

FORDBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON 11TH MARCH 2013

PRESENT: Councillor A. Doyle (in the Chair)
P. Allen
M. Hyde
C. McLaughlin
S. McLaughlin
A. Nash
F.V. Nash
L. Sorrell
H. Stone

7521. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance from Councillors Dooley, Jamieson and Kimberley were received and noted.

7522. PRESENTATION BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM COMMUNITY ACTION IN FORDBRIDGE

John Donaldson (Chairman) and Ellen Delaney (Treasurer) supported by Sarah Barnes (Solihull M.B.C.) attended the meeting at the Council's request to make a short presentation about the work of the group, its future plans and to answer questions from members.

A summary of the information provided and the related questions is set out in Appendix A.

7523. 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.

7524. COMMENTS, QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

7525. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held 28th January 2013 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the proceedings.

7526. CONSIDERATION OF FILLING A CASUAL VACANCY BY CO-OPTION: HATCHFORD WARD

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

7527. REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

The Chairman presented a letter of thanks for the donation from St. Andrew's Church. She also reported that she had been invited to attend the Fordbridge School production of "Bugsy Malone" and also to the CTC Academy.

7528. APPOINTMENT OF A REPRESENTATIVE ON ANOTHER BODY: HS2 COLESHILL JUNCTION COMMUNITY FORUM

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

7529. REPORT BY THE CLERK TO THE COUNCIL: SOLIHULL NEIGHBOURHOODS IN BLOOM

The Clerk submitted a report outlining planned changes to the "Solihull in Bloom" competition, with a view to encouraging more community involvement and working in partnership. The report also suggested how the Council could potentially be involved.

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

7530. ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED that the report listing accounts paid as submitted be approved

7531. REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

Councillor Allen reported on the continuing financial uncertainty surrounding St. Leonard's Day Centre. She also reported on her attendance at the WALC Annual Briefing Seminar Councillor McLaughlin submitted a letter of thanks from Winnie Collins, the widow of Eric Collins.

The Chairman reported on a Solihull Partnership meeting during which details were provided of forthcoming changes to local GP services and the disparity between health in the North and South of Solihull and the impact of deprivation. The meeting had also received details of the changes contained in the Welfare Reform Bill including the introduction of the Universal Credit.

The Chairman also reported on a Community Action in Fordbridge meeting where the proposals for the new Fordbridge School were discussed including proposals to close part of the alleyway behind the medical centre.

7532. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Councillor F.V. Nash reported that the "Bedroom Tax" was the main issue and that DIAL and C.A.B. were there to help but both had an enormous backlog of work. She also reported that there had been issues regarding the cutting of trees. Councillor F.A. Nash offered the view that the "Bedroom Tax" had not been thought through.

7533. CONSIDERATION OF EXTENDING THE TRIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUPPORT OF THE CLERK FOR FOUR HOURS PER WEEK FOR THREE MONTHS FROM 1ST APRIL 2013

The Clerk briefly outlined the difficulties he had faced in establishing the system for providing support and requested that the trial arrangement be extended for a further three months.

RESOLVED that consideration of this matter be deferred to the next meeting of the FGP committee and the Clerk produce a detailed report of the benefit to the Council of extending the trial

7534. CONSIDERATION OF EXTENDING THE OFFER OF A REDUCED RATE FOR HIRE OF THE MAIN HALL AND BAR AT THE FORDBRIDGE CENTRE ON FRIDAY/SATURDAY EVENINGS

The Clerk requested that the offer be extended to ensure that it was available at the optimum time for personal spending.

RESOLVED that the offer as detailed in minute number 7462 i) a) agreed at the meeting held 3rd September 2012 be extended until 30th June 2013

7535. ALTERNATIVE DOOR MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CHAIRMAN'S CHARITY DANCE

The Council was asked to consider specifically employing somebody to receive and sell tickets at the Chairman's Charity Dance

RESOLVED that no change be made to the existing door management arrangements for the Chairman's Charity Dance

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN

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APPENDIX A

Community Action in Fordbridge

Sarah Barnes briefly outlined the history of the group from its establishment in the summer of 2010. The started by trying to get views from local people and the feedback resulted in an action plan. The initial three priorities were more things for young people, crime and community safety and an environmental project. The group's activities began with an environment week and the main success of the group has been bringing the Bennett's Well school site back into use.

The group also held the "Funbridge Games" in July 2012 which was deemed to be a great success and have been asked to do it again this year with grant support from "Awards for All" and these will be held in May. The theme of the event will be health and getting children active. The group have also organised two Christmas Fayres and just want to continue the work that has been done and move forward.

The group's priorities for 2013 have been identified and centre on crime and community safety particularly parking around the new school building. The other priorities revolve around better use of local facilities and young people. Sarah confirmed that the group had been awarded £2,000 from the community budget and this money is available to be used for projects relating to the environment, equipment and anything else within the group's remit. The group is always interested to receive feedback from the local community.

Members asked a number of questions and the salient points of the replies are set out below:-

- The intention of setting up the group was to find out what local people wanted and the group has evolved with different people involved and less emphasis on environmental projects.
- There have been problems with moving of the planters at the shops on Bosworth Drive.
- It was confirmed that members of the Town Council are invited and welcome to attend.
- There are nine residents on the committee and 50 people on the group's mailing list.
- The group is trying to get more people involved and find out what people want but if people don't tell them, they can't help.
- The old Bennett's Well site will be returned to Solihull M.B.C at the end of July and the group has an agreement in principle to utilise the existing Fordbridge School site for community use when it is vacated.
- Local residents have concerns about parking around the proposed new main entrance to the new school.