poor and to any other destinations are very poor. The view was however also offered that although there are problems, there is a great deal to commend as well.

John Hayes confirmed that National Express will be looking at increasing the frequency of the 71 service and he will have further details in September. He advised that he will remind operators regarding their safety obligations in respect of overcrowding. He also agreed to ask National Express to remind its drivers about correct routes and stopping points. He advised that CCTV should be available on all services and can be accessed centrally. He stated that Centro would be re-visiting its network review for the East Birmingham and North Solihull area. He also advised that it is Centro's responsibility to plug gaps when there is a demand or social need for a service which is not being met by a commercial operator.