

FORDBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON 7TH DECEMBER 2020

PRESENT: Councillor M. Blackburn (in the Chair)
P. Allen
S. Blackburn
D. Cole
J. Kimberley
L.A. Sorrell

8457. APOLOGIES

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

8458. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST FROM MEMBERS AND OTHER DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

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

8459. COMMENTS, QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

8560. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held 24th August 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the proceedings.

8561. CONSIDERATION OF FILLING SIX CASUAL VACANCIES BY CO-OPTION: BENNETT'S WELL WARD, COLE WARD AND HATCHFORD WARD (4)

The Clerk reported on the current situation regarding the vacancies and a debate took place regarding the need to take a more pro-active approach in attempting to fill the vacancies, particularly those in the Hatchford Ward.

RESOLVED i) that consideration of this matter be deferred until the easing of Covid-19 restrictions
ii) that when the restrictions have been eased the Council take positive action to recruit residents of Fordbridge to fill the vacancies, including the use of a leaflet campaign

8562. REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

The Chairman reported that he had participated in a photo opportunity to plant a cherry tree donated by "Love Solihull" to recognise the contribution of the local community during the pandemic. He also praised the work of the Clerk in relation to maintaining and opening the Fordbridge Centre during difficult times

8563. ACCOUNTS PAID, PETTY CASH PAYMENTS, MONTHLY EMPLOYEE COSTS AND BANK TRANSFERS

RESOLVED that the report listing accounts paid, petty cash payments, bank transfers and monthly employee costs as submitted be approved

8564. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT EXPENDITURE BUDGET FOR THE 2021/2022 FINANCIAL YEAR
 The Clerk submitted a draft expenditure budget for the 2021/2022 financial year and advised that he had produced a neutral budget to ensure no projected increase in expenditure during the next financial year. The proposed expenditure budget for the forthcoming year is therefore £101,000
 RESOLVED that the draft expenditure budget for the 2021/2022 financial year be approved
8565. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020: EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT
 The Clerk confirmed that the Council's external auditors had completed the audit for the financial year ended 31st March 2020 and he submitted their report giving an unqualified opinion for the relevant year. The auditor's also drew the Council's attention to two matters relating to risk assessment and the starting period for the period of public inspection
 RESOLVED that the auditor's report be received and accepted
8566. CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL'S PARISH BASIC ALLOWANCE [THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES) REGULATIONS 2003]
 The Clerk submitted details of a recommended increase to the Council's Parish Basic Allowance as advised by Solihull M.B.C. He also advised that the Council was not obliged to implement the recommendation.
 RESOLVED that consideration of this matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Council
8567. REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE REGARDING QUARTERLY VERIFICATION OF BANK RECONCILIATIONS
 The Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee confirmed that in accordance with Section 2.2 of the Council's financial regulations she had verified the bank reconciliation for the three month period ended 30th September 2020.
 RESOLVED that the action taken by the Chairman of the FGP committee be noted
8568. REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL REGARDING QUARTERLY SAMPLE CHECK OF PAYMENTS MADE (IN ACCORDANCE WITH RECOMMENDATION MADE IN RISK ASSESSMENT AND APPROVED BY COUNCIL)
 The Chairman reported that, as recommended by the Council's general risk assessment, he had undertaken a sample scrutiny of payments made from the Council's bank account on 16th October 2020.
 RESOLVED that the action taken by the Chairman of the Council be noted
8569. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2020/21
 The Clerk reported that the date for notifying the precept for 2021/2022 fell before the date of the next scheduled meeting. He recommended that the meeting be brought forward and that to reduce the number of remote meetings, the scheduled meeting of the FGP committee be cancelled and where possible the agendas be combined.
 RESOLVED i) that the next cycle of scheduled meetings be cancelled.
 ii) that a remote meeting of the Council be held on 18th January 2020 commencing at 7pm.
8570. 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 8.10 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN