

LINDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **EXTRAORDINARY MEETING** of **LINDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL** held on **TUESDAY 9 JUNE 2015** at the King Edward Hall, Lindfield.

The meeting commenced at 7.15 p.m.

Present:

Parish Councillors: Mr. W. Blunden (Chairman)
Mr. M. Allen
Mr. A. Gomme
Mr. S. Henton
Mrs. E. Hinze (as a member of the Council from Minute 44)
Mr. S. Hodgson
Mr. R. Plass
Mr. C. Snowling

Also present: 1 member of the public

In attendance: Mrs. C. Irwin (Clerk)
Mr. I. McLean (Deputy Clerk)

Not present: Councillors Mrs. J. Durrant, Mrs. M. Hersey and Mrs. V. Upton.

The Chairman welcomed those present and announced the emergency procedure for the King Edward Hall.

40. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE.

40.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Durrant, Hersey and Upton and the reasons were accepted.

41. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

40.1 There were no declarations of interest from Members in respect of any items on the Agenda.

42. QUESTIONS / COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

42.1 White Horse Public House. On behalf of Lindfield Preservation Society (LPS), Mr. J. Jesson stated that notwithstanding the proposals which may be set out in the Neighbourhood Plan, the Society would support any decision to declare the White Horse as an important asset because of its importance to the village and its prominent location, particularly as there appeared to be possibilities that it may be changed from public house to another use. If the building was listed as a community asset, the public would have the opportunity to comment on changes to its use.

43. CO-OPTION OF TWO MEMBERS TO FILL THE VACANCIES LEFT UNFILLED AT THE ELECTION BY REASON OF INSUFFICIENT NOMINATIONS.

43.1 Following the recent elections, there were two vacancies for seats on Lindfield Parish Council, because of insufficient nominations. These vacancies had been advertised on the Parish Council's noticeboard and website and in the local press. Two candidates had come forward: Elisabeth Ann Hinze and Stewart Shortland and each had submitted a short profile of themselves which had been circulated. Mrs. Hinze was present at the meeting, but Mr. Shortland had given his apologies due to a pre-arranged commitment. Both candidates had completed a form declaring their consent to be considered for co-option which also confirmed their qualification to become Parish Councillors.

43.2 Members were satisfied that both candidates were qualified to be co-opted.

RESOLVED: that the following two people having confirmed that they were qualified to serve, be co-opted as Members of Lindfield Parish Council: Mrs. Elisabeth Ann Hinze and Mr. Stewart Shortland.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Hinze and invited her to take her place at the table.

44. DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE FROM THE NEWLY CO-OPTED MEMBERS.

- 44.1 Councillor Hinze read aloud and signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was co-signed by the Proper Officer.
- 44.2 It was **AGREED** that Councillor Shortland should make his Declaration of Acceptance of Office before the Proper Officer as soon as possible and that this would be received by Full Council at the next meeting.

45. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES OF THE NEWLY CO-OPTED MEMBERS

- 45.1 It was **AGREED** to appoint Councillor Hinze to the Planning and Traffic Committee and the Environment and Amenities Committee and Councillor Shortland to the Planning and Traffic Committee and the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

46. WHITE HORSE PUBLIC HOUSE: APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF THE PROPERTY AS AN ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE UNDER THE COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID PROVISIONS OF THE LOCALISM ACT 2011.

- 46.1 It had come to light that rumours were circulating on social media that the White Horse was to become a convenience store. The Head of Economic Promotion and Planning at MSDC had sent an email pointing out that unless the White Horse was listed as an Asset of Community Value, for which planning permission was required for change of use, this would come under permitted development [under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011].

This had been raised under Any Other Business at the Planning and Traffic Committee meeting held on 20 May, at which it had been agreed to prepare an application for registration of the White Horse as an Asset of Community Value and put this application before Full Council with a recommendation for approval to submit it to MSDC. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that the application had been completed and was ready to send, subject to the Council's approval.

A number of points were made during discussion:

- registration would stop the automatic process for changing the use of the property
- it would also place a moratorium on sale of the property on the open market for a six month period, to allow time to put together a community bid to purchase it, although this did not oblige the vendor to sell to the community.
- the requirement to get planning permission for change of use for assets of community value did not necessarily mean that the planning application would be dealt with in committee rather than by officers under delegated powers
- the registration process would take several weeks
- the owners would be informed by MSDC at the relevant stage in the process
- the White Horse could not be compared with The Ship Inn at Cuckfield as the White Horse was in a more important location in the heart of the village centre

It was **RESOLVED** to submit the application to MSDC for registration of the White Horse Public House as an Asset of Community Value under the Community Right to Bid provisions of the Localism Act 2011. It was further **AGREED** that 20 High Street, formerly the Floral Studio, which was understood to be in the same ownership, should be included in the application.

The meeting concluded at 7.35 p.m.