

LITTLE RIBSTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Little Ribston Parish Council meeting held on February 12th 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

PRESENT: Cllr M. Bell, Cllr. W. Marr, Cllr. S. Orriel, Cllr. M. Hullah

IN ATTENDANCE: Melanie Spencer (Clerk) and 5 parishioners.

1901

To receive apologies

All Councillors were present.

Resolved: That this be noted

1902

DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS

TO RECEIVE DISCLOSURES BY MEMBERS OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 31 OF THE LOCALISM ACT 2011 AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT INTERESTS UNDER THE MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT.

Resolved: To note no interests were declared

1903

Parish Council Minutes

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on December 11th 2019 as a true and accurate record.

Resolved: To note that the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday December 11th 2018 have been approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

1904

To receive reports on the ongoing issues

Commuted Sums

Although the Parish Council has not been officially notified of how the commuted sums money is to be spent, the Chairman has been made aware.

Resolved: To Note that the Parish Council have not been officially made aware of commuted sums spending.

1905

To Note recent Planning Matters

Resolved: To Note the planning application 18/03704/FUL Wetherby Road was withdrawn.

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1906

To approve and note the RFO's report on financial matters

Payments made

HMRC £127, Anthony Hayhurst £200

Payments for approval

Extra hours RFO £90

Bank reconciliation to December 31st 2018 was explained and noted.

The budget was discussed and noted.

A training course and available funds were discussed and noted.

Internal checks were carried out

Resolved: To note and approve a payment to the RFO for extra hours worked, to note payments, internal checks and the bank reconciliation statement.

1907

Parishioners' questions summarised.

Ms Parsons asked the Council if it was appropriate to put the information about the complaint in the Minutes and if the Councillors were happy for the Minutes to be published?

The Council replied that it was usual for the Minutes to be circulated to Councillors for comments before they are published and that the Council is required to publish the Minutes on a free access website.

The agenda item was attempting to update new Councillors to the events which led to the Clerk making a complaint against a Councillor and the experiences of the Clerk over the previous year.

The Monitoring Officer's open letter to the Council was also used.

Why were the minutes published on Facebook?

The Council pointed out that a parishioner at a previous meeting requested that the Parish Council Minutes be published on the Ribston Notice board Facebook page (a closed group for Little Ribston residents with approximately 35 members).

Former Councillor C. Sewell asked why the Code of Conduct Complaint in the Minutes referred only to former Councillor Adrian Sewell.

The Council stated that the findings of the Clerk's complaint had been concluded and former Councillor Sewell had acknowledged/accepted the findings.

The findings with regard to Cllr. Bell had not been acknowledged/accepted by Cllr Bell, and Councillor Bell was still considering her options, therefore the investigation was ongoing and would be reported at a later date.

Ms Sewell stated it was one investigation and should have been dealt with at the same time; she gave the document containing Bernice Elgot's findings to Cllr. Paraskos to read and

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confirm this. The Clerk pointed out that the document was private and confidential and should not be disclosed in a public meeting or to anyone; Charlie Sewell took back the document.

The Councillors were asked to vote on whether they should publish the open letter on the website.

Cllr Paraskos stated that the Parish Councillors could only vote on agenda items.

Councillor Bell stated that she was quite happy for the open letter to be published. The Council reserved the right to do so once Cllr. Bell had taken legal advice and would add the Open letter as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Former Councillor Sewell stated that her resignation was not because she was asked by the Chairman to apologise to the Clerk for being disrespectful.

Ms Bruce asked how Councillor Paraskos could help bring the issues to a conclusion and help the Parish to draw a line under the issues and move forward.

Cllr. Paraskos stated it was a matter for the Parish Council to resolve.

A discussion took place between parishioners about dissolving the Parish Council. Dr Hopkins asked who at HBC should be contacted. The Clerk suggested contacting the Monitoring Officer Jennifer Norton.

The Parishioners were in disagreement as to their future preferences with regard to the issues discussed. Preferences included; a line to be drawn under the complaints so the Council could get on with local governance, to publish the open letter, to dissolve the Parish Council and call an election, to develop a Local Plan for future planning applications.

Councillor Paraskos replied that Spofforth PC was developing a Local Plan but it was a very time consuming process and that the parishioners should consider that elections maybe the responsibility of the Parish to fund out of the precept.

1908

To note Correspondence received

A letter from Berwins Solicitors was circulated to Councillors.

Resolved: To note all correspondence received

1909

To approve items for inclusion on the next agenda.

Resolved: To approve that the Open Letter from the Monitoring Officer would be an item on the next agenda.

1910

To confirm and note the date for the next meeting.

Resolved: To approve Tuesday April 9th 7.30pm in the Village Hall as the date and venue for the next Parish Council Meeting.

The Chairman brought the meeting to a close at 9.00pm

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