

FORDBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES  
COMMITTEE HELD ON 12TH NOVEMBER 2018

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance from Councillors C. McLaughlin (recovering following stroke), F.A. Nash and F.V. Nash (both undertaking civic duties) were received and acknowledged but not approved.

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 24th September 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the proceedings

4. CONSIDERATION OF TRAINING FOR THE CLERK TO ALLOW THE COUNCIL TO MEET THE CRITERIA FOR ADOPTING THE GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

The Clerk asked members to consider training which would put the Council in a position to adopt the general power of competence, assuming other criteria are also met, following the election in 2019.

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

5. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2018: EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Clerk confirmed that the Council's external auditors had completed the audit for the financial year ended 31st March 2018 and he submitted their report giving an unqualified opinion for the relevant year.

RESOLVED that the auditor's report be received and accepted

6. REPORT BY THE CLERK TO THE COUNCIL: BUDGET MONITORING TO 30.9.2018

The Clerk submitted a report detailing a comparison between budget allocation and actual income and expenditure for the period ended 30th September 2018. He reported that there was one significant variation and outlined the details.

RESOLVED that the details of the comparison between actual income and expenditure and the budget allocation and the significant variation for the period ended 30th September 2018 as set out in Appendix A be noted and approved.

7. REVIEW OF HIRE CHARGES AT THE FORDBRIDGE CENTRE

The Clerk submitted details of the current hire charges at the Fordbridge Centre and members were invited to consider any amendments.

RESOLVED that no changes be made to the existing hire charges at the Fordbridge Centre and this matter be considered again at the appropriate time next year

8. CHAIRMAN'S CHARITY DANCE 2019: PROGRESS REPORT

The Clerk updated members on progress regarding obtaining sponsorship for the event and raffle prizes for the prize draw. He confirmed that sponsorship to the value of £200.00 had been received from Birmingham Airport and also a raffle prize from Jaguar Land Rover.

9. CONSIDERATION OF INSTALLATION OF AN IMPROVED BROADBAND SERVICE AND WI-FI FOR THE FORDBRIDGE CENTRE

The Clerk asked members to consider enhancing the broadband service at the Fordbridge Centre to allow free wi-fi for users of the building. He outlined the background to the request and advised that professional assistance may be required to ensure any enhancements or improvements will meet the requirements of the Centre. Members debated the issue and some additional research had already been undertaken.

RESOLVED i) that the Clerk obtain three quotations including XLN Telecom and their dedicated free wi-fi service and report to the next meeting of the Council.

ii) that the Clerk approach Solihull Council to ascertain whether they are able to provide any professional telecommunication support or advice.

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

Erect New External Cedral Cladding In Selected Areas, New Lighting Externally Including Festoon Lighting, New Kitchen Air Input/Extract System To Flat Roof Area, The Centurion Forth 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 8.25 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN

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APPENDIX A

1. Expenditure on data protection is higher than the agreed budget. This variation has occurred as a result of the Council's decision to engage a consultant to advise regarding the new General Data Protection Regulations.