

HORMEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting Monday 9 June 2014 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion

PRESENT: Cllr Jayne Denham, Chairman (JD), Cllr Dave Baseley (DB), Cllr Robb Denham (RED), Cllr John Kilby (JK), Cllr Denis Madden (DM), Cllr Richard White (RW)

Public and press were excluded due to the nature of the business

In attendance: Colin Marks, Clerk to the Parish Council

14.120 Apologies for absence

ACTION

1. **Councillors:** None – all members were present

14.121 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Baseley: On any Village Hall matters, as VHMC Chairman.

The Chairman read a statement concerning the reasons for DPI disclosure, the Code of Conduct, and the so-called Nolan Principles of Conduct Underpinning Public Life, which are all incorporated into the Council's adopted Standing Orders and Code of Conduct. The Chairman asked for her statement to be minuted in full; a transcript is included below.

Cllr Robb Denham said that the council Standing Orders require information of employments for both councillors and their spouses/partners, which gives not just the nature of the job description but also the name of the employer so that parishioners are aware of any conflicts of interest. This was simply a matter of transparency. After discussion, Cllr Kilby agreed to provide information of where his wife is employed.

JK

14.122 To reconsider the appointment of the Officers of the Parish Council

The Chairman explained that the appointment of a Vice-chairman made at the Council's Annual Meeting on 22 May (Minute 14.087) had to be annulled. It was being challenged because the process required by Standing Orders was not followed in that there was no discussion as to the appropriateness of appointing a Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year. The resolution of the appointment of the Vice-Chairman was therefore invalid, requiring the appointment to be considered again. It was noted that this was not, therefore, the rescission of a previous resolution.

Following a discussion it was **RESOLVED that it was appropriate to appoint a Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.**

There was then a vote and it was **RESOLVED that Cllr Dave Baseley be the Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.**

There was then a discussion regarding the membership of the Staffing Committee. Cllr Jayne Denham said she was stepping down because, as Council Chairman, she is an ex officio member in any case. Following a vote it was **RESOLVED that Cllr Robb Denham be appointed to the Staffing Committee and was also appointed Chairman of the Committee.**

There was then a discussion regarding the fact that there is a vacancy on the Neighbourhood Plan Team (NPT) and the requirement to appoint a Chairman for the Team. Following a vote it was **RESOLVED that Cllr Robb Denham be Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Team for the ensuing year.** The vacant NPT position was not filled and it was left for Councillors to consider volunteering to join.

ALL

14.123 To consider correspondence received from a parishioner

Questions were asked and there was a discussion regarding the contents of emails received from a parishioner. There was no decision regarding a course of action, which is held in abeyance.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30 pm.

Signed Dated.....

Chairman's Statement as read in Agenda item 14.121

1. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) and other interests

The rules regarding disclosure of pecuniary and other interests which we have to follow by law as set out in the Code of Conduct 2012, and the Standing Orders adopted by the Parish Council in March 2013, all require the disclosure of details of relevant interests falling into various categories.

A councillor must also follow the NOLAN PRINCIPLES, listed below, in his/her councillor role, whether in a council meeting or any contact in that role with parishioners, other councillors and members of the public. In summary, the Nolan principles are:

Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty, Leadership

The point I want to make is that Cllr Kilby has deliberately ignored the DPI rules in our Standing Orders regarding employments and he is misleading parishioners and others who like to know these things, and which carries the possibility of committing a criminal offence. I hope he can and will rectify this immediately without having to be reported for a breach of the Code of Conduct.

I have taken some advice, which I will read out:

"In brief, the purpose of having to register and declare interests is, of course, to ensure transparency of decision making so that the public can see where conflicts may arise and to ensure that decisions are taken solely in the public interest, and councillors can protect themselves from accusations they are somehow 'feathering their own nests' by not being open about their interests"; and

"The law presumes that registration will be specific, as witnessed by the fact that the legislation allows, in certain circumstances, a particular interest to not be disclosed fully where there is a so-called "sensitive interest"; and

"... if he [the councillor] has not notified the Monitoring Officer, and the Proper Officer at the beginning of each council meeting when the situation remains as it is, he may have to leave the meeting in case he has further undisclosed or improperly disclosed pecuniary interests in the business of the meetings."

Chairman Cllr Jayne Denham