

FORDBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
HELD ON 8TH AUGUST 2016

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

8007. APOLOGIES

An apology for non-attendance was received from Councillor Bennett-Watson

8008. SERGEANT BEEDHAM (WEST MIDLANDS POLICE) PROVIDING AN UPDATE ON LOCAL ISSUES AND PRIORITIES AND ANSWERING QUESTIONS WHERE POSSIBLE

Sergeant Beedham (Neighbourhood Policing Team) attended the meeting to provide an update on local issues and priorities and to answer questions from members. A summary of the information provided is set out in Appendix A.

8009. 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.

8010. COMMENTS, QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

8011. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held 27th June 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the proceedings.

8012. CONSIDERATION OF FILLING FOUR CASUAL VACANCIES BY CO-OPTION: BENNETT'S WELL WARD, COLE WARD AND HATCHFORD WARD (2)

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

8013. REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

The Chairman briefly reported that she had been invited to the launch of the community garden at the old Boys' Club building but had been unable to attend. Councillor F.V. Nash reported briefly on the event

8014. FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held 25th July 2016 were presented to the meeting.

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

8015. 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

8016. REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

Councillor F.V. Nash reported that she had attended Birmingham Children's Hospital to present a cheque and vouchers. She also reported on her day with the Police during its operation targeting off-road bikes.

Councillor Sorrell reported that she had been appointed to the surfacing committee as part of the Airport Consultative Committee

8017. WMG ACADEMY FOR YOUNG ENGINEERS

Members discussed extending an invitation to the Academy to attend a meeting of the Council to provide an overview of its prospective work.

- RESOLVED
- i) that the Clerk invite the principal or senior representative to attend the next meeting to provide an overview of the work of the college and to answer questions regarding concerns from members
  - ii) that the Clerk request an opportunity for members to take a look around the college and:-
  - iii) request details of how many applications for places have been received from North Solihull

8018. CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING THE WALC PROTOCOL ON THE RECORDING AND FILMING OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Clerk submitted the WALC protocol on recording and filming of meetings with particular reference to specific requirements in respect of filming and notifying members of the public. The protocol and the general subject of recording meetings was debated at some length by members

- RESOLVED that consideration of this matter be deferred to the next meeting to allow the Clerk to make further enquiries

8019. CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING REVISED NALC MODEL FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The Clerk submitted revised NALC model financial regulations and reported on the three main amendments. The amendments concern disciplinary action, relationships involving cheque signatories and national procurement limits.

- RESOLVED that the revised NALC model financial regulations as submitted be adopted.

8020. CONSIDERATION OF A DATE FOR A MEETING OF THE STAFFING COMMITTEE

The Clerk reported that there had not been a quorum at the last meeting of the Staffing Committee and another meeting was required to transact the relevant business

- RESOLVED that a meeting of the Staffing Committee be held on Monday 19th September 2016 at 7.30 p.m.

8021. RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION BY SOLIHULL M.B.C. REGARDING LOCALISED COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT

The Clerk reported that details of the consultation regarding Solihull Council's localised Council tax support scheme had been sent to all members by email. He advised that the basic proposal was to require everybody to pay at least 15% of their Council Tax bill irrespective of income

- RESOLVED that the Council oppose the proposal on the point of principle that ability to pay for those on the lowest income should continue to be taken into account.

8022. 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 8.55 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN

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APPENDIX A

**Sergeant Beedham (West Midlands Police)**

Sergeant Beedham reported that a major operation had taken place on Sunday 31st July 2016 in response to concerns regarding off-road bikes. Fifteen search warrants had been executed yielding 18 arrests for various offences and the seizure of 22 bikes. Eight stolen bikes had been recovered. These arrests were made at numerous locations and all related to off road bikes causing nuisance in the Fordbridge area. She stressed that the message to feedback to the local community was keep providing information about the location of the bikes. It is easy to provide that information anonymously and the Police will take the problem seriously and gather evidence.

Sergeant Beedham advised that the Police continued to carry out its routine work of checking void garages and visiting known anti-social behaviour hotspots. She suggested that crime in Fordbridge is not generally a problem with no significant trends. She reported on a knife crime incident which involved people known to each other and nobody involved wished to co-operate with the Police