

# HORMEAD PARISH COUNCIL

## **Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting, Friday 1 June 2012, 7.30pm in the Meads Pavilion**

**PRESENT:** Cllr David Ginn (DEG), Vice-Chairman; Cllr Geoff Abbey (AB);  
Cllr Elaine Harding (EH); Cllr J Kilby (JK)

Clerk: Colin Marks (CM)

Also present: 8 members of the public

### **ACTION**

Cllr Ginn announced that, as Vice-Chairman and in the absence of Council Chairman Cllr Denham (RED), he would be chairing the meeting. DEG then read the agenda for the meeting.

#### **12.105 Apologies for absence**

- 1. Councillors:** Cllr Robb Denham
- 2. Other Councillor absences:** None
- 3. Others:** None

#### **12.106 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Kilby asked the Chairman, in light of the email sent by Marty Kilby earlier that day to all councillors, whether the meeting should continue because of the prejudicial interest of the other councillors. The Chairman replied that he had sought advice from the Monitoring Officer and the meeting would go ahead. He asked Councillors to overlook Mrs Kilby's email, saying that the responsibility for declaring an interest was down to each councillor and that if anyone suspected a councillor had not declared a prejudicial interest, the matter should be reported to EHC Standards Committee.

Cllr Ginn, Cllr Abbey, Cllr Harding and Cllr Kilby each declared a personal interest in respect of Hormead Village Hall.

Cllr Kilby asked the Clerk, through the Chair, if he had advised Councillors that they had prejudicial interests. The Clerk replied that it was not his responsibility to offer advice to councillors regarding possible interests. Cllr Kilby responded that he was aware of the Clerk's stated position, but would he now advise councillors around the table of their prejudicial interests. The Clerk said he would not; Councillors must decide for themselves whether they had a prejudicial interest as set out in the Code of Conduct.

#### **12.107 To consider and approve** the delegation to the Clerk of powers to follow up on previous correspondence with Land registry, Charities Commission and others as he sees fit regarding the following:

- 1.** Hormead Parish Council title and ownership in fee simple to the Village Hall sites
- 2.** Appointment of council representative to Village Hall Trust within terms of the governing document of the Trust

Cllr Kilby asked Cllr Ginn who it was that had requested the Chairman to call an Extraordinary Meeting. DEG replied that he had requested it.

There then followed a heated discussion and series of comments, claims and counter claims by JK and various members of the public, with responses from DEG. The Chairman attempted to exercise his authority as chair of the meeting and called for members of the public to be quiet and to respect the Chair. The Chairman was barracked from the floor.

Mrs Kilby put some papers on the table, which she said were copies of correspondence between VHMC and the PC and asked Councillors to read it. The Chairman instructed Councillors to ignore the papers.

The Chairman attempted to prevent any further interruptions from the floor, threatening to clear the room of press and public if the disturbances continued. He asked the Clerk for advice, and after consulting Standing Orders, the Clerk said the Chairman would have to first warn individuals before asking them to leave.

The Chairman then said he would go round the table and invite each Councillor, in turn, to comment on the motion as set out in the agenda.

Cllr Abbey said he was in favour of the motion if it helped to clarify the position.

Cllr Harding said she, too, was in favour for the same reason.

Cllr Kilby said the Clerk was being put in an invidious position. He said the Parish Council was making itself a laughing stock with the District and County Councillors and among parishioners. He observed that CC Jane Pitman never attended the meetings. He said it seemed as though Cllr Ginn was doing it for spite.

Regarding 12.106.2 (PC representative on the VHMC), Cllr Kilby told DEG that he had clearly made up his mind on the matter. JK then referred to a letter (email) that had been sent to DEG by RED regarding his inappropriate appointment as PC rep for the Meads. DEG said that was irrelevant to the business on the table and said that he would receive no more questions.

JK continued that letters sent by VHMC were not being answered. He also asked DEG if it was because of his personal interest, living next door to the Village Hall, and accused DEG of railroading the motion through.

DEG asked JK if he was going to continue to disrupt the meeting, to which JK responded he had a right to speak and that DEG's mind was already made up.

The Chairman then said discussion was ended and proposed that Councillors vote on the motion as worded on the agenda, seconded by Cllr Harding. Cllr Kilby requested the vote be recorded. It was **RESOLVED by 3 votes to 1 that the Clerk have delegated powers to act in accordance with the terms set out on the agenda.**

**Clerk**

Cllr Kilby asked for it to be recorded that, in his view, the meeting was invalid, improperly conducted, and said that he would complain about it.

The Chairman said there was no further business and declared the meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

**Signed** ..... **Dated** .....

Statement by the Clerk regarding the Minutes:

*Minutes of Parish Council meetings are not meant to be a word-for-word record of the evening's dialogue. Rather, they should simply record the general points of any discussion that was relevant to the making of decisions. However, in the case of this Extraordinary Meeting, more dialogue has been included than would normally be the case in an effort to reflect the arguments made at the meeting.*

*Colin Marks, Clerk to Hornead Parish Council*