

FORDBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON 1ST DECEMBER 2014

PRESENT: Councillor C. McLaughlin (in the Chair)
P. Allen
K. Dooley
M. Hyde
J. Kimberley
S. McLaughlin
A. Nash
F. Nash
L. Sorrell

7768. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for non-attendance as all members of the Council were present at the meeting.

7769. HEART OF ENGLAND NHS FOUNDATION TRUST TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND ANSWER QUESTIONS REGARDING CONSULTATION IN RESPECT OF SURGERY RECONFIGURATION

The Clerk reported that he had been contacted earlier during the day by a representative from the Trust, apologising and advising that they were unavoidably unable to attend the meeting. The representative indicated that they were still keen to address the Council and would attend the January meeting.

7770. 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.

7771. COMMENTS, QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no comments, questions or suggestions made by members of the public.

7772. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held 27th October 2014 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the proceedings.

7773. CONSIDERATION OF FILLING FIVE CASUAL VACANCIES BY CO-OPTION: BENNETT'S WELL WARD, COLE WARD AND HATCHFORD WARD (3)

The Clerk reported that the Council's sub-committee had interviewed a prospective candidate and recommended that she be co-opted by the Council to fill one of the existing vacancies.

RESOLVED i) that Heather Bennett-Watson be co-opted to fill a vacancy in the Hatchford Ward
(Mrs Bennett-Watson declared her acceptance of office)
ii) that further consideration of the remaining vacancies be deferred to the next meeting of the Council

7774. REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

The Chairman reported on her attendance at the Remembrance Service at the Chelmsley Wood Royal British Legion, which she described as a very enjoyable day.

7775. STAFFING COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of the Staffing Committee held 10th November 2014 were presented to the meeting.

RESOLVED i) that consideration of the Model Protocol for Member-Employee Relations be referred back to the Staffing Committee
ii) that subject to the above amendment the Minutes be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved

7776. FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held 17th November 2014 were presented to the meeting.

RESOLVED that the Minutes be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

7777. ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED that the report listing accounts paid as submitted be approved

7778. REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

Councillor Allen reported on a meeting of the Management Committee at St. Leonard's Day Centre including details of financial savings obtained by using "Ring & Ride" and the ongoing trials and tribulations of ensuring the financial security of the Centre.

RESOLVED that the Clerk write to Rick Smallwood to offer the Council's sympathy, support and best wishes for his continuing efforts

7779. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Councillor F.V. Nash reported that a meeting had been held with residents of Lambeth Close and that the residents were happy with the outcome of the meeting and offered their thanks to this Council. As a result of the meeting a long term heating problem had been resolved. She reported on her mixed feelings regarding the development in Conway Road and that housing issues continued to be the main local issue.

7780. CONSIDERATION OF THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE TELEVISION PROGRAMME "PEOPLE LIKE US"

Members were asked to consider whether it wished to make any response to the television programme "People Like Us" which had featured local people

RESOLVED that the Council take no further action on this subject

7781. ADOPTION OF THE WALC MODEL LOCAL COUNCIL STAFF HANDBOOK

The Clerk reported that the model local council staff handbook had been introduced to provide specific conditions of employment in addition to those stipulated in staff contracts as an alternative to using the more general "Green Book" of national local government conditions. A copy of the model handbook had been given to all members.

RESOLVED that consideration of the Model Local Council Staff Handbook be referred back to the Staffing Committee

7782. APPROVAL OF THE WORKING PATTERN FOR STAFF AT THE FORDBRIDGE CENTRE FOR THE CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR PERIOD

The Clerk submitted a recommendation from W.A.L.C. that leave for public holidays be added to the member of staff's annual leave allowance and all absence days be taken as leave. This recommendation effectively allows a member of staff who is not required to work on a public holiday to take time off in lieu on another day.

RESOLVED that the W.A.L.C. recommended procedure in respect of annual leave for part time workers be approved

7783. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPORTING KINGSHURST PARISH COUNCIL'S CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT BABB'S MILL FROM DEVELOPMENT

The Clerk submitted correspondence from Kingshurst Parish Council seeking a letter of support from the Council to be presented to the leader of Solihull M.B.C. as part of its campaign to protect Babb's Mill from inappropriate development.

RESOLVED i) that the Council support Kingshurst Parish Council and write a letter of support confirming that it is firmly opposed to development of open space
ii) that the Clerk also write to Solihull M.B.C. stating the Council's opposition to the development of open space

7784. PROPOSED EXTENSION TO LICENSING HOURS AT CATHOLIC COMMUNITY CENTRE

Councillor Sorrell reported on objections by local residents to proposals to extend licensing hours at the Catholic Community Centre and also advised that a compromise solution had been proposed.

RESOLVED that the Council formally object to the proposal if local residents are still not happy with the proposed compromise. (Councillor C. McLaughlin asked for it to be recorded in the Minutes that she had abstained from voting)

7785. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT LAND ADJOINING CONWAY ROAD

Members discussed the potential issues arising from development of the land, potential alternative sites, the need for a facility to provide improved employment opportunities for local young people and the potential impact on local schools.

RESOLVED that the Clerk invite a representative from the WMG Academy Trust to attend the Council's March meeting to provide an update and background on these issues and to allow an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions

7786. CORRESPONDENCE FROM HEART OF ENGLAND NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

The Clerk reminded members that the Trust have indicated that a representative will attend the next meeting of the Council. He also advised that the relevant consultation period had also been extended.

RESOLVED that consideration of this matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Council

7787. INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS AT THE FORDBRIDGE CENTRE

The Clerk submitted quotations for replacing the carpet in the lounge area and also for painting of the main hall, lounge and corridor.

RESOLVED i) that the Council accept the quotation in the sum of £1,420.00 from Mr. R. Harris for the painting.
ii) that the Council accept the quotation in the sum of £965.00 plus V.A.T. from J & B Carpets for replacing the carpet
iii) that a Sub-Committee of Councillors Allen, Bennett-Watson, Hyde, F.V. Nash and Sorrell be appointed to decide the colour scheme for the work

7788. DONATION OF A TOMBOLA PRIZE TO MERIDEN ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION

The Clerk submitted a request from Tracey Brant on behalf of the Meriden Adventure Playground Association for the donation of a tombola prize to assist the group at its Christmas fundraising disco.

RESOLVED that given the financial support already provided to the Association by the Council, the request be rejected but the continued best wishes of the Council be sent to the group.

7789. CONSIDERATION OF A RESPONSE TO MATTERS RAISED DURING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no comments, questions or suggestions made by members of the public.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN