

DUNCHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes from the extraordinary meeting on Tuesday 21st February 2018 in the Village Hall, Dunchideock

Present:- Cllrs P Goodchild, A Connett, J Goodey, and E Ellis

Also present Mrs C Retallick acting as clerk to the council and 17 Members of the public.

Cllr Goodey welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the circumstances that had led to this meeting being called. He then suggested that Cllr Goodchild be elected to chair the evening's meeting.

1) Election of the Chairman – Cllr Connett proposed Cllr Goodchild and Cllr Ellis seconded. Cllr Goodchild accepted the position and explained that, due to the unusual events which had reduced the number of councillors, he would take the role until the council was at its full complement when a permanent chairman could be appointed.

2) Apologies for Absence – Cllr Lake had work commitments.

3) Public Discussion – The Parish website was discussed at length. Questions were raised about its impartiality. Village users had been locked out and the Parish Council was not in control of the content. Mr Swain confirmed that he owned the domain name, that the website was not paid for by the parish council and that he had set it up and had been running it for the council while he was a councillor. Cllr Goodey reported that, in some other parishes, an independent parishioner was in control of the site but other organisations had access to edit their own pages and this worked very successfully. Cllr Connett suggested that now may be a good time to review the site as part of the way forward. The councillors agreed to discuss this at the next full council meeting. Mr Moor congratulated the village hall committee for the swift way they arranged for the repairs, allowing the hall to be back in use so quickly.

4) Declaration of Interest - Cllr Connett confirmed that, as appointees from other levels of local government, they did not need to declare any interests at this meeting.

5) Appointment of clerk – Cllr Goodchild asked the councillors to consider how the clerk's position should be filled. Cllrs Ellis suggested that Mrs Retallick be appointed as locum clerk. The position could then be advertised with an agreed deadline date. Cllr Connett added that Mrs Retallick should be appointed for a period up to six months, giving the council the necessary time to advertise and appoint a permanent clerk. Cllr Ellis seconded this proposal and all were in favour.

6) Contact details for this council – The meeting agreed that the locum clerk would now be the point of contact for the council.

7) Minutes – After a long discussion over the correct process to follow and, in the light of the advice Cllr Connett had received from the Monitoring Officer, he was happy to approve the minutes of the last two meetings, held on December 19th and January 30th. The November minutes would be offered at the next full council meeting in March.

8) Co options of 2 councillors

a) Adoption of co-option process. An application document, which listed the requirements for a councillor and provided space for the applicants' personal views on the post, had been completed by the two applicants and circulated to the council before the meeting. All were in favour of adopting the process.

b) Appointment of the 2 councillors vacancies- the two candidates were Mrs Sarah Sharpe and Mr Stephen Moor and they were asked to speak in support of their applications to become a councillor. Cllr Connett was happy to support and propose both candidates and all were in favour. They were then invited to sign the declaration of office and join the council.

The chairman then explained that there are still 3 vacancies; the notice of casual vacancy would be published within the next two days, thereby setting the dates for either an election or a further co-option.

9) Finance - To authorise urgent payments.

Clerks salary	72.40
HMRC PAYE	18.00
Clerks Final Expenses payment	54.00

The clerk explained the unusual reason why these cheques had not previously come before the council. Cllr Connett proposed all the payments should be authorised. All were in favour of these payments being made.

10) Public Discussion – A member of the public reminded the Council about the grant that had been promised at the last meeting towards the repairs to the village hall. Cllr Connett would check that his grant had been processed, Mr Swain informed the meeting he had applied for the electors grant and Cllr Goodey was able to confirm that those payments would be sent out shortly. Mr Swain was thanked for making his application.

11) Items for Information - The next council meeting will be on 20th March 2108 at 7.30pm in Dunchideock Village Hall, where future council meeting dates will be discussed
Meeting closed at 8.15pm.