

FORDBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES
COMMITTEE HELD ON 30TH JULY 2018

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance from Councillors Dooley (hip injury) and C. McLaughlin (recovering following stroke) 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 18th June 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the proceedings

4. PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL WASHROOM SERVICES AT THE FORDBRIDGE CENTRE

The Clerk submitted details of an air freshening service designed to produce a continuous fragrance for use in the toilets at a cost of £130.00 per unit, per annum.

RESOLVED that the Clerk investigate and test alternative methods of providing air fresheners in the toilets

5. MEMBER'S ALLOWANCES

The Clerk reported that he had been asked to investigate the legal position regarding the payment of the Chairman's allowance and Parish Basic Allowance and advised that he had circulated details of advice published by WALC. He reported on the two pieces of legislation relating to member's allowances and his opinion of the ambiguity of the situation. A lengthy discussion took place on the best course of action for the Council particularly in respect of payments to the Chairman.

RESOLVED i) that the Council shall pay a higher rate of the Parish Basic Allowance (currently £1759.00 per annum) to its Chairman in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) Regulations 2003
ii) that the Council will no longer pay an allowance to its Chairman as described in Section 15(5) of the Local Government Act 1972
iii) that both of the above decisions shall take effect immediately

6. SECURITY MEASURES TO REDUCE THE RISK OF AN UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENT ON LAND OWNED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Clerk reported that after liaison with the church regarding Sundays, the security barrier will be left down when the Fordbridge Centre is not in use (overnight and at weekends) to provide an additional line of security at the Fordbridge Centre. He also advised that no contact had yet been received from Solihull Council regarding advice on further “target hardening” at the Centre.

7. FUTURE OF THE CHAIRMAN’S CHARITY EVENT

The Clerk submitted a report for members highlighting some concerns regarding expenditure relating to the charity dance and potential solutions for consideration by members. A lengthy debate took place on the future of the event and how expenditure by the Council could be reduced.

- RESOLVED i) that the Council continue to stage a charity dance and seek sponsors to meet the costs of the event
ii) that the Council establish a “Just Giving” page and obtain collection boxes for donations to the Council’s nominated charity

8. CONFIRMATION OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE AND DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- RESOLVED i) that Councillor F.V. Nash be confirmed as a member of the Events Sub-Committee
ii) that a statutory meeting of the Events Sub-Committee be held on 16th August 2018

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

Provision Of Catering Kitchen With Extraction Equipment On Existing Flat Roof, Unit 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 Extension To Rear Of Dwelling Comprising Kitchen Extension & Utility. Loft Extension To Provide 4th Bedroom, 5 Collins Way

Objections were received from two members regarding the scale of the extension and its visual impact on local residents. Objection to be raised on the grounds that the development is overbearing and unsightly, is not in keeping with the existing street scene and will have a detrimental effect on the visual amenity of immediate local residents.

Part Two Storey Side Extensions And Part First Floor Side Extension, 55 Leyburn Road3

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.

Two Storey Side Extension To Form One Extra Bedroom And More Living Space For Family, 6 Newby Grove

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.

Garage Conversion And New Front Canopy, 232 Conway Road

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.

10. FUTURE COMMUNITY EVENTS/PROJECTS TO BE ORGANISED BY THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED that consideration of this matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Events Sub-committee

11. CONSIDERATION OF A DRAFT PLAN FOR A CHRISTMAS EVENT

RESOLVED that consideration of this matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Events Sub-committee

12. CONSIDERATION OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2018 CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

RESOLVED that consideration of this matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Events Sub-committee

13. 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.

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 in 2018 in respect of two poppy wreathes for Remembrance Sunday

14. PURCHASE OF STAMPS USING THE COUNCIL'S DEBIT CARD

The Clerk submitted a report outlining a draft procedure for purchasing stamps to replace the current arrangements involving petty cash.

RESOLVED that the procedure for purchasing stamps using the Council's debit card as set out in Appendix A be approved.

15. APPLICATIONS FOR TEMPORARY EVENT NOTICES; PAYMENT USING THE COUNCIL'S DEBIT CARD

The Clerk advised that applying for temporary event notices via the Solihull Council website was simpler, more efficient and eliminated the possibility that applications could be lost in the post. He also advised that a credit/debit card was required to apply in this manner.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to use the Council's debit card to make applications online for temporary event notices.

16. REVIEW OF PROCEDURE FOR RESPONDING TO PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Clerk submitted a report detailing the current procedure in respect of handling and responding to planning applications for review by members.

RESOLVED that the existing procedure as submitted by the Clerk and as set out in Appendix B be approved

17. REPORT BY THE CLERK TO THE COUNCIL: BUDGET MONITORING TO 30.6.2018

The Clerk submitted a report detailing a comparison between budget allocation and actual income and expenditure for the period ended 30th June 2018. 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 2018 be noted and approved.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN

FORDBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

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APPENDIX A

1. Purchases up to a maximum value of £50.00 will be made quarterly and reported to the Council in accordance with the procedure for all other debit card purchases.
2. The purchase will appear in the cash book as a nil payment and expenditure on postage will be accounted for in the postage book detailing each individual postal dispatch as at present.

APPENDIX B

Responsibility for deciding the Council's response to planning applications is delegated to the Clerk in accordance with the provisions of Section 101 part 1(a) of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Clerk makes the decision regarding submitting any objections or other comments after seeking and collating the views of members and identifying appropriate justification for objections when necessary. Members should be aware that only relevant and appropriate comments that reflect genuine planning concerns will be considered by the planning authority.

If a substantial or controversial application is received, the Chairman has the power to convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council to consider, in more detail, any response to such an application. Any member who believes that a meeting is necessary should approach the Chairman in the first instance.