

FORDBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
HELD ON 3RD DECEMBER 2018

PRESENT: Councillor L. Sorrell (in the Chair)  
P. Allen  
H. Bennett-Watson  
M. Blackburn  
D. Cole  
D. Hinsley  
J. Kimberley  
S. McLaughlin  
A. Nash  
F.V. Nash

8274. APOLOGIES

The Clerk submitted a letter of resignation from Councillor Kieran Dooley citing ill health for his decision.

An apology for non-attendance from C. McLaughlin (recovering from stroke) was received and acknowledged but not approved.

RESOLVED that the Clerk write to Mr. Dooley to thank him for his service and offer the Council's best wishes for his health.

8275. JOHN HALTON (NORTH SOLIHULL PARTNERSHIP) TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND ANSWER QUESTIONS REGARDING DISPOSAL OF LAND AT CLOPTON CRESCENT

John Halton (North Solihull Partnership) provided background information and answered questions from members of the public regarding the proposed disposal of land at Clopton Crescent. Further details of the information, questions and responses are set out in Appendix A

8276. 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.

8277. COMMENTS, QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The meeting was attended by more than sixty residents and on their behalf a number of questions and comments were made. Further details of the comments, questions and responses are set out in Appendix A

8278. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held 8th October 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the proceedings.

8279. REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

The Chairman reported that the council's carol concert had been really fantastic with superb performances from all choirs involved. She also commented on how much she had enjoyed the service of Remembrance at Solihull.

8280. FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held 12th November 2018 were presented to the meeting.

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

8281. 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
8282. REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS  
There were no reports made by representatives due to the limited remaining time available at the meeting.
8283. CONSIDERATION OF ANY FURTHER ACTION IN RELATION TO PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF LAND AT CLOPTON CRESCENT  
The Council debated the information provided by John Halton in relation to the proposed disposal of land at Clopton Crescent and expressed its support for the opposition provided to the plan voiced by local residents.  
RESOLVED i) that the Clerk liaise with John Halton and local residents in relation to consideration of this matter by Solihull Council's Cabinet.  
ii) that the Clerk write to Solihull M.B.C. emphasising the strength of feeling of residents demonstrated at the meeting.
8284. LITTER IN FORDBRIDGE  
Councillor Cole reported that he would be attending a meeting with officials from Solihull M.B.C. regarding extending the "Litter-Pickers" initiative which had been successful in other parts of the Borough.  
RESOLVED that the Council fully support Councillor Cole's attendance at the meeting and that he report back to the Council regarding progress.
8285. CONSIDERATION OF INSTALLATION OF AN IMPROVED BROADBAND SERVICE AND WI-FI FOR THE FORDBRIDGE CENTRE  
The Clerk reminded members that he had been asked to investigate comparable costs of broadband and telephone services in relation to those provided by XLN Telecom and its dedicated public Wi-Fi service. He reported that the Council could obtain better broadband and telephone deals but there was no other dedicated public system.  
RESOLVED i) that the Clerk approach XLN Telecom to try and obtain charges equivalent to its offer for new customers.  
ii) if he is not successful the matter to be referred to the next meeting of the FGP Committee for further consideration
8286. CHRISTMAS EVENT 2018: PROGRESS REPORT AND CONSIDERATION OF ANY FURTHER ACTION  
The Clerk reported that currently only 22 tickets had been issued (following returns) and there had been some disquiet from users of the Centre following the changed priority for the event agreed by the Council.  
RESOLVED i) that the 2018 Christmas Event be cancelled and all ticket holders advised as soon as possible.  
ii) that the original decision to stage the event and the relevant arrangements be reviewed in due course

8287. 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 9.25 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN

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APPENDIX A

**Disposal of Land at Clopton Crescent**

John Halton (North Solihull Partnership) clarified his role and provided background information relating to the proposed disposal of land. He advised that the Partnership had been looking at infill sites and all areas included some or significant green space. The intention is to replace the lost quantity of open space with higher quality open space. The presumption that all of the green space will be developed is not actually the case. Part of the development process involves investing in green space. The challenge for everybody is meeting the undeniable and widely acknowledged need to develop more affordable housing.

Residents voiced their concerns regarding the removal of a previous covenant on the land, measuring the quality of green space, using part of the land as a formal football pitch, and housing being crammed in like “sardines in a can” or “battery hens”. They also indicated that this is the only parcel of land in the area with nowhere else to play. Children play on the land and the view is that it is safe. All of the residents present supported the Chairman of the Bacons End Triangle Residents Association who sent a message from the meeting to North Solihull Partnership that “local people do not want this development”.

Members of the Council stressed the view that green spaces are fundamental to the health and well being of the local community and confirmed that they will support residents in their opposition. The meeting concluded by advising Mr. Halton to take note of the strength of feeling of the meeting and that people feel under threat.