

WADHURST PARISH COUNCIL

THE MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF WADHURST PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE PAVILION, SPARROWS GREEN RECREATION GROUND ON THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2020 AT 6.45PM

Present: Cllrs Anderson, Bullock, Crawford, Gadd (Chair), Griffin, Maggs, C Moore, P Moore, Morris, Niell, Peaford and Smith

Also in attendance: Amanda Barlow (clerk) and 10 members of the public

1. To receive apologies and reasons for absence.
Apologies received and reasons accepted, from Cllrs Edwards, Tincombe and Murphy (Vice Chair).
2. To receive declarations of personal, prejudicial and disclosable pecuniary interests on items on the agenda and updates to members' register of interests.
None.
3. Public Forum – time limit 15 minutes.
Mr Kent asked about celebrations for VE day and Cllr Gadd advised that the Wadhurst Hall & Field CIO Trust is organising events and advised Mr Kent to contact the appropriate person at the Hall & Field. Mr Flegg asked if the Parish Council to let residents know well in advance and advertise widely if a Parish Council meeting is cancelled. The Clerk apologised and advised that she will make sure any cancellations are more widely advertised other than on the website. Mr Flegg said he presumed that item 5.1 would be discussed as a confidential item and Cllr Gadd said that it was for the members to decide on under item 4. Mr Parry handed out a statement regarding the Neighbourhood Plan and Mrs Bishop along with five other members of the NPSG tendered their resignation. Mrs Bishop read out her reasons for resigning.
4. To consider, and approve if appropriate, which agenda items are sufficiently confidential as to warrant exclusion of members of the press and public under the provisions of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

During discussion of this item members of the public made numerous interruptions and Cllr Morris stated that the Clerk was supine.

*Cllr Bullock moved that there was only one part of the paper 5.1 that could be considered to be prejudicial to the Public interest where a resident was being invited onto a sub committee of the Council and that Members should only discuss this issue to the exclusion of the public. It was seconded and a vote taken and the Motion was lost. Cllr Gadd proposed that the paper 5.1 in its entirety should be discussed in confidence as it was impossible to discuss the paper without reference to a specific resident and this discussion was a major subjectivity to her paper. The motion was seconded. **Members resolved that Agenda Item 5.1 should be discussed to the exclusion of the press and public. Cllrs C Moore, P Moore, Griffin, Gadd, Smith, Crawford and Maggs voted for the resolution. Cllr Anderson and Cllr Niell abstained and Cllrs Bullock, Morris and Peaford voted against.***

Cllr Gadd asked the members of the public to leave the meeting. Members of the public refused to leave the room. The Clerk explained that it was a meeting of the Council to which the public were invited as opposed to a public meeting and therefore members of the public would need to leave the room. The members of the public made derogatory remarks shouting at both Members and the Clerk. The Clerk left the meeting. Cllr Gadd decided to move rooms and not to call the police to remove the members of the public. The Clerk conferred with Cllr Gadd and it was agreed to continue the meeting in a different area of the Pavilion. This action had been previously agreed as the correct action. Once all Members of the Parish Council who were present and the Clerk assembled in the alternative meeting room at the Pavilion the Chair continued with the meeting.

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5. Items for decision and allocation of resources, if necessary.

5.1 To discuss and agree, if appropriate, the next actions with regard to the Neighbourhood Plan and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Cllr Gadd had previously submitted her paper and read out the proposal contained therein.

Cllr Bullock handed out an alternative proposal. Members agreed that a vote should be taken on Cllr Gadd's proposal.

Members discussed the proposal put forward by Cllr Gadd and then a vote was taken.

Members resolved to the following:

- *The Neighbourhood Plan website should be transferred to a provider that invoices, to comply with WPC Financial Regulations.*
- *All Steering Group members should sign the Terms of Reference, which include the Code of Conduct, to show that they have seen and agreed them, together with completing an up to date Register of Interest form. These documents shall be held by the Clerk. In addition, WPC shall meet with all Steering Group members, before appointment.*
- *That the resident re-joins the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.*
- *The Terms of Reference of the NPSG shall be amended, so that decisions that affect the reputation of the Parish Council, are made by the Parish Council.*
- *The new recruits found, will form a User Acceptance group, separate from the Focus/Steering group, to carry out a pre referendum assessment of the products of the Neighbourhood Plan, so far. A member of the NPSG will lead in this process, together with others (to be agreed in March by the Qualifying Body).*

Members resolved the majority to accept the proposal as presented by Cllr Gadd. Cllr Bullock, Morris and Peaford abstained.

6. Urgent issues at the discretion of the Chair for noting or inclusion on future agenda
None.