

FORDBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES
COMMITTEE HELD ON 6TH JANUARY 2020

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

1. APOLOGIES

An apology for non-attendance from Councillor S. Blackburn (throat infection) was received and acknowledged.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

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

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held 11th November 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the proceedings

4. CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S GRANTS AND DONATIONS POLICY

The Clerk reported that members had indicated they may require charity registration to be included as a condition for an organisation to receive financial support from the Council. The Clerk counselled against this as it would mitigate against small local groups who may not be able to take on the onerous requirements of registration.

RESOLVED that no change be made to the existing grants and donations policy and members also reinforce their intention to properly scrutinise all applications

5. REPORT BY THE CLERK TO THE COUNCIL: COUNCIL'S RESERVE FUNDS

The Clerk submitted a report detailing the Council's existing reserve funds, outlining its General Fund balance and recommending transfers from the General Fund.

RESOLVED that the Council transfer the following amounts from the General Fund to the specified reserve funds: -

I.R.R./Building Fund	£55,000.00
General Reserve	£5,000.00

6. DRAFT EXPENDITURE BUDGET FOR THE 2020/2021 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Clerk submitted the draft expenditure budget for the 2020/2021 financial year and responded to questions by members regarding the budget. He advised members that additional provision had been included in respect of utility costs at the Fordbridge Centre. It is proposed that the total expenditure budget for the forthcoming year is £101,000

RESOLVED that the draft expenditure budget for the 2020/2021 financial year be approved

7. CONSIDERATION OF A THREE-YEAR HEALTH AND SAFETY SUPPORT PROPOSAL FROM ELLIS WHITHAM LTD

The Clerk submitted a proposal from Ellis Whitham Ltd offering a three year health and safety support service at an annual cost of £1,436.00. The Clerk recommended that the Council accept the proposal which would provide expert assistance to ensure that the Council meets all of its health and safety obligations and that appropriate procedures and policies are in place. The Clerk indicated that he could produce basic procedures and policies but was concerned that they may not be sufficient and appropriate and he reminded members that legally they were responsible for compliance with health and safety legislation.

RESOLVED that consideration of this matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Council and the Clerk contact WALC to ascertain what information and support they may be able to provide in respect of health and safety

8. APPLICATION TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL LOTTERY 25

The Clerk reported that he had made an application to the fund established to celebrate "National Lottery 25" to obtain funding for a community event, potentially the Chairman's Charity Dance. The application was made at short notice given by the Fund preventing the Council considering the matter in advance and the Clerk also reported that he had reservations that the application may not meet the criteria.

RESOLVED that the action of the Clerk be approved and that the Council wait the decision of the Fund before considering any further action

9. REPORT OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AND DECISIONS TAKEN WITH DELEGATED POWERS

Conversion Of Existing Garage And Two Storey Side Extension Above And To Rear Of Garage To Form New Habitable Space, 5 Grantley Drive

No objections were raised by members. In accordance with the provisions of Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Clerk decided to raise no objections.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN