

STOKE SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 21ST MARCH 2020 IN THE MEMORIAL HALL

20/051 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Press and Public are excluded from the meeting in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960 by reason of the confidential nature of business to be discussed.

The Press and public are only excluded for public health safety reasons due the Covid-19 virus and Government requirements

20/052/a PRESENT:

Members: Mrs Barbara Brooks, Mr Hugh Donovan, Mr Andy Dawe, Mrs Rebecca Merrick and Mr Bill Southcombe

Others: Mrs Sarah Moore (Clerk),

20/034/b APOLOGIES:

Mrs L Foley, Mr Graham Middleton, Mrs Suzanne Nelms, and Mr Malcolm Uhlhorn

The Clerk explained that Cllr Rose has decided not to stay on the council. Cllr Merrick said that those who wished to be co-opted onto the council should attend at least one meeting so that they are aware of what is involved.

20/053 SUSPENSION OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

It was RESOLVED to suspend all parish council meetings due to the Covid-19 virus.

20/054 DELEGATION OF POWERS:

The following decisions were RESOLVED:

- a. Should the council be unable to meet for whatever reason, the Clerk be given delegated authority to progress all ongoing matters and projects and authorise all regular payments and incur expenditure in line with the council's agreed budget and any decisions taken under resolution (a) above will be taken, whenever possible, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council and the relevant Committee Chairman (if appropriate). A record of all decisions and expenditure incurred under delegated authority will be kept and reported to members when the council next meets.
- b. The authority to decide the council's response to planning applications be delegated to the Clerk or Assistant Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman of the Planning Committee and Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council. Whenever possible, members of the Planning Committee (or council in the case of large applications) will be informed of applications out for consultation and will be invited to submit comments to the Clerk.
- c. The provisions outlined in resolutions (a-b) above will override any requirements to the contrary in the council's standing orders, financial regulations or terms of reference.

- d. In the interest of staff, volunteer and public safety to the community office will be closed to the public, except by appointment, wherever government advice deems this to be appropriate.

It was agreed that the Clerk puts a notice up outside her door and on the noticeboard that residents can only contact her through email or by telephone.

- e. Should the Clerk be unable to perform her duties, Cllr Dawe will assume the role of Proper Officer and Cllr Merrick will assume the role of RFO in an unpaid capacity.

It was agreed that the Clerk puts all passwords in a sealed envelope and gives it to the Chairman.

- f. The Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, may incur expenditure from the project earmarked reserve where such expenditure will help the community's efforts to support those in need of assistance or prevent social isolation.

The Clerk explained the power under the Local Government Act 1972 s.137 can be utilised for any expenditure made to assist with the needs of the elderly and vulnerable members of the community. However, NALC have asked the government if parish council could temporarily use the General Power of Competence for such cases. This has yet to be approved.

- g. Should government allow councils to meet virtually (online), the council will take all reasonable steps to facilitate this.

It was agreed to look at the various online meeting sites.

The Clerk said she had just received notification that the Government will be extending the deadline for local government financial audits to 30th September 2020. Also, as local councils are following government guidelines on social distancing and social isolation by not holding scheduled meetings, including annual council meetings, NALC's opinion is that a legal challenge would be unsuccessful.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.45pm.