

FORDBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES
COMMITTEE HELD ON 5TH AUGUST 2019

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance from Councillors Bennett-Watson (holiday), S. Blackburn (illness,) F.A. Nash and F.V. Nash (both holiday) were received and noted

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 June 2019 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 30.6.2019

The Clerk submitted a report detailing a comparison between budget allocation and actual income and expenditure for the period ended 30th June 2019. He reported that there were no significant variations at this stage.

RESOLVED that the details of the comparison between actual income and expenditure and the budget allocation for the period ended 30th June 2019 be noted and approved.

5. CONSIDERATION OF THE CHAIRMAN'S ALLOWANCE

The Clerk asked the Committee to review its position regarding the Chairman's allowance and highlighted the difference between the former arrangement where the allowance was intended to meet the expenses of the office and hence was not taxable and the current arrangement which is treated as an income from office and as such is taxable. The question and the implications of the current position were debated at some length.

RESOLVED that no changes be made to the current arrangements in respect of allowance payments to the Chairman of the Council

6. CONSIDERATION OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2019 CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

The Clerk asked members to consider the arrangements for the 2019 Christmas Carol Concert and whether to make any additions or changes to the event.

RESOLVED i) that the budget allocation for the event remain as £130.00
ii) that the Wellbeing Community Choir based at the Fordbridge Centre be invited to perform again and no other changes be made to the event

7. CONSIDERATION OF A DONATION TO THE RBL POPPY APPEAL IN RESPECT OF WREATHES FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The Clerk reported that the Council had agreed to make a donation to the Poppy Appeal for a five year period up to and including 2017 and also agreed to support the appeal in 2018.

RESOLVED that in accordance with the provisions of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council make a donation of £100.00 to the RBL Poppy Appeal **each year** in respect of two poppy wreathes for Remembrance Sunday

8. CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONITORING OF THE COUNCIL'S INTRUDER ALARM

The Clerk advised members that Chubb had indicated that by using an internet related method of signalling, the annual cost of monitoring the system could be reduced by an estimated amount of £171.62 per annum plus removing the need for an additional phone line. The provisional cost of carrying out the work is £350.00 plus VAT. The Clerk reported that utilising the above figures the cost of carrying out the work would pay for itself within two years.

RESOLVED that consideration of this matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee to allow the Clerk to obtain further information particularly about the back up position in the event of disruption to the telephone line

9. CONSIDERATION OF THE FUTURE OF THE FORDBRIDGE CENTRE

The Clerk reported on the current position regarding use of the Centre by regular groups and the trend regarding changes in the types of group and recreational habits and particularly the decline of community based groups. He recommended that the Council should consider how to ensure that the Centre remained a well-used asset to the community in the future. He suggested that this may entail a more pro-active and direct approach to the provision of activities and services.

RESOLVED i) that the Committee establish a working party to consider the future of the Fordbridge Centre as a community asset to report ideas to other members
ii) that the working party comprise Councillors Bennett-Watson, M. Blackburn, S. Blackburn, Hinsley & Kimberley

The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

.....
CHAIRMAN