

ST LEONARDS & ST IVES PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Full Council

Minutes of the Meeting Held On Wednesday 25th March 2015 at 7.00pm
in the Committee Room at the Village Hall, Braeside Road, St Leonards

Members Present: Cllr M Dyer, Chairman

Cllr R Adkins

Cllr J Crow

Cllr B Goringe

Cllr N Hindmarch

Cllr C House

Cllr Mrs J House

Cllr Mrs A Warman

Cllr R Warman

Present: Mrs A Jacobs Clerk

Members stood for a minute's silence in memory of ex Councillor Vivienne Bell who had passed away suddenly this week.

- 449. Members resolved to suspend standing order 3L following the amendment to the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, dated 6th August 2014.** Proposed by Cllr Mrs J House, seconded by Cllr C House, agreed unanimously.
- 450. Apologies** were received and accepted from: Cllr R Bryan; Cllr R Dudman; Cllr M Hockley and Cllr G Willetts who was attending an ETAG meeting at EDDC.
- 451. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest:** None.
- 452. County Councillor:** Cllr Richardson had circulated a report a copy of which appears as Appendix A with these Minutes in the Minute Book.
Cllr Goringe reported that a number of people were complaining about the amount of litter now exposed following the cutting back of vegetation alongside the A338. Cllr Richardson would report to the next meeting on the A338 to be held on the 13th May. The Clerk will report this to DWP tomorrow.
- 453. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25th February 2015** including confidential Minute 410, pages 74-76 were adopted as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr B Goringe seconded by Cllr R Adkins, agreed unanimously.
RESOLVED: The Minutes of the full Council Meeting held on 25th February 2015 including confidential minute 410, were adopted.
- 454. Matters arising from the Minutes:-**
1. Removal of barriers Shelley Close – further request to remove from resident. Cllr P Richardson has also requested that that Parish reconsiders their decision to retain the barriers. DCC have confirmed that they can be adjusted to be compliant. Cllr Richardson supported the compromise of retaining the barriers but adjusting them so that they are DDA compliant. The Clerk will confirm this to DCC.
- 455. Minutes of the following Committee Meetings were noted and adopted:-**
1. Planning Committee held on 19th February, 2015 – proposed by Cllr Mrs J House, seconded by Cllr B Goringe (Cllrs J Crow and Cllr R Warman abstained as not present at the meeting) rest voted in favour.
 2. Amenities Committee held on 1st December 2014 – proposed by Cllr Mrs A Warman, seconded by Cllr B Goringe (Cllrs J Crow and Cllr R Warman abstained as not present at the meeting) rest voted in favour.
- The Chairman reminded Members that all Members could vote whether present at the meeting or not if they so wished.
3. Finance Committee held on 1st December 2014- Proposed by Cllr R Warman, seconded by Cllr Mrs J House, agreed unanimously.
- 456. Correspondence was noted:**
1. EDDC Agendas
 2. Verwood Town Council – Civic Invitation to the Chairman 19th April 2015
 3. Complaint from Ringwood resident concerning the Braeside Road recreation ground – email despatched explaining use of gravel and choice of equipment.
 4. Pensions Regulator – letter instructing a contact person by 31.03.15
 5. A letter of complaint about the maintenance of trees on the verge outside 1 Fernlea Close has been received.
- 457. Ethical Governance Sub-Committee Report 4th March 2015** – Members received and accepted the findings and recommendations of the Sub-Committee on the allegations of breaches of the Code of Conduct. A copy of the report is attached to these Minutes as Appendix B in the Minute Book as these are now open to the public. This was discussed. Cllr Hockley had emailed all Members directly this evening to explain his absence. It was clear from this response that Cllr Hockley did not understand the decision of the independent investigative body.

It was proposed that the Council would ask Cllr Hockley to note the report and make the requested apology either verbally or in writing. Proposed by Cllr Mrs J House, seconded by Cllr J Crow. Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: That the Council would ask Cllr Hockley to note the report and make the requested apology either verbally or in writing.

After further discussion Cllr Hindmarch proposed that the report is put on the Parish Council website provided authorised by EDDC. Seconded by Cllr Mrs A Warman. Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: That the report is put on the Parish Council website provided authorised by EDDC.

The Clerk will undertake steps to arrange an audit of record keeping of Member training and a signed acceptance of their Code of Conduct from the signing in of the new Council in May.

- 458. Rolling programme of works:** Referred from Finance Committee after consultation with Amenities
Cllr R Warman reported that due to the scale of expenditure the Committee request that this is noted by full Council. The costs for the car park will be put as an accrual for 2014/2015. Noted.
- 459. District Councillors' Update:** Cllr Mrs Warman had nothing to report as she had been on leave.
Cllr Dyer reported: Issues with the delivery of the EDDC news were reported, as the same company also distributes the Parish newsletter the Parish may wish to investigate further. The Parish news appears to have only had around 50% success and the EDDC only slightly better. The Clerk will put on the next agenda for further discussion. The Clerk will collect the surplus of newsletters from Oaktree Park and check whether any spare copies may still be circulated under Purdah rules. A recent application for Wayside Road had been approved by the Parish but is on the EDDC Planning agenda for refusal.
- 460. Parish Councillors' Reports -**
1. DAPTC – no meeting. Next meeting 14th April at Sixpenny Handley.
 2. Homewatch – Cllr Goringe reported: The statistics quoted include West Moors area: in the last three months there had been 3 house burglaries; 7 shed break ins on one of which there was a Guardcam which had enabled the police to catch the offenders and a couple of vehicles had been broken into at the Travel Lodge. In addition a compound had been broken into in Boundary Lane and a rogue trader had ripped off a lady in Lions Lane. Cllr Goringe had asked the Police to have a presence in the Parish on Election day. A donation to the defibrillator has been offered by a Member of Homewatch.
 3. ETAG – Cllr Willetts is attending this evening.
 4. Youth Club update – Cllr Warman reported: 15 were now attending the younger group which is about the maximum they can take. The Leader has asked for permission to use the Club for family work meetings. Members agreed unanimously to the request in principle provided feasible re the keys, costings and logistics as the income would assist with the costs of the Club.
- 461. ETAG Grant Request:** Cllr Dyer reported. The request had been explained by Cllr Willetts at the last meeting. Members were asked to consider awarding a grant in principle towards the work of ETAG as EDDC have withdrawn secretarial support and providing accommodation. Cllr Dyer highlighted the amount of environmental work that the group does and its specific relevance to this Parish which has a significant amount of SSSI land within it. After discussion it was agreed unanimously that a grant of up to £150 would be awarded subject to other parishes contributing. Proposed by Cllr B Goringe, seconded by Cllr C House. The Council would mention that it would be appreciated if consideration could be given to the meeting schedule which results in a clash with this Parish on the last Wednesday of the month as we are unable to send a representative.
RESOLVED: That a grant of up to £150 would be awarded to ETAG subject to other Parishes and Towns in the area contributing.
- 462. Allotment Update:** Cllr C House reported: The Council is still awaiting a draft lease for the land. The Clerk was asked to write for an update on when we might be able to have a draft as the group is very keen to proceed. The Council was asked to put all requests via Cllr R Bryan and not go direct to the Landowner.
- 463. Defibrillator –** A report had been circulated by the Clerk a copy of which is attached to these Minutes in the Minute Book as appendix C. The ambulance service has now been in contact and is recommending a semi-automatic unit, they will also advise whoever decides to proceed with the project. The two groups capable of pushing this forward are the Council or the Village Hall Management Committee. It needs to be one group in charge. More investigation is needed and a team will be required to manage and maintain the unit once installed. The Clerk will check on insurance requirements and proceed with further investigations liaising with Cllr Mrs A Warman. The Clerk will defer further investigations until after the elections due to workload at year end and start of the new Council year with a view to putting this to the June full Council. Cllr Hindmarch suggested that the Clerk speak to Bransgore as they are pioneering the installation of defibrillators across the New Forest. Cllr R

Warman also suggested grant applications. Cllr Mrs Warman is discussing fund raising with the Village Hall and their users.

464. Village Hall –

1. Minutes are awaited
2. Members received a report on the use of the patio area for barbeques/pig roasts when part of a Village hall booking. Cllr Mrs Warman reported that the VHMC felt that the conditions suggested were too strict and would put off hirers so they had decided to use another area within their control as they do not have many requests there was no need to discuss this further. The Clerk passed the request from a resident for a barbeque for a children's party to Cllr Mrs Warman to respond directly.

465. Ashley Heath Halt Enhancement Works – Cllr Dyer reported that the work was well underway and should be complete shortly. The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent to Mrs Kliger about the memorial. The Clerk will check our commitment to the project.

466. Request to close the layby along Hurn Road – A request has been received from resident to close the layby only Hurn Road close to the rear of properties in Egmont Drive, DCC have asked for our view. This was discussed it was noted that there was a safety issue with misuse and flytipping. It was agreed unanimously, to support the request. Proposed by Cllr Mrs J House, seconded by Cllr Mrs A Warman.

RESOLVED: to support the request to close the layby along Hurn Road.

467. Annual Parish Assembly Meeting 15th April 2015, 7pm at the Village Hall – This was discussed. No further suggestions for the agenda were received. Cllr Hindmarch asked that consideration was given to having a speaker. This was discussed. It was felt that there was insufficient time to arrange this for this year. The Clerk will diarise for January 2016 to enable time to arrange one for the subsequent meeting.

468. Exchange of information:

1. Next meeting of the full Council 29th April 2015
2. Annual Parish Assembly Meeting 15th April 2015 in the Main Hall
3. The Clerk reported that the Planning Committee had cancelled the meeting on 14th May and rearranged it for 21st May due to the election and appointment of Members.
4. Cllr Adkins asked about the Police notice in St Ives Wood. The Clerk reported that it had been removed following a complaint from a resident who was selling their house and felt it gave the wrong impression to prospective buyers.
5. Cllr Mrs House highlighted a recent media report about sickness in the Health Service and the costs incurred.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Chairman

EAST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL

ETHICAL GOVERNANCE (HEARINGS) SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 4 March 2015 at 6.30 pm

Present:-

Cllr Mrs T B Coombs – Chairman
Cllr Mrs G S Elliot and Cllr G W Russell

373. Election of Chairman for the Meeting

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs T B Coombs be elected Chairman of the Sub-Committee for the duration of the meeting.

374. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made on this occasion.

375. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that in the interest of transparency and openness, the following item be dealt with in public session and the appended exempt documents be released for public inspection.

376. Allegation of Breach of the Code of Conduct

A report was submitted, a copy of which had been circulated to Members and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'A' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The Chairman stated the hearing procedure rules as follows:-

1. Report by the Presenting Officer
2. Questions from the Sub-Committee
3. Representations from Councillor Hockley
4. Questions from the Sub-Committee
5. Brief Summary from the Presenting Officer
6. Brief Summary from Councillor Hockley
7. Sub-Committee Retire to Make Decision
8. Sub-Committee Return to Announce Decision

The Solicitor to the Council circulated an email from Councillor Hockley giving reasons for his delay in responding to the arrangements for this Sub-Committee. The Panel accepted this email, which stated his medical restrictions, as a record of apology for his absence.

The Partnership Audit Manager presented the report to the Sub-Committee, which detailed two Code of Conduct allegations raised in respect of Councillor Hockley, an elected member of St Leonards and St Ives Parish Council. The first allegation stated that Cllr Hockley has in two public meetings brought the Parish Council into disrepute by accusing Councillor Hindmarch and two other unnamed Councillors of bullying and subsequently of poor treatment and corruption without providing any evidence or further details to the Council. The second allegation stated that

ETHICAL GOVERNANCE (HEARINGS) SUB-COMMITTEE
Wednesday, 4 March 2015

Cllr Hockley has used his Councillor status and "Flood Warden" position for non-Council business.

Following questions from Members, it was stated that:-

- The Parish Clerk has confirmed that all Parish Councillors were issued with a new Code of Conduct prior to these allegations; however, there is no physical documentation to confirm this in writing.
- Cllr Hockley has received a copy of this Agenda, but it was not circulated to anyone else as it was treated as restricted information prior to the Sub-Committee's determination at this meeting.

In summing up, the Partnership Audit Manager stated that no evidence was received from Cllr Hockley, despite several attempts to meet and discuss the two cases. The final findings and conclusion of the investigation remained as set out in the report.

The Chairman thanked the Officer for the thorough report.

Members then retired at 6:50pm.

Members reconvened at 7:15pm.

The Chairman stated that regard was had for both allegations and that the Panel has worked through the relevant parts of the Nolan Principles and the Parish Council's adopted Code of Conduct.

Under Case 000394, the Sub-Committee upheld the allegations against Cllr Hockley and find that his unsubstantiated accusations against fellow Members during a public meeting have brought the Council into disrepute. He has not maintained the high standards of behaviour when conducting the business of the Council.

RESOLVED that:-

1. Cllr Hockley's behaviour as recorded is not deemed respectful.
2. Cllr Hockley's behaviour is regarded as bullying/intimidatory.

Under Case 000526, The Sub-Committee upheld the investigation conclusion that the St Leonards and St Ives Parish Council Code of Conduct Member Obligations have been breached.

RESOLVED that:-

1. Cllr Hockley's behaviour as recorded is not deemed respectful.
2. Cllr Hockley's behaviour is regarded as bullying/intimidatory, although it is accepted that this may not have been the intention of Cllr Hockley, it has been interpreted in this way by ward electors.
3. Cllr Hockley did attempt to confer advantage by using his role as a Parish Councillor and "Flood Warren" to assume certain powers of action other than that of a landowner.
4. Cllr Hockley has not used the resources of the Parish Council in accordance with its requirements, as there is no record within the Council of flood issues to confirm that this resource was a requirement of the Council.

5. No information of a confidential or prohibited nature has been disclosed, and therefore there is no finding against Cllr Hockley on this obligation.

The Sub-Committee then proposed the following RECOMMENDATIONS to the Parish Council:-

1. That Cllr Hockley apologise to the Council and the Public for the manner of his behaviour showing disrespect to fellow Members of the Council.
2. That Cllr Hockley has already received further training as a new Councillor on conduct matters, but this is not dated although confirmed by the Clerk of the Council. It is therefore considered that further training would be ineffective in ameliorating Cllr Hockley's behaviour and attitude.
3. That the decision by the Parish Council to exclude Cllr Hockley from meetings except council meetings continues until the end of this municipal term of office.
4. That St Leonards and St Ives Parish Council impose an audit of record keeping of Member training and a signed acceptance of their Code of Conduct.

The meeting ended at 7.25 pm

CHAIRMAN