



LOCKING PARISH COUNCIL



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The Parish Hall, Grenville Avenue, Locking BS24 8AR
Telephone: 01934 820786 Email: clerk@lockingparishcouncil.co.uk

Minutes of an Extra Ordinary Meeting of Locking Parish Council held on Thursday 22 April 2021
at 7pm via Zoom

Meeting opened: 7pm

Meeting closed: 8.30pm

Present: Councillors: P Jones (Chairman) J Keate (Vice Chairman), W Bearsby, L Mason, P Lacey, W Ashdown, M Tremlett, A Hetherington, J Roberts

Also, in attendance:
The Clerk

MATTERS FOR DECISION

C444 To receive Apologies for absence and to approve reasons where appropriate
Cllr Prosser – Approved
Cllr ap Rees – Approved

C445 To receive Declarations of Interest by PCllrs and to consider any written applications dispensations:
Cllr Tremlett Declared and Interest in the Following:
Min Ref C446
Min Ref: C449
Min Ref: C450

MATTERS FOR DECISION

C446 Planning Application 21/P/0607/FUL – 1a Elm Tree Road, Locking – Demolition of existing lean-to extension on east elevation and conversion from two holiday lets to dwelling. Planning Working Group recommended a neutral response with additional comments regarding speeding vehicles for Highway's consideration. **AGREED**

C447 Code of Conduct – To receive the Local Government Association Model Code of Conduct for discussion and to consider adopting in whole and/or with local amendments.

The Chairman read the following statement:

Councillors, as you are aware, certain matters concerning LPC current Code of Conduct were referred to the Monitoring Office at North Somerset Council for investigation and adjudication. Individual Councillors and the Parish Clerk have recently received updates the contents of which will be disclosed later during this meeting. Within the updates there were a number of recommendations highlighted especially in respect of our Parish Code of Conduct.

One recommendation which has been circulated to all Cllrs concerns the LGA Model Code of Conduct It is recommended:

"That Locking Parish Council upgrades its Code of Conduct to include, as a minimum a clause that councillors should not exhibit behaviour which 'brings the Council or office of Councillor into disrepute'. "It is also recommended that it does this by adopting the LGA Model Code of Conduct". "Locking Parish Council should also seek to decouple the Dignity in the Workplace policy from the Code of Conduct and replace the reference to the policy with a simple clause based on the clause relating to bullying which can be found in the LGA Model Code of Conduct".

It is worthy of note that the Deputy Monitoring Officer intends to write to all Parish Councils in the future with regard to adopting the new LGA Model Code of Conduct which incorporates a bullying & harassment clause. It is anticipated that this will be adopted by NSC itself in the next few months, and it is hoped that Parish Council will adopt it as well.

Discussion ensued surrounding some of the wording which in some Cllrs view could be stronger. **AGREED** to Accept the LGA Model Code of Conduct with no amendments. 8 For, 1 Against

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7/5/24

PART TWO

Exclusion of press and public.

(The Council is recommended to resolve that members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the agenda item/s below by reason of the confidential nature of the item/s of business to be transacted, in accordance with section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

C448 North Somerset Council - Monitoring Officer – To receive recommendations and update.

The Chairman went through the findings and recommendations made on behalf of the Deputy Monitoring Officer with Councillors. The recommendation to adopted LGA Model Code of Conduct was adopted at this meeting. The Chairman asked that the Human Resources Committee to discuss the recommendations relating to staff at their next meeting

19.40hrs the following left the meeting:

Cllr Tremlett Declared an Interest as per the newly adopted Code of Conduct and left the meeting

The Clerk left the meeting as the agenda items related to her

Cllr Lacey left the meeting

C449 Disciplinary Complaint – receive update and decide course of action. An update was provided by the Grievance Panel, a course of action was discussed which was to be further debated in the next item of business.

C450 Grievance Complaint – receive update and decide course of action. An update was provided by the Grievance Panel, it was agreed by Council that the complainant should be interviewed by the Grievance Panel in order to obtain a response in respect of the Disciplinary Complaint, the Panel was also to investigate the Grievance Complaint.

There being no further business the meeting Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

Signed (Chairman).....

Date.....7/5/21

The next meeting of Locking Parish Council will be at 7pm held via Zoom on Tuesday 6th May 2021