

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE FULL PARISH COUNCIL

(via Zoom video conferencing platform)

HELD ON MONDAY 15TH MARCH 2021 AT 9.00PM - Hosted by Hazel Roxby – Deputy Clerk

Present via video link: Cllrs Norcross (Chairman), Campbell, Lloyd, Goldsmith, Hanson, Rudkin, Young, S. Sullivan, G. Sullivan, Northam, Trundle and Alexander.

Clerk: John Fullbrook

Members of the Public: 10 (including District Councillor Bob Platt)

Meeting commenced 9.00PM

MINUTES

FULL/20/141 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

141.1 None

FULL/20/142 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. –

142.1 Cllrs Campbell and Goldsmith declared a personal interest in items 4 and 5 on the agenda.

FULL/20/143 QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR –

143.1 Mr Trevor Cree made a statement concerning the Personnel Committee and stated that all the items used to be discussed and dealt with under F&GP Committee. The Personnel Committee is not on the meeting schedule and often it is not known by the public in good time when a meeting will be held. There is not always 'question from the floor' on the agenda and it quite often goes into confidential session. He acknowledged that staff matters such as pay and other issues should be in confidential session but felt that the Personnel Committee is not serving any purpose and should go back to being F&GP.

The Chairman thanked Trevor Cree and stated that the comments were duly noted.

143.2 Mr Philip Bowell noted that he believed item 4 and 5 on the agenda covering continuous disrespect to the office staff ought to be heard in public session.

FULL/20/144 PROPOSED CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

144.1 The Chairman read out the proposal for entering into confidential session.

To resolve, under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, in accordance with Standing Orders 3d to exclude the press and public on the grounds that the confidential matters to be discussed under item 5 may involve disclosure of personal or privileged information which would be inappropriate to put in the public domain.

144.2 Cllr Campbell raised 3 points of order regarding the wording, the decision-making process, the confidential motion and the lack of evidence to deal with the discussions on the agenda and stated that he felt the meeting would be a disciplinary meeting and would likely not be discussed in an unbiased or rational way, in his opinion.

Cllr Northam made a point of order that the meeting seemed to be entering into discussions under item 5 before it had been agreed whether or not it should be confidential or otherwise. The Clerk informed that the item on the agenda was recommended by the personnel committee, and was derived from the Duty of Care report authored by James Corrigan and concerning the inappropriate behaviour by some councillors and the need for the council to deal with these issues. Cllr Campbell queried whether the motion proposed for the meeting had been signed by 8 councillors in accordance with Standing Order 26b as is stated as a requirement when amending standing Orders.

- 144.3** The Chairman asked if there was a proposer for the meeting to go into confidential session. There was no proposer for this therefore the meeting continued in public session.

FULL/20/145 STAFFING MATTERS

- 145.1** **The Personnel Committee have recommended a motion to be agreed by Full Council in respect of the vexatious nature of continued disrespectful personal attacks by two Councillors on the integrity and standing of the Steyning Parish Council's Officers.**

Cllr Lloyd acknowledged that the point made by Cllr Campbell was a valid point as eight councillors had not proposed the motion as per standing orders. Cllr Lloyd **proposed** that the motion was withdrawn and that the Personnel Committee re-visit it. Cllr Campbell **seconded**, providing the following be added, - that he would like to see evidence of the emails put in the public domain providing that there is a complete trail. Cllr Goldsmith reiterated that he was happy for emails, providing they were complete trails, to be put in the public domain.

Cllr Northam reminded Cllrs that the council has a Duty of Care to the staff and that the council should act quickly to get this sorted for the benefit of the staff.

- 145.2** Cllr Lloyd proposed that the motion as per the confidential supporting paper be withdrawn and that the personnel committee meet to discuss the evidence that it is going to provide for members of the council and to decide on a new motion that is in line with the standing orders as they currently stand.
Following a brief discussion, it was noted that as the original motion had been withdrawn, therefore there was no requirement for a further motion.

FULL/20/146 DATE OF NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING: 19th APRIL 2021 at 7.30pm

The meeting was closed at 9.40pm

Signed Date 19th April 2021
Chairman

Video link to this meeting - <https://archive.org/details/2021-03-15-steyning-parish-council-eom>