

ST LEONARDS & ST IVES PARISH COUNCIL
Extraordinary Meeting of the Full Council
Minutes of the Meeting Held On Wednesday 10th February 2016 at 7pm
In the Committee Room at the Village Hall, Braeside Road, St Leonards

Members Present: Cllr R Adkins, Chairman

Cllr R Bryan

Cllr Mrs J Carter

Cllr M Dyer

Cllr B Goringe

Cllr N Hindmarch

Cllr C House

Cllr Mrs J House

Cllr Mrs A Warman

Cllr R Warman

Cllr Mrs B Waugh

Present: Mrs A Jacobs Clerk in attendance. Invited independent observers: Sophia Nartey, Monitoring Officer of EDDC and Christchurch Borough Council and PCSO Dan Byrne representing the Police.

373. Pecuniary Interests: None

374. Apologies for absence: were received and accepted from Cllr J Crow.

375. Other absence noted: Cllr Hockley had refused the summons to attend the meeting and informed the Members and Clerk by email dated 9th February 2016 at 10.26 hrs of his reasons.

376. It was RESOLVED to exclude the Press and Public under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings Act 1960 s(2), to discuss the email sent by Cllr Hockley to Members dated 27th January 2016 at 00.22 hours and subsequent emails sent on 9th February, 2016 and 10th February 2016 containing allegations which may lead to legal proceedings. Proposed by Cllr Mrs J House, seconded by Cllr Mrs A Warman, agreed unanimously.

The Monitoring Officer and Police were in attendance to advise all parties, if requested, and to observe the meeting. Both had received copies of the emails sent by Cllr Hockley to Members.

Background on the incidences referenced by Cllr Hockley were given by each incumbent Chairman to ensure new Councillors were informed. Members noted that the Council is required to act as a corporate body, no Councillor acts alone. All Members were reminded of their Councillor folders which were handed to them and signed for at the start of the civic year which details this clearly. If Councillor Hockley is undertaking his duty as a Councillor without the knowledge or direction of the Council as he states then he is not acting on its behalf, he is uninsured and acting ultra vires (beyond the Powers afforded to the Council by Statute).

After lengthy discussion of the correspondence from Cllr Hockley the following resolutions were unanimously agreed:-

RESOLVED: To write to Councillor Hockley by recorded mail and served by hand referencing: that his emails make very serious unsubstantiated allegations and that the Council requires him to cease and desist such correspondence and claims immediately. The Council is particularly concerned with Cllr Hockley statement that he is acting "outside the knowledge of my parish council" as in doing so he is acting ultra vires (beyond the Powers afforded to the Council by Statute) and will also be uninsured in carrying out such actions.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs J House, seconded by Cllr Mrs B Waugh.

RESOLVED: To seek legal advice from the Council Insurers due to the serious nature of the unsubstantiated allegations.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs J Carter seconded by Cllr B Goringe.

The Clerk was directed to write to all outside bodies where we are invited to have a representative and confirm the name of the appointed representative and the correct procedure for contacting the Council which is via the Parish Office.

Cllr Hockley's correspondence asked for the resignation of the Chairman and a vote of no confidence. This was discussed it was agreed unanimously that Cllr Adkins had the full confidence of the Council and they wished him to remain as Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Mrs J House, seconded by Cllr Mrs A Warman.

RESOLVED: That the Council had full confidence in the present Chairman, Cllr R Adkins and wished him to remain in the Chair.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Chairman