

FORDBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON 17TH OCTOBER 2016

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

8023. APOLOGIES

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

8024. STEWART TAIT (PRINCIPAL, WMG ACADEMY) PROVIDING AN OVERVIEW OF ITS AIMS AND OBJECTIVES AND ANSWERING QUESTIONS WHERE POSSIBLE

Stewart Tait (Associate Principal) and Kate Tague (Executive Principal) at the WMG Academy for Young Engineers Solihull attended the meeting to provide information and answer questions from members regarding the Academy. A summary of the information provided is set out in Appendix A.

8025. 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.

8026. COMMENTS, QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

8027. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held 8th August 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the proceedings.

8028. 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

8029. REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

The Chairman reported that she had attended the Solihull in Bloom presentation evening. She had presented the Council's prizes alongside the Mayor of Solihull and everybody appeared to have a good time. She also submitted a letter of thanks from Birmingham Children's Hospital for the donation arising from the charity dance earlier in the year.

8030. STAFFING COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of the Staffing Committee held 19th September 2016 were presented to the meeting.

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

8031. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
The Minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Health and Recreation Committee held 10th October 2016 were presented to the meeting.
RESOLVED that the Minutes be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.
8032. FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held 10th October 2016 were presented to the meeting.
RESOLVED that the Minutes be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved
8033. 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
8034. REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS
Councillor Sorrell presented a detailed report of a meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee and the main contents of that report is set out in Appendix B
8035. WMG ACADEMY FOR YOUNG ENGINEERS
Members were reminded of this opportunity to make any further decisions or proposals in respect of the WMG Academy for Young Engineers following the presentation earlier in the meeting. Members unanimously praised the presentation and both representatives for their enthusiasm and commitment to the project.
RESOLVED that the Clerk write to the Academy's representatives offering the Council's gratitude for attending and also it's appreciation of the interesting and enthusiastic presentation
8036. 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. He recommended that the Council make its own recording of each meeting to act as the definitive record. The protocol and the subject of public attendance at meetings was debated by members
RESOLVED that consideration of this matter be deferred to the next meeting to allow the Council to clarify and define which meetings will be open to the public
8037. RESPONSE TO GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION REGARDING PRECEPT REFERENDUMS AND RELATED ITEMS
The Clerk submitted details of a Government consultation considering the extension of referendums to all local precepting authorities. He outlined potential objections to the proposal which would potentially cost large sums of money, potentially defeating the object and seemingly unnecessary given that a system of democratic accountability already exists.
RESOLVED that the Council oppose the proposal to extend referendums to all local precepting authorities

8038. PROVISION OF MILK IN SCHOOLS

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

8039. PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT LIGHTING FOR THE OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS TREE AT THE FORDBRIDGE CENTRE

The Clerk reported that he was waiting for a loom of low voltage external lights to be tested to ensure that they were safe. He advised members that he expected them to fail and sought permission to replace them in the event that they were faulty.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to spend up to £200 to replace a loom of external low voltage lights if they are unsafe

8040. 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

WMG Academy for Young Engineers

The main points of information provided to the meeting are as follows:-

- The Academy is a University Technology College with the University of Warwick as its university sponsor and specialising in engineering.
- The North Solihull site is part of the larger WMG trust comprising of a number of employers including Balfour Beatty, National Grid, Jaguar Land Rover and Aston Martin.
- The Academy receives the same government funding as other schools and students continue to follow part of the National Curriculum (English, Mathematics, 2 x Science, an external subject and a specialism)
- There is a skills shortage In engineering and by having a focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subject it hopes to create opportunities for young people.
- Students will be involved with projects including manufacturing design alongside local employers which will help to bring the curriculum to life.
- The Academy hopes to ensure that student progress into employment, higher education or training
- Employers will have the opportunity to present to students, to recruit directly and to offer apprenticeships
- As well as the major employers the work of the Academy will hopefully assist skills shortages within the Jaguar Land Rover supply chain including the opportunity to provide apprenticeships
- Students will not undertake work experience in the traditional sense but will have access to ten different employers
- The majority of pupils will be local and if applications to the Academy are over subscribed selection will be made by verified random allocation.
- The Academy is keen to work with its local community

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Airport Consultative Committee

- The Airport carried over 1 million passengers during May 2016
- Albastar is a new carrier for Birmingham. The Spanish airline will fly twice weekly (Wed and Sat) to Palma.
- Blue Air, Romania's largest carrier will be flying three times a week (Mon, Wed and Fri) to Cluj from December and to Bucharest from March 2017.
- Flybe will add three new French routes in May plus a new daily route to Toulouse from October. The airline has 22 routes from Birmingham during the Winter season.
- Monarch will be introducing new routes to Lisbon (4 times per week) and Madrid (3 times per week)
- Turkish Airlines will double its daily service to Istanbul which then provides 289 onward connections for those flying long haul.
- Wizz Air introducing three new routes including Bucharest and Budapest.
- Birmingham Airport was the only UK airport to attend a trade show in Australia involving three cities (Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane) Appointments with 63 tour operators from Australia, China, Europe and USA to promote airport products. The airport is confident that it will get flights to China.
- Airport is looking to provide a free drop & go car park.
- The original Elmdon building dating back to 1920 is to get a face lift
- Each airline is monitored on noise. CO2 emissions per passenger have been reduced by 26%, with checks made every three years. 650 smart meters for monitoring are located across the airport.
- The airport makes £10,000 available each year to be used for woodland and tree planting schemes.
- The airport has set up a complaints system called "Oracle Right Now" with the aim of the self service system to meet customer needs and allow the company to identify areas of concern.