

FORDBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON 15TH SEPTEMBER 2014

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

7732. APOLOGIES

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

7733. PRESENTATION BY THE "THE YOUR WILDLIFE PROJECT" REGARDING THEIR PROPOSAL.

Simon Phelps from the "Your Wildlife Project" attended the meeting to outline a proposal to develop a section of land at the Fordbridge Centre as a wild garden and capitalise on the impact for people of outdoor work on their mental and physical health. The project involves developing the land utilising people referred to the project and also Centre users. The project hopes to improve the well being and self esteem of the people involved also teaching them new skills and giving them the opportunity to enjoy an activity working together. He advised that he wished to work with the Council, seeking their approval for his plans and then working through the winter.

7734. 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.

7735. COMMENTS, QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

7736. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held
28th July 2014 be approved and signed
by the Chairman as a correct record of
the proceedings.

7737. CONSIDERATION OF FILLING FIVE CASUAL VACANCIES BY CO-OPTION:
BENNETT'S WELL WARD, COLE WARD AND HATCHFORD WARD (3)

RESOLVED that consideration of these vacancies
be deferred to the next meeting of the
Council

7738. REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

The Chairman reported on her attendance at the service for the new Mayor and a multi faith service to commemorate the anniversary of the start of the First World War which were both very enjoyable occasions. She reported that the Garden Competition presentation evening had been held the previous Saturday and everything had gone very well. She thanked Councillors F.V. Nash, Allen and S. McLaughlin and her friend Matthew for their help. She also thanked the Clerk for his organisation and attendance.

7739. STAFFING COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of the Staffing Committee held 18th August 2014 were presented to the meeting.

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

7740. FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held 1st September 2014 were presented to the meeting.

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

7741. REPORT BY THE CLERK TO THE COUNCIL: STAFFING AT THE FORDBRIDGE CENTRE

The Clerk submitted a report outlining the position regarding recruitment of new staff, confirming that one vacancy still existed. He asked members to again re-consider its decision regarding payment for work on Sunday mornings. He also submitted a draft timetable, if necessary for further recruitment.

RESOLVED that the Council endorse its existing decision regarding Sunday morning work and approve the draft timetable for recruitment of another member of staff

7742. ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED that the report listing accounts paid as submitted be approved

7743. REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

No reports were made by any of the Council's representatives on other bodies

7744. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Councillor F.V. Nash reported that the main issues that had recently been raised were regarding housing, arrears questions, litter and school admissions.

7745. CONSIDERATION OF PLANTING ADDITIONAL SHRUBS AT THE GATEWAY SITE AT BOSWORTH DRIVE

The Clerk submitted a quotation from the Council's grounds maintenance contractor of £175.93 plus V.A.T. and compost to plant additional shrub beds at the gateway site at Bosworth Drive. Planting of the shrubs will reduce the amount of summer planting that is required and will effectively pay for itself in the long term.

RESOLVED that the quotation be accepted and the relevant number of compost bags be purchased

7746. CONSIDERATION OF HOLDING A SPECIAL MEETING AT THE REQUEST OF RESIDENTS OF LAMBETH CLOSE/FORTH DRIVE

Councillor S. McLaughlin reported that she had been approached by residents of Lambeth Close and Forth Drive who are concerned about the plans for regeneration in the area and the resulting uncertainty and its impact on issues affecting their properties.

RESOLVED that representatives from the North Solihull Partnership and Solihull Community Housing be invited to attend a special meeting with local residents to discuss the various issues

7747. PROPOSAL BY "THE YOUR WILDLIFE PROJECT"

Simon Phelps from the "Your Wildlife Project" had made a presentation at the start of the meeting outlining his wish to work in the grounds of the Fordbridge Centre

RESOLVED that he be invited to submit a proposal (without a pond) to the next meeting of the EHR committee

7748. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2014 CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

The Clerk submitted a report outlining the draft arrangements for the 2014 Christmas Carol Concert and asked members to approve or amend them as necessary, and to consider any additional items for this year's event.

RESOLVED that:-

- i) the budget for the refreshments and rewards be £125.00
- ii) Coleshill Heath School be invited to participate in addition to the local schools

7749. AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The Clerk submitted correspondence from the Airport confirming that the arrangements had been temporarily postponed during the current Airspace Trial he also advised that he was awaiting formal contact from other councils in response to correspondence from the Council.

RESOLVED that the Clerk write to the Airport asking them to explain how they have decided representation on the new committee, why membership has been reduced and stating this Council's wish to retain the status quo

7750. EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING TO DECIDE ENTERTAINMENT AND APPROVE PRIZE FOR CHAIRMAN'S CHARITY DANCE 2015

The Clerk advised that the decisions regarding entertainment and approval of the Council's donated prize were statutory decisions and therefore a formal meeting must be held and a date set by the Council.

RESOLVED that an Events Sub-Committee meeting to decide entertainment and the Council's donated prize for the Chairman's Charity Dance 2015 be held on 29th September 2014 at 11.00 am

7751. AMENDMENT TO ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CHAIRMAN'S CHARITY DANCE 2015

A proposal was made to alter the venue and the catering arrangements for the 2015 Chairman's Charity Dance to allow more people to attend and to offset the increasing cost of providing food.

RESOLVED i) that the Dance be held at the Onward Club, Helmswood Drive
ii) that the Council provide food to the value of £250 to be prepared by the Chairman and others

7752. 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