

Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd June 2015 at 7.30pm in the Booth Hall.

1 Present

Cllr T Allwood (Chairman), Cllr K Kay, Cllr G Trussler, Cllr G Dean, Cllr C Przystupa, Cllr A Chinnery, Cllr P Milton, Cllr M Williams.
8 Members of the Public

Cllr Kay agreed to record the minutes of the meeting.

2 Apologies for absence

Cllr T Sams, Cllr J Sams, Cllr S Morris, Mrs A Broadhurst (Parish Clerk)

3 Minutes of the Annual Meeting

Annual Parish Council Meeting 20th May 2015 – It was proposed by Cllr Chinnery to defer consideration of these minutes until the next Ordinary meeting on the 24th June 2015. Seconded by Cllr Dean; with all in favour.

4 Dispensations for Councillors

The Chairman read a statement stating the reasons for calling this Extraordinary Council Meeting.

“This meeting has been called on an urgent basis so that the Council may take action to facilitate its business in accordance with the law, its code of conduct and do so in a timely manner. The sole purpose of this meeting is for the Council to consider the individual requests of Councillors for Dispensations in respect of DPLs. The Localism Act 2011 Section 33 (2) reads as follows

(The Chairman read out the relevant wording of the Act)

When considering the individual requests for dispensation this evening, Members must satisfy themselves that one or more reasons stated in Section 33 (2) (a) and/or (c) are met before granting the dispensation.

These dispensations if granted will permit the smooth transaction of the council's business (e.g. the work of the Planning Committee) and it will be in the interests of Harrietsham's residents for all Councillors to be able to engage fully in the discussions of the Neighbourhood Plan. At the moment, it would appear ten of the eleven elected councilors have a pecuniary interest that would ordinarily prevent them from fully participating in discussion and votes on Neighbourhood Planning matters. As members know, the Harrietsham Draft Neighbourhood Plan is currently in the process of being withdrawn for further Regulation 14 consultation and amendment. There is a pending Planning Application for Tong's Meadow and urgent action is required to revise the Council's view and recommendation to MBC on this application.

The Good Councillor Guide (Page 24) states that a Councillor may vote on his/her own request for a dispensation. In the interests of openness & transparency and adherence to the Nolan principles I believe it would be the right thing to do if we were to waive this "voting right" and leave the meeting while the Council considers our own individual dispensation requests.”

The Chairman indicated he would do so and all Councillors present also waived their voting rights.

Each Councillor that sought a dispensation left the meeting for his/her application to be considered.

Whilst out of the meeting the details of the Dispensation Request Form were read out for the remaining Councillors to consider. The first to leave was Cllr Kay, the recording of the minutes in his absence was undertaken by the Chairman.

Cllr Kay

Proposed Cllr Williams

Seconded Cllr Trussler

All in favour

Councillor Kay then returned and was informed by the Chairman that his dispensation has been granted a written copy of which he would receive from the Parish Clerk within 5 working days.

Cllr Kay returned to taking the minutes.

Councillors then left the room in turn for their applications to be considered by the remaining Councillors. Councillors Chinnery and Przystupa left the meeting together and returned only after both their individual requests had been considered by Council.

The results were as follows:

Cllr Williams	Proposed Cllr Trussler	Seconded Cllr Chinnery	All in favour
Cllr Trussler	Proposed Cllr Przystupa	Seconded Cllr Milton	All in favour
Cllr Dean	Proposed Cllr Milton	Seconded Cllr Trussler	All in favour
Cllr Przystupa	Proposed Cllr Trussler	Seconded Cllr Dean	All in favour
Cllr Chinnery	Proposed Cllr Kay	Seconded Cllr Dean	All in favour
Cllr Allwood	Proposed Cllr Milton	Seconded Cllr Trussler	All in favour

Cllr Morris's application which the Chairman had received via email was considered in his absence from the meeting.

Cllr Morris	Proposed Cllr Williams	Seconded Cllr Przystupa	All in favour
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Secondary dispensations were submitted by Cllrs Trussler and Dean.

Cllr Trussler's dispensation request was to permit him to discuss but not to vote on all council business relating to the maintenance of Pilgrims Lakes and Woodlands Walk.

Cllr Trussler	Proposed Cllr Kay	Seconded Cllr Williams	All in favour
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Cllr Dean's dispensation request was to permit her to discuss and vote on all council business relating to the maintenance of Pilgrims Lakes and Woodlands Walk. Cllr Chinnery stated that she believed that the dispensation for Cllr Dean should only allow for discussion and not for voting rights. This was agreed by the other Councillors present and the matter was deferred until the next ordinary meeting of the council on the 24th June 2015.

5 Date of next meeting

Full Parish Council Meeting - **Wednesday 25th June 2015 at 7.30pm** in Booth Hall

With no further matters to discuss, the meeting was closed at 8.15pm