

Minutes of an EXTRAORDINARY Meeting of Full Council
held on Tuesday 6th June 2017 at 6.45pm
at the Windmill, Meopham Green

Members Present: Cllrs S Buchanan (Chairman), M Bramer, D Bramer, S Goffon, P Hasler, R Knott, P Luxford, J Ogden (Vice Chairman)

In attendance: Mrs S Eggesden (Clerk)

Item 1: Apologies for absence:

C.42 Apologies were received from Cllrs Howard, McTavish, Powell and Wade.

Item 2: Declarations of Interest:

C.43 There were no declarations of interest.

Item 3: To approve the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017. The Chairman of the meeting and the Responsible Financial Officer to sign

C.44 The Clerk informed members that an amendment had been made to page 5 in members' papers under item 1 General. The line 'there were no tenancies held by the council' had been removed as this was incorrect. Cllr D Bramer then proposed approval of the accounts and this was seconded by Cllr Ogden. All voted in favour and the accounts were approved.

Item 4: To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2016-17, Section 1 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2017. The Chairman of the meeting and the Clerk to sign

C.45 The Council considered the Annual Governance Statement for 2016-17. Cllr Luxford proposed approval, seconded by Cllr M Bramer and all voted in favour. The Chairman and the Clerk signed the Statement on behalf of the council.

Item 5: To approve the Accounting Statements for 2016-17, Section 2 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2017 and the supporting Bank Reconciliation as at 31 March 2017 plus the explanation of the significant variations from last year (2015-16) to this year (2016-17) and the explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 on Section 2 to be sent to the External Auditor. The Chairman of the meeting to sign.

C.46 The Council considered the Accounting Statements for 2016-17 and the supporting documentation as provided by the Responsible Financial Officer who had signed Section 2 of the Annual Return prior to the meeting.

Cllr Goffon asked the council a question regarding item 1 on section 2 on the increase from 2015-16 and what is an acceptable amount that the council should in reserve? The clerk advised that is acceptable that a council should have approximately its precept amount in reserve and anything above should be earmarked reserves, as is the case with Meopham PC with £70,000

earmarked for the Judson's Pavilion and £14,000 earmarked for the playground sinking fund.

Cllr Ogden then proposed approval and this was seconded by Cllr Knott. All voted in favour and the Chairman signed the Statement on behalf of the Council.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk, Cllr Julia Burgoyne and Maureen Innes for the preparation of the end of year accounts and the Annual Return.

Item 6: Pitfield Green Toilets – following on from the results of the survey, to consider the next steps and to inform GBC of the council's decision

C.47

The Chairman read out the survey results. Out of 149 responses to the paper and online survey, 136 people thought the public toilets should remain open and 117 people felt the Parish Council should take on the responsibility and cost of the toilets. Although the response to the survey was small, it had been widely published online, on the notice boards and paper copies available in several locations in the parish.

Discussion took place regarding the current lease in place in with GBC and it was felt that the council should take legal advice on this.

Some costs for the running of the facility had been obtained and the Chairman informed members that she would be meeting with Cllr Ogden and M Bramer plus the Clerk tomorrow to go through the quotations. Details of costs obtained so far were circulated to members.

Cllr Ogden proposed suspending Standing Orders to allow Cllr Julia Burgoyne to speak. This was seconded by Cllr Hasler and all voted in favour.

Standing orders were then reinstated.

Following discussion on various points it was proposed by Cllr Ogden

- It is delegated to the Clerk to forward the lease to our legal advisor to obtain advice
- The clerk to write to GBC to advise that the Parish Council is seriously considering pursuing taking on the responsibility of the public toilets at Pitfield Green. However, before the Parish Council makes any final decision, there are many issues that require further investigation and clarification including looking into the legal issues and the cost to the Parish Council for providing the service
- To mention in the letter that the library is not a suitable alternative and there are not any other suitable options in the Meopham Green area.
- That the toilets should open on a Sunday and costs therefore looked at for opening 7 days a week as well

This was seconded by Cllr Luxford and all voted in favour.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm

Signed.....Dated.....