

FORDBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON 27TH APRIL 2015

PRESENT: Councillor C. McLaughlin (in the Chair)
H. Bennett-Watson
K. Dooley
J. Kimberley
S. McLaughlin
L. Sorrell

7824. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillors Allen and F.V. Nash.
The Clerk reported and submitted a letter of resignation from M. Hyde.

RESOLVED that a letter of thanks for his service to
the Council be sent to Mr. Hyde

7825. REPRESENTATIVES FROM SOLIHULL M.B.C. AND AMEY TO ANSWER QUESTIONS REGARDING LITTER COLLECTION IN THE PARISH

Representatives from Solihull M.B.C. and Amey attended the meeting to answer questions from members regarding litter collection in the parish. A summary of the information provided is set out in Appendix A.

7826. 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.

7827. COMMENTS, QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

7828. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held
9th March 2015 be approved and
signed by the Chairman as a correct
record of the proceedings.

7829. REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

The Chairman reported that she had attended "Collins Way" with Eric's widow to take photographs and hopefully an article will be included online and in the press. A presentation of a framed copy of the website article will be presented to Winnie at the Annual Meeting. She also reported that the Charity Dance was a great success with an outstanding singer. Everybody enjoyed themselves and she received many compliments regarding the buffet.

7830. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Health and Recreation Committee held 13th April 2015 were presented to the meeting.

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

7831. FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held 13th April 2015 were presented to the meeting.

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

7832. 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 detailing the circumstances regarding payment for the food for use in preparing the buffet for the Charity Dance. He also advised that the Chairman had made payment herself and recommended that the Council make a further payment of the Chairman's Allowance to the value of £222.08 which was the cost of providing the food and less than the Council's upper limit of £250.00
 RESOLVED that an additional payment in respect of the Chairman's allowance to the value of £222.08 be paid to meet the cost of providing the food for the buffet at the Chairman's Charity Dance
7833. REPORT BY THE CLERK TO THE COUNCIL: CONFIRMATION OF GARDEN COMPETITION CRITERIA AND MISCELLANEOUS ARRANGEMENTS
 The Clerk submitted a report detailing his understanding of the current criteria for the Garden Competition taking account of the various amendments in recent years. He asked members to amend or approve his report as appropriate to ensure that this year's competition is based on the correct criteria.
 RESOLVED that the Garden Competition criteria as set out in Appendix B and the Clerk's report be approved
7834. ACCOUNTS
 RESOLVED that the report listing accounts paid as submitted be approved
7835. REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS
 Councillor Sorrell reported on a meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee including details of flights to Beijing, Aer Lingus flights to Shannon, more gates for chipped passports, a private area for discreet security checks for people in veils, noise complaints and a review of surface area access. She also reported that last year was a record year for the Airport with more than 482,000 passengers.
 The Clerk submitted a written report from Councillor Allen regarding a meeting of the management committee of St. Leonard's Day Centre. She reported Rick Smallwood's gratitude for the support of the Council and the news that St. Peter's day centre in Tile Cross had closed with clients and staff transferring to St. Leonard's as a result. She also reported that the Centre will receive funding from Solihull MBC for the 2015/16 financial year and that the future is looking brighter for St. Leonard's.
7836. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS
 There were no District Councillors present at the meeting and therefore no reports could be presented to the meeting.
7837. PROVISION OF MILK IN SCHOOLS
 The Clerk asked members to specifically endorse the decision made by the EHR committee to discontinue the provision of milk to schools after the end of the Summer term. There was some debate and disagreement about the actual terms of the decision made by the committee.
 RESOLVED i) that the Clerk help to facilitate the transition to the government's new system by liaising with Solihull M.B.C. catering service.
 ii) schools to be advised to approach the Council if problems with the new scheme are insurmountable

7838. SHOPS AT BOSWORTH DRIVE

The Clerk submitted correspondence from Ch. Supt. Murray advising that the area has been treated as a priority and as such problems should have eased. He also reported that a "Domehawk" camera had been installed at the site to deter offenders.

7839. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT LAND ADJOINING CONWAY ROAD

The Clerk reported that an email had been received from Solihull M.B.C. regarding the Council's view on consultation and this had been circulated to all members. The Chairman briefly reported on comments being made by local residents in response to the planning application.

7840. PROVISION OF DADO RAIL IN BAR AREA AT THE FORDBRIDGE CENTRE

The Clerk reported that the cost of supplying, fixing and varnishing an additional dado rail in the bar area would be £427.60.

RESOLVED that the Council accept the quotation in the sum of £427.60 to carry out the work outlined above and as previously detailed by the Clerk

7841. 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 9.10 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN

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APPENDIX A

Alan Brown (Solihull MBC) and Paul Colbourne (Amey)

Alan Brown introduced himself as the Head of Environment Services with responsibility amongst other things for litter, waste, recycling, refuse collection and grass cutting.

He listed the main expectations of the contractor:-

Litter picking and cutting of grass verges every ten working days.

Hedge and shrub maintenance once a year.

Road sweeping every six weeks except:-

Main routes (Bosworth Drive, Chelmsley Wood and Cooks Lane) every two weeks

Shops at Bosworth Drive (as a core area) cleansed six days out of seven every week.

He advised that more resources, approximately 30%, are spent in North Solihull than the South of the Borough. During the last five years when generally there have been significant cuts to public services, there have been no cuts to front line environment services in Solihull. Administration and monitoring staff have been reduced by 50%. He pointed out that litter is generated by people and he outlined details of a scheme called "Love Solihull" supporting communities to help themselves.

In answer to questions from members he and Paul provided the following information:-

- There is no extra charge to the shops at Bosworth Drive for the enhanced cleaning.
- Dog fouling bins are not provided on the highway, but if there are any specific areas of concern he will look at the possibility of providing bins.
- Some authorities around the country ban dogs from parks. A pilot exercise is in place in Shirley Park with a special area for dogs, with dogs only allowed in that area.
- Staff may report instances of fly tipping as there is a formal procedure to follow in an attempt to obtain evidence to pursue prosecutions.
- Amey has a pride in Solihull and its work and there is a zero tolerance attitude towards working under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Random drug testing takes place.
- The landlord asked for the recycling bins in Chelmsley Wood Town Centre to be removed. There is now far more scope kerbside recycling and therefore the public recycling sites are not as appropriate. Bickenhill site not as effective as might be due to site constraints.
- The authority is now working more efficiently in inspecting and monitoring contracts. Complaints about the service are currently at its lowest level with on average 1 or 2 formal complaints each month. A recent survey of residents registered a satisfaction with services of 96.4%.

APPENDIX B

Winners

Overall winner

Winners in two other categories – new entrant and previous winner

Prizes to be awarded to the gardens finishing second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth in the overall competition

Shields

Shields to be engraved, presented to overall winner and category winners and retained by them for one year.

Trophies

Trophies to be engraved and presented to all prize winners and retained by them

Prize Money

Overall winner - £150

Best "Previous Winner" - £100

Runner up in overall competition - £75

Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth in overall competition - £50

Best new entrant - £50

Entry Restrictions

Front gardens only

Gardens of Town Councillors and staff not eligible

Any garden (subject to the restrictions set out above) eligible to be entered by any person including the resident

Certificates

Signed certificate to each prize winner

Signed certificate of commendation to be sent to each nominated garden

Miscellaneous Arrangements

Competition to be judged by an independent judge appointed by the Town Council

The onus for entering the competition must be placed on the gardeners themselves. They will have to enter the competition personally (or somebody can enter on their behalf) and this will eliminate any confusion regarding how to enter the competition.

The Clerk to produce a leaflet/flyer inviting newly identified gardens to enter the competition. These leaflets will detail how to enter and the prizes available and can then be given to the owner. They will still however have to formally enter themselves.

Only winners of prizes awarded by the Town Council will be invited to the presentation evening.

The Council's prizes to be presented by the Chairman of the Town Council