

MONKS ELEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ADDITIONAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 3rd JULY 2017

The Additional Parish Council Meeting was held on 3rd July 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Chairman Cllr J Clarke welcomed the following Parish Councillor – P Derry, A Forrest, D Reynolds, A Keitley-Webb. Cllr Day was unable to get to the start of the Meeting due to work commitments, but arrived at the Meeting at Item 5 of the Agenda. No members of the public were present at the Meeting.

In accordance with the changes in legislation, the public and councillors were permitted to film, record, photograph or use social media in order to report on the proceedings of the Meeting, subject to complying with certain provisions. ***A full transcript of the statement is available from the Parish Clerk upon request.***

1. Apologies for absence

- i. Cllr Peter Day sent his apologies. He was travelling back from a work commitment, and was able to be present at the start of the Meeting, but would hope to join the Meeting later that evening;
- ii. Cllrs consented to accept Cllr Day's apology.

2. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest

- i. To receive disclosures of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests for the agenda under discussion – Cllr Derry declared an interest in Item 8 of the Agenda as a VH Trustee and would not take part in any discussion or voting on that matter;
- ii. No declarations of gifts of hospitality;
- iii. No requests for dispensation for pecuniary interests for the Agenda under discussion.

3. Clerk's Report

Clerk had that day tendered her resignation from Monks Eleigh Parish Council. The letter of resignation was read out to Cllrs present. Clerk thanked the present Councillors in particular with regards to the demands placed on them to enable her to deal with the complex issues that had been time consuming and ongoing for them all. The Clerk thanked them for their enthusiasm, and for making decisions to ensure the ongoing effectiveness of the Parish Council as a corporate body.

Unfortunately, the workload arising from just a few ongoing matters had become untenable for the Clerk as she did have other commitments in both her work and home life. The Parish Council had kindly increased the hours from 6 to 8 hours per week and the Clerk was confident that once the ongoing complex matters were resolved then a new Clerk would be able to carry out the duties for the Parish Council within the 8 hours per week.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk and stated that the Council would now need to advertise for a new Clerk. The terms of the advertisement, person specification and

job specification would be something they would need to agree at the Meeting on 31st July 2017. It would be only three days later that the Clerk would no longer be employed under the terms of her contract with the Parish Council. The Clerk confirmed that under the terms of her Contract of Employment her last working day would be the 3rd August 2017, however she would be prepared to work for the Parish Council beyond the 3rd August 2017 on the basis that either the Clerk or the Parish Council could terminate her employment with 2 working days notice. This would hopefully give the Parish Council some time to get the job advertised and for the current Clerk to keep matters ongoing for the Council. All Cllrs present agreed that this would be helpful. The terms of the current Clerk's employment beyond 3rd August would be on the Agenda for discussion at the Meeting on 31st July.

4. Consider request from the Village Hall Trust for a representative from the PC to attend a site meeting with Strutt & Parker, SCC and VHT in order to look at the Strutt and Parker proposal for possible access via their land between the development of the former school site and the recreation ground.

Cllr Reynolds reminded the Council that for some time (since the last Parish Council term in 2011-15) that the land has been identified as a possible site for future development subject to Babergh's "call for potential sites".

Chairman advised that when considering this request Councillors needed to be aware that if they agreed for a representative from the PC to attend the site meeting that they could not agree anything at that site Meeting on behalf of the Parish Council. They could report back to the next PC Meeting for Councillors to consider and vote on the next steps forward as a corporate body.

Cllrs present all confirmed that they understood this and Cllr Reynolds proposed that he attend the site meeting and report back at the next PC Meeting, along with Cllr Forrest who would also be there in her capacity as VHT Chairman and VHT Representative to the Parish Council. Cllr Derry seconded. Resolution carried.

Chairman proposed under the terms of the Local Government Act to exclude the public from the Meeting for Agenda items 5, 6, 7 and 8 on the grounds that the matters related to ongoing matters relating to a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (which relates to in-camera discussions and documents); discussions in relation to in-camera Minutes of 19 January 2016 and 25 January 2016; update on Agreement for Lease with VHT/CIO; and publicity at this stage will compromise confidential matters and will be prejudicial to the public interest and the ongoing effectiveness of the Council. Cllr Derry seconded. All Cllrs present agreed.