

FORDBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES
COMMITTEE HELD ON 18TH FEBRUARY 2019

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance from Councillors C. McLaughlin (recovering following stroke) and F.A. Nash (illness) 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 7th January 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the proceedings

4. CONSIDERATION OF A DRAFT POLICY FOR GRANTS AND DONATIONS

The Clerk submitted a draft grants and donations policy drawing on the Council's existing but out dated criteria and a more recent policy supplied by another local council and suggested by WALC. He outlined the key elements and advised that the policy would hopefully better inform decisions made by the Council. Amendments to the draft policy were proposed and a short debate ensued.

RESOLVED that the draft policy, as amended and as set out in Appendix A be approved.

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

The Clerk reported that the application had been deferred to this meeting to allow prior consideration of a new grants and donations policy.

RESOLVED that consideration of the application be deferred to the next meeting of the Council and the CAB be asked to complete the relevant application form and supply an audited statement of accounts in accordance with the new policy

6. REPORT BY THE CLERK TO THE COUNCIL: BUDGET MONITORING TO 31.12.2018

The Clerk submitted a report detailing a comparison between budget allocation and actual income and expenditure for the period ended 31st December 2018. 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 2018 be noted and approved.

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

Change Of Use To Provide 2 No A1 Retail Units, Plus Extension, Fordbridge Social Club 2 Saxon Way

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.

Single Storey Rear Extension, 65 Heathmere 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 8.00 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN

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APPENDIX A

Grants and Donations Policy

Grants will only be awarded which, in the opinion of the Council, may be of benefit to all or some of the inhabitants of the parish

Before considering any donation, the Council will establish that:

- a) The application is from a bona-fide (or newly formed) organisation, properly constituted and administered.
- b) There is a need.
- c) The grant will be used for stated purpose.
- d) Where appropriate, the organisation concerned is making its own efforts to raise funds.
- e) The awarding of Grants will only be considered by the Council upon receipt of a completed Grant Application Form.

If the grant is to be made under the provisions of Section 137 of the Local Government Act (as amended), it is important that the grant given is... "In the interests of and will bring direct benefit to their area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants, and the benefit will be commensurate with the expenditure to be incurred"

Applications will only be considered from voluntary and or charitable organisations. The group must serve a minimum of 10 people

The organisation must be serving the parish of Fordbridge, providing an activity or service for local people (without restriction) and provide benefits to the public that are either free or on reasonable terms and must not be operating for profit in the commercial sense

Applicants must submit a copy of their latest audited statement of accounts, including full details of any other financial assistance

Where grant aid is sought for a specific project, a budget for the scheme must be provided. Where applicable, this should show any applications made to other bodies for grant aid.

Applications involving land and all buildings should show some security of tenure. If planning permission is required for any project for which an application is made, no grant will be awarded until planning approval has been gained.

Applications should be made as early as possible to enable investigation and/or forward planning by the Council. Applicants may be required to attend a Parish Council meeting to present their case.

The Town Council is keen to assist in the provision of facilities that improve the quality of life for parishioners.

All applications for grants will be assessed by the following criteria: -

- a) Replacement or repair of existing equipment.
- b) Provision of new equipment to enhance the work of the group.
- c) Provision of essential equipment.

d) A single event

e) The costs associated with setting up a new organisation.

Donations will generally be made in kind or as reimbursement upon receipt of a satisfactory invoice. Donations will be to a maximum value of £500

The Council may impose conditions before considering making a grant.

The Council will consider only one grant application per financial year from any organisation. The Council reserves the right to refuse an application. The decision of the Council shall be final. Each application will be considered on its merits and a decision in any financial year will be without prejudice to any subsequent application