

FORDBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON 9TH MARCH 2015

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

7807. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillors Bennett-Watson and Kimberley.

7808. WMG ACADEMY TRUST TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND ANSWER QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PROPOSED ACADEMY FOR YOUNG ENGINEERS ON CONWAY ROAD

Three representatives from WMG Academy Trust attended the meeting to provide background information and to answer questions from members regarding the proposed Academy for Young Engineers on Conway Road. A summary of the information provided is set out in Appendix A.

7809. 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.

7810. COMMENTS, QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

7811. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held 26th January 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the proceedings.

7812. REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

The Chairman reported that she attended the consultation meeting at North Solihull Sports Centre regarding the proposed development of the new Academy for Young Engineers at Conway Road

7813. STAFFING COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of the Staffing Committee held 16th February 2015 were presented to the meeting.

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

7814. FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held 23rd February 2015 were presented to the meeting.

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

7815. REPORT BY THE CLERK TO THE COUNCIL: ADDITIONAL PAYMENT OF CHAIRMAN'S ALLOWANCE IN RESPECT OF CHAIRMAN'S CHARITY DANCE
 The Clerk submitted a report regarding the method of payment in respect of both the provision of food for catering and also the entertainment at the Chairman's Charity Dance. He reported that he had taken advice and recommended that an additional payment of the Chairman's allowance should be made to be used for the above purposes up to the maximum amount already decided by the Council
- RESOLVED i) that the food for providing the buffet should be ordered online by the Clerk, delivered to the Centre and paid by the Council's debit card (up to the previously agreed maximum of £250)
 ii) that an additional payment in respect of the Chairman's allowance to the value of £250 be paid to meet the cost of the entertainment
7816. ACCOUNTS
- RESOLVED that the report listing accounts paid as submitted be approved
7817. REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS
 There were no representatives' reports presented to the meeting by any member of the Council
7818. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS
 Councillor F.V. Nash reported that the main current issues were the development in Conway Road, pruning trees and clearing up and also housing problems. She also advised the positive news that some areas were being cleaned up.
7819. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT LAND ADJOINING CONWAY ROAD
 Members had received a presentation from representatives of the WMG Academy Trust and discussed issues arising from the information provided.
- RESOLVED that the Clerk write to Solihull M.B.C. and WMG Academy urging them to ensure better communication with local residents
7820. CORRESPONDENCE FROM HEART OF ENGLAND NHS FOUNDATION TRUST
 The Clerk again advised members that they had an opportunity to respond as a Council to the consultation exercise following the presentation by representatives from the Trust.
- RESOLVED that consideration of this matter be deferred to the next municipal year
7821. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AT BOSWORTH DRIVE SHOPS
 Members reported that they had received complaints from shopkeepers and residents regarding anti-social behaviour around the shops on Bosworth Drive. Concern was raised about the potential impact on trade and residents feeling intimidated. Some concern was also raised regarding fear of giving evidence due to the potential for reprisals.
- RESOLVED that the Clerk write to the Solihull Police Commander urging the police to make the area a priority to reduce the number of incidents and urging them to use video evidence to identify offenders in order to protect witnesses
7822. FUTURE OF THE FUN DAY
 Members were asked to consider if they wished to continue supporting the Council's annual Fun Day. They were also advised that the contract for this year's activities had not been signed, thus allowing this year's event to be cancelled.

discontinued for the foreseeable future
and this year's event be cancelled.

7823. 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 9.05 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN

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APPENDIX A

WMG Academy Trust

Richard Hutchins (Chief Executive) outlined that the Academy will be a state funded non selective academic institution sponsored by Warwick University and various employers, centred around engineering, science, technology and mathematics. The aim will be to develop work based technical skills and vocational projects. The Academy is being developed in partnership with local schools.

Mike Swallow (Solihull M.B.C.) outlined the process for selecting the site, which needed to be large enough and have good transport links. Three sites were short listed but the Endeavour House site and the old library site in the centre of Chelmsley Wood were not large enough. The Conway Road site is a sufficient size and is reasonably close to the transport interchange.

In response to questions, the following information was provided:-

- There will be no fees.
- The Academy will have an open catchment, but priority will be given to people living within 5 miles of the site in the event of over subscription.
- There will unfortunately be no guarantee of jobs or apprenticeships for people leaving the Academy.
- The funding agreement with the DfES prevents any selection of pupils
- Residents' concerns will be considered by the planning process.
- The proposal is designed to assist with regeneration and to provide opportunities for Solihull youngsters.