

FORDBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON 21ST JANUARY 2019

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

8288. APOLOGIES

The Clerk submitted a letter of resignation from Councillor Hinsley citing a need to re-assess commitments following the sad loss of his wife
Apologies for non-attendance from Councillors Bennett-Watson (illness) and F.V. Nash (civic duties) were received and acknowledged but not approved.

RESOLVED that the absence by Councillor C. McLaughlin who is recovering following suffering a stroke be approved by the Council

8289. TAMMY ROWLEY (SOLIHULL COUNCIL) TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND REQUEST SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL

Ms Rowley informed the Council about community based litter picking groups and the absence of any in Fordbridge. She advised regarding the practicalities involved in a group and stressed that the main focus of this idea is to empower local residents. She confirmed that "Love Solihull" would be happy to support a group in setting up. She also separately informed members regarding action to deter dog fouling and encouraged the Council to advise her of any particular areas of concern in this regard..

8290. 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.

8291. COMMENTS, QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

8292. APPOINTMENT OF A REPLACEMENT MEMBER TO THE STAFFING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that Councillor Cole be appointed as the replacement member of the Staffing Committee

8293. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held 3rd December 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the proceedings.

8294. CONSIDERATION OF THE PRECEPT FOR THE 2019/2020 FINANCIAL YEAR
RESOLVED that in accordance with the Clerk's recommendation the Council require a precept of £83,560 for the 2019/2020 financial year including the support grant from Solihull M.B.C. of £1,975
8295. REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL
The Chairman reported that she had attended the funeral of Councillor Hinsley's wife. She remarked that the Council's thoughts are with him and expressed the hope that he stands for election in May.
8296. FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held 7th January 2019 were presented to the meeting.
RESOLVED that the Minutes be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved
8297. STAFFING COMMITTEE
The Minutes of the meeting of the Staffing Committee held 14th January 2019 were presented to the meeting.
RESOLVED that the Minutes be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved
8298. 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
8299. REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS
The Chairman reported on a meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee and details of new gates opened in August and the new hotel opened in October. She advised that a second runway was still an aim but is not planned in the near future. In response to an earlier question she confirmed that interpreters are available on site if required
8300. CONSIDERATION OF PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY BASED ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SOLIHULL M.B.C.
The Clerk asked members to consider supporting the initiative described earlier in the meeting to assist with establishing a community based litter picking group.
RESOLVED that the Council support the initiative and that Councillor Cole lead in supporting the setting up of a community litter picking group in Fordbridge
8301. CONSIDERATION OF INSTALLATION OF AN IMPROVED BROADBAND SERVICE AND WI-FI FOR THE FORDBRIDGE CENTRE
The Clerk reported on continuing negotiations with XLN Telecom and advised that they were prepared to upgrade the council's broadband service at no extra cost rather than the offer available to new customers.

RESOLVED that the Council accept the upgraded fibre broadband offer made by XLN Telecom at the existing cost of £36.99 per month and public WiFi at a cost of £4.95 per month, both for 24 months

8302. CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR CITIZENS ADVICE: CHELMSLEY WOOD

The Clerk reported that funding for Citizens Advice from Solihull M.B.C. had been withdrawn and the Chelmsley Wood office was seeking support from local councils to maintain its services. He reminded members that an email had been circulated to all members with further details provided by the manager.

RESOLVED that the Council support the application in principle and the matter be referred back to the FGP committee to determine a clearer policy.

8303. PROGRESS REPORT: CHAIRMAN'S CHARITY DANCE 2019

The Chairman reported that raffle prizes had been obtained from Melbicks and Sheldon Hall but unfortunately at this stage other approaches had not been successful. The Clerk confirmed that he would make further applications.

RESOLVED that the Council do not stage a separate prize draw and hold a raffle only on the night of the event.

8304. 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 8.40 p.m.

.....
CHAIRMAN