

FORDBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES  
COMMITTEE HELD ON 17TH FEBRUARY 2020

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

1. APOLOGIES

An apology for non-attendance from Councillor Bennett-Watson (personal reasons) 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 6th January 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the proceedings

4. REPORT BY THE CLERK TO THE COUNCIL: BUDGET MONITORING TO 31.12.2019

The Clerk submitted a report detailing a comparison between budget allocation and actual income and expenditure for the period ended 31st December 2019. He reported that there were no significant variations to the agreed budget other than those already notified to members.

RESOLVED that the details of the comparison between actual income and expenditure and the budget allocation for the period ended 31st December 2019 be noted and approved.

5. CONSIDERATION OF A HEALTH AND SAFETY SUPPORT PROPOSAL

The Clerk reported that he had met with Paul Sultana CMIOSH regarding provision of health and safety support to the Council and the Clerk. The Clerk advised that having an expert with a fresh pair of eyes would be an enormous help to him in ensuring that the Council was meeting its obligations. The Clerk advised that Mr. Sultana anticipated that his services would probably only be required for one day and charged £350 per day for that service.

RESOLVED that the Council engage Paul Sultana as a health and safety consultant at a cost of £350 per day for a maximum of two days if required.

*(Councillors Cole, Hinsley and Kimberley declared a non-pecuniary interest in this matter due to the fact that they are also members of Kingshurst Parish Council along with Mr. Sultana)*

6. FORDBRIDGE CENTRE: GROUNDS MAINTENANCE FROM 1ST APRIL 2020

The Clerk reported that the existing grounds maintenance contract expires on 31st March 2020 and asked members to consider extending the existing arrangement with David England for at least twelve months.

RESOLVED that the existing grounds maintenance contract be extended until 31st March 2022 and the value of the contract be increased by a compounded 2.5% each year

*(Councillors Cole, Hinsley and Kimberley declared a non-pecuniary interest in this matter due to the fact that Mr. England is also engaged as a contractor by Kingshurst Parish Council)*

7. MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL'S GATEWAY SITES FROM 1ST APRIL 2020

The Clerk reported that the existing contract for maintenance of the Council's gateway sites expires on 31st March 2020 and asked members to consider extending the existing arrangement with David England for at least twelve months.

RESOLVED that the existing contract for maintenance of the Council's gateway sites be extended until 31st March 2022 and the value of the contract be increased by a compounded 2.5% each year

*(Councillors Cole, Hinsley and Kimberley declared a non-pecuniary interest in this matter due to the fact that Mr. England is also engaged as a contractor by Kingshurst Parish Council)*

8. CONSIDERATION OF A DONATION TO PROVIDE "SLEEP PODS" (EMERGENCY AID FOR ROUGH SLEEPERS)

Councillor Allen and the Clerk submitted details of a charity providing "Sleep Pods" an aid designed to keep rough sleepers warm and dry and asked members to consider making a donation to the charity

RESOLVED that no further action be taken by the Council on this matter

9. CHAIRMAN'S CHARITY DANCE 2020: PROVISION OF CATERING

RESOLVED that consideration of this matter be deferred to a future meeting

10. HIRE OF THE FORDBRIDGE CENTRE: CHRISTMAS EVE AND NEW YEAR'S EVE

The Clerk reported that he had been approached regarding the possibility of holding a family event on New Year's Eve at the Fordbridge Centre. The person is known to the Clerk and indicated that the function would end shortly after midnight and did not necessarily require a bar. Members were invited to consider whether to accept the booking, associated charges, requirements and staff costs.

RESOLVED that the function be accepted on a trial basis closing at 12.30 am and a charge of £150 (no bar) / £200 (with bar) be levied and staff be paid double time to secure the building after the function

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

Erect 2m High Mesh Fencing To Site Perimeter, Bacons End Training Centre, Chelmsley Wood Industrial Estate, Waterloo Avenue

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 8.15 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN