

FORDBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 29TH JULY 2013

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance from Councillors Dooley, Doyle and Hyde were received and noted.

2. 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.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held 17th June 2013 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the proceedings

4. REPORT BY THE CLERK TO THE COUNCIL: INCOME FROM HIRE OF THE FORDBRIDGE CENTRE

The Clerk submitted a report, for members' information, detailing income from hire of the Fordbridge Centre in the current financial year and also the two previous financial years. The detailed information is set out in Appendix A.

5. CONSIDERATION OF A REPORT BY THE CLERK TO THE COUNCIL: MONTHLY EMPLOYEE COSTS

The Clerk submitted a report, for members' information, detailing the monthly employee costs for the previous month. The detailed information is set out in Appendix B.

6. CONSIDERATION OF A REPORT BY THE CLERK TO THE COUNCIL: BUDGET MONITORING TO 30.6.2013

The Clerk submitted a report detailing a comparison between budget allocation and actual income and expenditure for the period ended 30th June 2013. He reported that there was one significant variation and outlined the details.

RESOLVED that the details of the comparison between actual income and expenditure and the budget allocation and the significant variation for the period ended 30th June 2013 as set out in Appendix C be noted and approved.

7. CONSIDERATION OF REVISED DRAFT CRITERIA FOR A RE-INTRODUCED "FORDBRIDGE PRIZE"

The Clerk submitted a report with revised draft criteria for a re-introduced "Fordbridge Prize" taking into account comments made at the previous meeting. A short debate took place during which further refinements were suggested.

- RESOLVED i) that the "Fordbridge Prize" be re-introduced and the amended criteria as set out in Appendix D be adopted
ii) that the Prize and criteria be reviewed after the first year has been completed

8. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPORT FOR MERIDEN PARK ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

The Clerk submitted correspondence from the Head Neighbourhood Ranger asking the Council to support the new community cafe, which is situated adjacent to the adventure playground and will be available to the children using the playground, amongst others.

- RESOLVED that in accordance with the provisions of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, a donation of £1,000 be made to the "Meriden Adventure Playground Association"

9. CONSIDERATION OF AN APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BY KINGSHURST EVANGELICAL CHURCH LUNCH CLUB

The Clerk submitted a standard application from the above organisation and a report indicating the group's compliance with the Council's criteria for financial support.

- RESOLVED that consideration of this application be deferred and a representative from the organisation be invited to attend the next meeting of the Council

10. CONSIDERATION OF AN APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BY ST. LEONARD'S DAY CENTRE

The Clerk submitted a standard application from the above organisation and a report indicating the group's compliance with the Council's criteria for financial support.

- RESOLVED that in accordance with the provisions of section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, a donation of £200 be made to St. Leonard's Day Centre to meet the costs of providing a Christmas meal for the group's members who are resident in Fordbridge

11. CONSIDERATION OF REPLACING OR REPAIRING THE MAIN HALL FLOORING AT THE FORDBRIDGE CENTRE

The Clerk reported that the flooring in the main hall was lifting along two lines and an initial assessment suggested it was due to settlement of the screed. The contractor recommended replacement of the whole floor rather than the affected section because the replaced section would stand out dramatically in appearance by comparison to the rest of the floor. An initial informal figure of £3,000 had been mentioned by the contractor as the potential cost of the work

- RESOLVED that approval be given to replacement of the main hall floor at the Fordbridge Centre, subject to the cost being no more than £3,500

12. EXTERNAL DECORATION/MAINTENANCE AT THE FORDBRIDGE CENTRE

The Clerk reported that remedial work was still required to the exterior of the Fordbridge Centre consisting of repairs to paintwork and two cupboards and also painting. He submitted details of the cost of undertaking the work and also for fitting upvc to the low level fascia to the front of the building, as an alternative to painting that section. Approval had been given for the work to be carried out the previous year but it had not been possible due to the inclement weather

- RESOLVED that the repairs, painting and provision of upvc fascia at the Fordbridge Centre as detailed by the Clerk be approved

13. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST BY SOLIHULL M.B.C. REGARDING MATCH FUNDING A SCHEME FOR BUSINESS START UPS

The Clerk reported that this item had been deferred by the Council to seek further information. He submitted the original request together with further information provided by Solihull M.B.C. The Clerk advised that if the Council wished to support this scheme it would have to ensure that its funding would be available for residents of Fordbridge only.

RESOLVED that the Clerk write to Solihull M.B.C. to advise them that the Council supports the scheme in principle but would require some involvement in the decision making process and shall judge each application on its own merits

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

.....
CHAIRMAN

FORDBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES
COMMITTEE HELD ON 29TH JULY 2013

APPENDIX A

Income from hire of the Fordbridge Centre

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
	£	£	£
April	3,039.00	2,066.00	2,361.00
May	2,573.00	2,518.00	1,738.00
June	<u>1,528.00</u>	<u>1,660.00</u>	<u>2,039.00</u>
	<i>7,140.00</i>	<i>6,244.00</i>	<i>6,138.00</i>
July	2,565.00	2,021.00	
August	1,343.00	1,786.00	
September	1,458.00	2,031.00	
October	1,881.00	2,170.00	
November	1,753.00	2,326.00	
December	1,221.00	1,771.00	
January	2,956.00	1,543.00	
February	2,078.00	1,798.00	
March	<u>2,238.00</u>	<u>2,360.00</u>	
	24,635.00	24,050.00	

APPENDIX B

Monthly Employee Costs

June 2013:

Salaries & Wages	£4,083.28
Employer's NI	£166.97
Employer's Pension Contributions	£512.92

APPENDIX C

1. Expenditure on insurance is significantly lower than the Council's approved budget. This is a result of obtaining a considerably lower premium with equivalent cover by switching as new business to a new insurer.

FORDBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES
COMMITTEE HELD ON 29TH JULY 2013

APPENDIX D

1. Nominee must be resident in the civil parish of Fordbridge
2. Three prizes to be awarded, one in each of the following categories (primary school children, secondary school children and 18-25)
3. Seek nominations from all local schools (CTC, Grace, J.H. Newman, Fordbridge & St. Anne's)
4. Nominations to be sought at the beginning of June, with a closing date of 30th June
5. Nominations to be made in writing including email
6. Prize aimed at recognising a contribution in the local community, which must have taken place within the civil parish of Fordbridge.
7. Examples of contributions for nomination including helping others, caring for family members, improving their local area, voluntary work etc. This list is clearly not exhaustive but purely a guide.
8. The contribution must be beyond what is expected and therefore must also be voluntary
9. The contribution to the community must have taken place within the twelve months prior to nomination and can be as an individual or part of a group. It can be a continuous or ongoing commitment, or a single event.
10. Prizes to be awarded at the same evening as the garden competition prizes together with a certificate and/or a small trophy/plaque.
11. Prize to the value of £250 each. Could offer the prize winner a choice of prizes e.g. ticket to Alton Towers plus a friend & travel or electronic device etc., to reflect different tastes.
12. Any activity directly connected to the school curriculum will be ineligible. Nominations arising from extra-curricular activity will be considered. Consideration will be given to nominations for those who have achieved against the odds.
13. Sub committee of 5/7 members to be established to decide winners of the prize unless Council seeks only nomination and winner from each school in which case only eligibility will need to be checked
14. The Finance and General Purposes Committee should consider at its June meeting whether to make a special award(s) to recognise in exceptional circumstances any group or person (resident in Fordbridge) who has been recommended to the Council during the year as a result of its policy "Acknowledging local achievements". Any award made as a result of this item would be made as a separate prize but would still be presented on the same night