

FORDBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON 30TH SEPTEMBER 2013

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

7599. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance from Councillors Dooley, Doyle and Jamieson were received and noted.

7600. REPRESENTATIVES FROM TS STIRLING SEA SCOUTS ANSWERING QUESTIONS REGARDING AN APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Four representatives from the group attended to answer questions regarding the group's application for financial assistance. A summary of the information provided is set out in Appendix A.

7601. 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.

7602. COMMENTS, QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

7603. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held 12th August 2013 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the proceedings.

7604. CONSIDERATION OF FILLING THREE CASUAL VACANCIES BY CO-OPTION: BENNETT'S WELL WARD, COLE WARD AND HATCHFORD WARD

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

7605. REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

The Chairman reported on the garden competition presentation evening.

7606. STAFFING COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of the Staffing Committee held 9th September 2013 were presented to the meeting.

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

7607. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Health and Recreation Committee held 16th September 2013 were presented to the meeting.

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

7608. FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
 The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held 16th September 2013 were presented to the meeting.
 RESOLVED that the Minutes be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.
7609. 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.
7610. CONSIDERATION OF A REPORT BY THE CLERK TO THE COUNCIL: FUTURE OF THE GARDEN COMPETITION
 The Clerk submitted a report outlining some suggestions to re-invigorate and strengthen the garden competition.
 RESOLVED that the proposals contained in the Clerk's report as set out in Appendix B be approved
7611. ACCOUNTS
 RESOLVED that the report listing accounts paid as submitted be approved
7612. REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS
 Councillor Sorrell reported on a meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee providing information regarding a new satellite system, opening of the diverted A45, ongoing runway extension work, complaints regarding "Drop & Go", new airlines and routes and also work with local schools.
 Councillor Hyde reported on a meeting of Community Action in Fordbridge including a report back on a coffee morning, nomination of gardens for cultivation and exclusion from meetings.
7613. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS
 Councillor F.V. Nash reported on the cutting back of some trees for local people and that she is receiving more reports requesting accommodation. She also reported on some success in clearing up and repairs in the area.
7614. REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S PUBLICATION SCHEME PRODUCED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000
 Councillor A. Nash added that more and more issues are arising from the "Bedroom Tax"
 The Clerk submitted the Council's publication scheme produced in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to allow members the opportunity to review its contents and make amendments or additions as appropriate.
 RESOLVED that the publication scheme produced in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as submitted be approved
7615. CONSIDERATION OF LOCATING TWO SKIPS ON THE CAR PARK OF THE FORDBRIDGE CENTRE ON BEHALF OF SOLIHULL M.B.C. FOR HALF A DAY
 The Clerk reported that he had been approached by Solihull M.B.C. regarding the possibility of locating two community skips in the car park of the Fordbridge Centre for one half day in the lead up to Bonfire Night. The skips are usually located at Crabtree Hall which is unavailable this year.
 RESOLVED that the request be approved subject to the skips being manned during the day and that any damage being the responsibility of Solihull M.B.C.

7616. CONSIDERATION OF AN APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BY TS STIRLING SEA CADETS

The Clerk submitted details of an application for financial assistance by TS Stirling Sea Scouts and outlined the group's compliance with the Councils policy, in light of the information provided by representatives of the group at the outset of the meeting.

RESOLVED i) that in accordance with the provisions of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 a donation of £500 be made to TS Stirling Sea Scouts
ii) that the Clerk write to the group thanking the representatives for their attendance and how impressive they and the details of the group's work had been, and also inviting them to receive their cheque at the carol concert and encouraging them to get involved in the Fun Day

7617. 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 9.05 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN

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APPENDIX A

TS Stirling Sea Cadets

The representatives made a brief presentation outlining the work of the group. The sea cadets are a uniformed youth organisation run along the same lines as the Royal Navy. The object of the group is to make the young people into good human beings and ties in with the principles of leadership and also the school curriculum in the form of citizenship. The group's activities are water borne and they offer qualifications including the Duke of Edinburgh Award and various BTEC. The group has six committee members and tries where possible to undertake additional fund raising. The group's finances are independently audited within the wider organisation's command structure.

APPENDIX B

Garden Competition

1. Introduce a new category for previous winners. The overall winners from the previous six years to be automatically entered into a separate competition. Winner receives £100, plus shield to be retained for one year and a trophy.
2. Abolish prizes for best garden in each ward. Provide prize for overall fifth and sixth. Each garden receives £50 plus a trophy.
3. The onus for entering the competition must be placed on the gardeners themselves. They will have to enter the competition personally either by telephone or email (or somebody could enter on their behalf). This will eliminate any confusion regarding how to enter the competition.
4. Write to all gardens on the Council's database advising them of the changes to the competition and providing them with the opportunity to enter the 2014 competition. The six previous winners referred to above will be contacted separately. Entries by email will lead to a further database allowing easy reminders to be sent in future years. Entries by telephone can be asked to provide an email address for a reminder to be sent, for example a relative or friend. The letter will advise everybody that if there is not enough interest the competition will not continue.
5. An advertisement inviting entries will continue to be included in the newsletter and on the website.
6. Entries will close on 30th June each year and then all gardens which have entered can be photographed at approximately the same time. Short listing from the photographs can continue as normal if there are sufficient entries. Judging to continue as normal.
7. The Clerk to produce a leaflet/flyer inviting newly identified gardens to enter the competition. These leaflets will detail how to enter and the prizes available and can then be given to the owner. They will still however have to formally enter themselves.
8. The main focus of members will therefore be photographing entries at the appropriate time and identifying new gardens, which of course can be an ongoing process. A list of gardens on the main database will be available to members.
9. The Council to review the impact and effectiveness of these changes after one year.