

LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 23rd June 2011 IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM

PRESENT: Mr. B. Davolls (Chairman)
Miss N. Norman (Vice Chairman) Mrs. E. King (Clerk)
Mrs. T. Sienkiewicz
Mr. S. Crane

Members of Public: 1

The Chairman welcomed everybody to this Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council and congratulated the newly elected ward Councillors, Mr. Paul Thompson and Mr. Barry Walker (in their absence) and looked forward to establishing a good working relationship in the future.

38/11 TO CO-OPT THE REMAINING COUNCILLOR POSITION

Mrs. Teresa Sienkiewicz proposed that Mrs. Peggie Finlayson should return on the Council, this was seconded by Mr. Stephen Crane and Mrs. Finlayson duly accepted.

39/11 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Mrs. Finlayson signed the Declaration of Acceptance Form to be co-opted onto the Parish Council and this was passed over to the Clerk.

40/11 APOLOGIES

Mrs. Carole Mansfield, who has registered an interest in the Clerk's position, was unable to attend the Meeting and sent her apologies.

41/11 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

42/11 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th May 2011 were read and signed as a true copy.

43/11 MATTERS ARISING (NOT COVERED)

None

44/11 UPDATE ON PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

We now have our last Councillor and Mr. Nick George has agreed to take over from Mr. Michael Canton as the Internal Auditor. Hopefully the Clerk's position will be filled within the next few weeks.

45/11 LIMITATIONS OF EXISTING LPC STANDING ORDERS

It is a requirement for the Council to review the standing orders and code of conduct at least once during each term of office. The Standing Orders are the set of rules that govern how the Council conducts its business. This Council has a particular issue that may warrant immediate attention and revisions to both the Standing Orders and the code of conduct. Three of the five Councillors are near neighbours and any matter that may lead to a personal and prejudicial interest for any one of the three could, under certain circumstances, extend to all three. This would leave the Council inquorate and unable to hear and conclude any such matter.

To allow the matter to be heard, one approach is to modify the Council's Standing Orders and Code of Conduct to allow members with a Prejudicial interest to make representations, answer questions and give evidence on the matter at the meeting. Once the matter has been fully aired, (at the discretion of the Chairman), the conclusion of the matter would be delegated to the Clerk to respond to the District Council (or other) in consultation with the Councillors.

The Chairman proposed that we should review and modify our Standing Orders and Code of Conduct generally, including specific changes to allow those with Prejudicial Interests to make representations, answer question and give evidence.

Vote – For – this was unanimous.

46/11 FUTURE MEETINGS DATES AND TIMES

September 19th 2011 at 7.30 p.m.

December 12th 2011 at 7.30 p.m.

47/11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Drains have been cleared in Lopen

Neighbourhood Watch – there have been a spate of breaking into cars parked at beauty spots. Advise keep valuables out of sight.

Saturday, 6th August, there will be a working party in the churchyard.