

FORDBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES
COMMITTEE HELD ON 30TH SEPTEMBER 2019

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

1. APOLOGIES

An apology for non-attendance from Councillor Cole (holiday) was 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 5th August 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the proceedings

4. CONSIDERATION OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR POTENTIAL HIRE OF THE FORDBRIDGE CENTRE ON CHRISTMAS EVE AND NEW YEAR'S EVE

The Clerk reported that members of the Staffing Committee had asked for the existing Council policy of not accepting bookings after 1700 on these two days to be reviewed. The Clerk provided some background regarding the existing policy, highlighted some concerns relating to opening late on these two days and also advised that there had been little or no demand for functions on the days suggested.

RESOLVED i) that consideration of this matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Council and: -
ii) the Clerk provide figures showing potential hire charges and costs resulting from allowing evening hire for functions on these days

5. REPORT BY THE CLERK TO THE COUNCIL: REVENUE RECEIVED FROM HIRE OF THE FORDBRIDGE CENTRE AND RATES OF HIRE FOR REGULAR USERS AND RUNNING COSTS AND COUNCIL SUBSIDY OF THE FORDBRIDGE CENTRE

The Clerk submitted a report for members' information outlining revenue received from hire of the Fordbridge Centre between 1.4.2019 and 30.6.2019 and broken down into different categories. He also provided information regarding the current charges levied on various regular users of the Centre and the level of subsidy of the Centre by the Council.

RESOLVED that the report and its contents be received and noted and the information be utilised by the Staffing Committee to consider potential appointment of a reserve member of staff

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPLACEMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S DIGITAL CAMERA

Members were invited to consider replacing the Council's existing digital camera which is eight years and had experienced some difficulties at a previous meeting.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to purchase a replacement digital camera to a maximum value of £50.00

7. CONSIDERATION OF A LETTER OF COMPLAINT FROM A RESIDENT REGARDING HIRE OF THE FORDBRIDGE CENTRE FOR A PRIVATE FUNCTION

The Clerk submitted a letter of complaint relating to a function in July and specifically the bar service and facilities provided. He provided some background to the complaint and submitted a letter of apology and explanation from Leisure Bars.

RESOLVED i) that the Clerk write to the complainant to apologise for the poor service received and seeking their desired outcome for the complaint.
ii) that a meeting be arranged between senior members of the Council and Leisure Bars to discuss provision of the bar service

8. CONSIDERATION OF AN APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BY "AROUND AGAIN"

The Clerk submitted an application from the above organisation and advised that as a relatively new organisation they did not have audited accounts but had provided current bank statements to demonstrate their financial position

RESOLVED i) that the Council declines to support the application on this occasion
ii) that the Clerk write to the organisation asking for further details of the opening bank balance provided and also details of any ongoing funding

9. CONSIDERATION OF A RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION BY SOLIHULL M.B.C. REGARDING A REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

The Clerk reported that Solihull Council is carrying out a statutory review of all its polling districts and polling places and members were invited to make any representations.

RESOLVED that the Council make no representations relating to the review

10. CONSIDERATION OF A RESPONSE TO A CONSULTATION BY THE GOVERNMENT REGARDING PROPOSED REFORMS TO PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS TO SUPPORT THE DEPLOYMENT OF 5G AND EXTEND MOBILE COVERAGE

The Clerk submitted a consultation document regarding proposed changes to permitted development rights and notification to local authorities in relation to four factors relating to simplifying the process of providing masts to enhance mobile technology.

RESOLVED that the Council respond to the consultation expressing its view that all applications for permitted development in relation to 5G and mobile coverage should be notified to the relevant planning authority to ensure detailed professional scrutiny by its officers

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

Change Of Use Of The Vacant Light Industrial Warehouse Building (Class B1(C)) To A Performing Arts School (Class D2 Use), 4 - 5 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.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN