

Cofton Hackett Parish Council

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 19th August 2019

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Cllr Mr R Westbury (Chair)
Cllr Mr M Pattison
Cllr Mr J Slack
Cllr Mr R Deeming
Cllr Mrs J Fay
Cllr Ms C Fryer

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Mrs J Webb
Mr A Billau (Clerk)

| Agenda Item | Discussion and Decisions | Action |
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| 1. | Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr Webb and Mr Billau, there were accepted. | |
| 2. | Declaration of Interests Register of Interests: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests.• To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.• To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.• Councillors who have declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, or an Other Disclosable Interest which falls within the terms of paragraph 12(4) (b) of the code of conduct, must leave the room for the relevant items. Failure to register or declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest may result in the commission of a criminal offence.• To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) – written requests to be with the clerk at least 4 clear days prior to a meeting.• Interests were recorded in the Register | |
| 3. | Dispensations There were no applications for dispensations received. | |
| 4. | To discuss content of a letter sent by Cllr Webb to Thomas Horton, solicitors, on 18 July Cllr Westbury (Chair) introduced this item. He expressed disappointment that Cllr Webb had written to Hortons, the solicitors employed by the Council in relation to the purchase arrangements and lease of the new village hall, without prior consultation with | |

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| | <p>the full Council. It was noted that the letter did not present an accurate picture of the proceedings over the last three years and might be regarded as libellous. The letter was considered in detail and its allegations refuted by all present at the meeting. Cllr Westbury noted that Cllrs Westbury and Duncan had originally been charged with liaising with St Modwen on behalf of the Council and not as individuals, as Cllr Webb suggested. Particular note was made of the extraordinary Council meeting on the 29th September 2018 and the Council meeting of 22nd October 2018. In those meetings, at which all councillors were present, the sale and transfer of the new village hall to the Parish Council was discussed and voted on with unanimous agreement. Cllr Webb had been present and voted in favour. Copies of documents had been circulated beforehand. It was further noted that there had been regular updates since those meetings and that Cllrs Slack and Pattison had been transparent in discussing the relevant documentation.</p> <p>Cllr Deeming said that he had not received council emails in the last eleven months. Cllr Fryer reminded him that the change to the new email addresses only occurred in April 2019 and Cllr Deeming agreed he had received some calling notices and minutes.</p> <p>Cllr Fryer also expressed concern that Cllr Webb had published a letter on the noticeboards without the prior consent of the council. Cllr Westbury reminded everyone of the Code of Conduct and that all correspondence with outside bodies should occur through the Clerk unless, by prior agreement of the council, expediency demanded that an individual councillor should communicate externally, in which case the Clerk and Chair should be copied into the correspondence.</p> <p>Cllr Deeming raised a query about why the lease to the CIO was a commercial rather than a village hall lease. It was explained that this was because the CIO, not the Council, would be managing the village hall.</p> <p>It was resolved that the Chair should write to Cllr Webb expressing the council's disappointment at her action, refuting her allegations, and reminding her of the Code of Conduct.</p> | Cllr Westbury |
| 5. | <p>To consider and approve the final sale and transfer agreement, giving title of the new Cofton Village Hall to Cofton Hackett Parish Council.</p> <p>Councillors had received copies of the relevant documentation in advance of the meeting. After a brief discussion a vote was taken. Cllr Deeming explained that as a District Councillor and Chair of Planning he had been advised to abstain on this matter. The motion was that the council approve the final sale and transfer agreement. Proposed: Cllr Slack; seconded Cllr Pattison. Cllr Deeming abstained. All other councillors present voted in favour.</p> | |
| 6. | <p>To consider and approve the final lease between Cofton Hackett Parish Council and Cofton Village Hall CIO relating to the new Cofton Village Hall.</p> <p>It was noted that councillors had received copies of the relevant documentation in advance of the meeting. Following a brief discussion, a vote was taken. Cllr Deeming explained that as a District Councillor and Chair of Planning he had been advised to abstain on this matter. The motion was that the council approve the final lease between Cofton Hackett Parish Council and the CIO. Proposed: Cllr Pattison; seconded Cllr Slack. Cllr Deeming abstained. All other councillors present voted in favour.</p> | |
| 7. | <p>To agree and approve the signing of the above two documents.</p> <p>There followed a discussion re the signing of the above documents. It was agreed that the Sale of Transfer should be signed by Cllr Westbury (Chair) and Cllr Pattison (Vice Chair) and that the lease should be signed by Cllr Pattison and one other councillor who is not</p> | |

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| | also a member of the CIO (to avoid a potential conflict of interest). It was further agreed that this signings should take place at an appropriate time at Hortons with a solicitor and the Clerk present to witness. | |
| 8. | <p>Bills to pay during August</p> <p>A list of bills had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Slack read through the list and proposed the council accept payment. This was seconded by Cllr Pattison. A motion was carried with unanimous agreement.</p> | |
| 9. | <p>To discuss and approve expenditure of approx. £250 for Autumn planting.</p> <p>There was brief discussion of some possible locations for the autumn bulb planting. Cllr Pattison proposed that the above expenditure be approved. Cllr Slack seconded. The motion was carried with unanimous agreement.</p> | |
| 10. | <p>The meeting closed at 8:15 p.m. The next full Parish Council meeting is Monday 16th September at 7:30 pm.</p> <p>Cllr Deeming to request an item on letters re hedge trimming.</p> | Clerk |