**WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON MONDAY 1ST JULY 2019 AT 7:30PM IN WICKHAM MARKET**

**VILLAGE HALL, COMMITTEE ROOM**

Present:- Cllr Dick Jenkinson (Chairman)

Cllr Robin Cooke Cllr David Chenery

Cllr Mike Hawes Cllr Emma Lawrence

Cllr Alan Biddle Cllr Patrick Roper

Cllr Fiona Parker Cllr Lisa Sanders

Cllr Sonya Exton Cllr Ivor French

Cllr John Horsnell

**Welcome by the Chairman** **and to open the meeting**

In attendance: Joanne Peters – Parish Clerk. There were 9 members of the public present.

The Chairman informed Councillors and members of the public present that the Clerk would be recording this meeting.

1. **To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Nobbs.

**2. To receive Councillors Declarations of Interests**

Cllr Horsnell declared an interest as he is a plot holder at the Glebe Allotment site.

**2.1 - To consider any dispensations**

None received.

**3. Public Forum**

A member of the public asked if a Public Forum session could be held at the end of this meeting.

A member of the public stated he had been liaising with residents at Richard Kitson Court and they had stated they felt one individual Councillor should not have all the responsibility and control over the Parish Council and its Committees.

A further member of the public asked for a Public Forum to be held at the end of this meeting. The Chairman confirmed there would be a Public Forum item at the end of this meeting, as requested.

A member of the public stated he had heard a rumour that a vote of No Confidence was due to be taken at this meeting and advised he would like to read a letter of support for Cllr Jenkinson, Chairman. The member of the public read the letter as stated.

A member of the public asked why as to why the previous member of the public’s statement went on for so long.

A member of the public stated she would also like to read a letter in support of Cllr Jenkinson, Chairman and asked for it to be attached to the minutes. The member of the public read the letter as stated.

The Chairman thanked the members of the public for their comments.

Cllr Parker asked why a vote of no confidence had been put on the previous agenda. The Chairman stated for the previous meeting, which was cancelled due to it being unlawful, he had placed on the agenda what she had requested; in that the Chairman should stand down as Chairman of the Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan. A vote of no confidence was not requested as an agenda item for this meeting.

**4. Meetings with landowners**

Cllr Parker stated the Neighbourhood Plan process was now 3 years in and there have been meetings with landowners and these have not been in the public domain and there was no formal protocol for these meetings to which she raised concerns.

Cllr Sanders repeatedly stated it had been agreed at a previous Parish Council meeting that the Planning Committee must be informed of any meetings to be held with landowners. She raised concerns regarding the recent meeting held with Mr Carter and confirmed she had not received any notification to which she then raised serious concerns and asked the Chairman to clarify as to why, as Chairman of the Planning Committee, she had no knowledge of this meeting being carried out. The Chairman provided clarification and stated he was aware that meetings with landowners had been mentioned at previous meetings to which Cllr Sanders then continued to raise concerns.

Cllr Lawrence confirmed that all Councillors had been included within e-mails

concerning the meeting with Mr Carter. Cllr Sanders insisted that she had not received

this e-mail.

The Chairman provided clarification regarding the Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 Consultation responses and stated within that Mr Hayward’s response he had stated the land at the Old School Site may not be available for development and this is the reason a meeting was held with Mr Carter to clarify what land he was offering and his intentions.

The Chairman also gave details regarding a submission sent by Mr Carter’s agent in response to SCDC’s Local Plan Consultation in respect of other land in which he owns within Wickham Market.

The Chairman stated he had prepared a draft protocol for meetings with landowners to which Cllr Hawes recommended that this document should be taken to full Council for Approval. Cllr Parker raised concerns that the Chairman had taken it upon himself to compile this document.

Cllr Parker raised concerns that no elected officers had attended the meeting with Mr

Carter and asked the Chairman if he had attended a meeting on his own with a landowner to which the Chairman confirmed he had played golf with James Holland.

Cllr Biddle stated there is no problem with the Neighbourhood Plan Committee meeting with landowners and felt this Parish Council now appeared to have problems with these meetings and advised in his view there was currently a feeling of suspiciousness within the Council in general.

Cllr Biddle insisted that in future any meetings with landowners must include at least one elected member.

Cllr Sanders stated a Parish Councillor should have attended the meeting with Mr Carter to which the Chairman provided clarification.

Cllr Exton reported she had made a request to the Chairman to attend the meeting with Mr Carter and stated she was disappointed that she had not been included within this meeting to which she gave details and stated as an elected Councillor it could have been beneficial if she had attended.

Cllr Exton stated that other correspondence had been changed by the Chairman and made reference to the bullet points that were sent to Dr Dan Poulter, MP to which she raised concerns and also referred to a meeting held at Pettistree in which she had attended concerning SCDC’s Local Plan.

The Chairman stated the meeting held with Mr Carter was a pre meeting and that a formal meeting with Mr Carter could now be carried out and would be led by the Neighbourhood Plan Committee, but all Parish Councillors would be informed.

Cllr Biddle stated if a policy was drawn up it would prove difficult to arrange these meetings and stated that as we are in open meeting in his view Mr Carter’s name should not have been mentioned in public.

Cllr Parker asked the Chairman did he hold any extra powers as Chairman to which the Chairman provided clarification.

Cllr Parker stated the protocol for meetings with landowners is not correct and that she was unhappy how things have been carried out to date.

Cllr Sanders stated that communication was not adequate.

Cllr Parker advised having dealt with land agents in the past she felt it was very naïve for Parish Councillors to allow non-elected representatives to these meetings and going forward all future meetings with landowners must be put in the public domain.

It was agreed by all Councillors that going forward communication needed to be improved and any future meetings with landowners must be attended by at least one elected member.

**5. To consider correspondence between Cllr Dick Jenkinson, Chairman and**

**Cllr Lisa Sanders**

Cllr Parker stated she was disgusted by the letters sent to Cllr Sanders by the Chairman.

Cllr Sanders advised she was extremely angered by the letters and stated they were

untruthful.

The Chairman stated he was well aware the Clerk had been extremely stressed over the

e-mails received and to this effect she was legally advised the Parish Council adopts a

Bullying and Harassment policy.

Cllr Sanders repeatedly asked the Chairman in a raised voice to read out the tirade of emails and abuse to which he had referred to her sending the Clerk. The Chairman provided clarification and Cllr Sanders stated she was upset that she had been singled out and asked why Cllr Nobbs had not received a letter as she was aware he had also upset the Clerk.

The Chairman stated when this started he a choice, either to let what he thought was unacceptable behaviour take place or to try to stop this happening in future. He chose the latter and wrote to Cllr Sanders. In his view these letters did need to be sent and the behaviour that Cllr Sanders had demonstrated during the past five minutes had reinforced the reasons for him having to send these letters. He also stated that he felt he needed to write to Cllr Sanders in respect of her role as Chairman of the Planning Committee and stated in his view she did not understand how planning works at ESC and he was well aware to date she had not received any training.

Cllr Parker asked why her name was mentioned in the letter to Cllr Sanders to which the Chairman provided clarification and advised the Clerk was under pressure due to the amount of information requests received from herself and that in his view she was making the life of the Parish Council very difficult.

Cllr Parker stated if the information was in the public domain she would not need to make these information requests.

Cllr Chenery reported he understood that Cllr Parker had asked to add several items to the next Parish Council agenda to which he raised concerns and stated some of these items could be devolved to Committee’s.

Cllr Biddle stated the Chairman did bring unnecessary items to the Parish Council agendas and these could be devolved to Committee and stated in his view the Chairman was guilty of taking too much on himself and making decisions which are sometimes out of his control to which he provided details and also information regarding the correct process for the Committee scheme. He also stated the Chairman, as Civic Head, does an excellent job but at other times he needs to take a step back and seek advice if necessary.

Cllr Parker stated in her view Cllr Jenkinson should not be Chairman of several Committees and Working Groups to which she also raised concerns.

Cllr Biddle confirmed that all Councillors could attend any Committee meeting but would not be able to vote.

Cllr French stated less than 2 months ago Parish Council members voted in the current Chairman and after that they started looking at the Committees and Cllr Jenkinson had also been voted in as Chairman to some of these so this proves the correct process had been followed and he had been successfully voted as Chairman by a majority.

Cllr Parker stated its not democratic for Cllr Jenkinson to compile all the paperwork for meetings to which other Councillors raised concerns. Cllr Biddle provided clarification and stated the Parish Council should run smoothly through its Committees to which he gave details.

It was agreed a copy of the agenda for all meetings would be sent to all Parish Council members along with the draft minutes.

Cllr Sanders felt the letter sent to herself by the Chairman was uncalled for and he should have carried out some research prior to sending it.

**6. Way Forward**

Cllr Parker stated she had 6 items in which she would like discussed, as follows:-

**Training** – It was agreed this needed to be re-arranged and Cllr Parker stated she hoped

this would also prove to be a bonding session for Councillors.

**Recording of Meetings** – Cllr Parker stated she would not attend a meeting unless it was

being recorded to which the Chairman raised concerns.

**Monthly Meetings –** Cllr Parker stated she believes Parish Council meetings should be

held monthly as current Parish Council meetings go on for far too long. Cllr Biddle

stated if the Committees are used to their full potential the Parish Council meetings

shouldn’t be much longer than one hour.

Cllr Parker proposed for the next few months the Parish Council could meet monthly to

which there were concerns raised and there was no seconder.

The Chairman asked if there was a further proposal for the Parish Council to meet

monthly and it was suggested by several Councillors the Council should try out the

Committee scheme in the first instance.

**Communication** - It was agreed that going forward the draft unapproved minutes of all

meetings would be circulated to all Councillors.

**Protocol for Remits** – Cllr Parker raised concerns that e-mails were being sent at all-

hours day and night and that e-mails were not the correct way to agree matters. The

Chairman provided clarification and stated he would like to reduce e-mails going

forward. There was a brief discussion regarding e-mails and concerns were raised by

some Councillors in respect of Cllr Parkers comments as it was felt that some matters

needed to be considered via e-mail.

It was agreed that going forward any e-mails forwarded to all Councillors would be more

direct.

**Website** – Cllr Parker stated the Parish Council needed to reconsider the decision in

respect of the Parish Council’s website going over to the Visit Wickham Market site to

which she provided details. The Chairman ***closed the meeting*** to allow Colin Owens to

comment on the Visit Wickham Market website costs. The Chairman ***reconvened the***

***meeting***. Cllr Parker gave details as to what information she would like to see on the

website.

**Quality Parish Status** – Cllr Parker felt that QPS could be extremely beneficial for the

Parish Council. The Clerk provided clarification and stated this is something she too

would like to achieve going forward.

Cllr Cooke asked if going forward Councillors could be more polite to each other and

stated that he agreed going forward communication needed to be improved.

**5. Public Forum**

A member of the public stated the Committee scheme did require improvement and felt

that going forward e-mails should be more targeted and lead roles should be held.

She provided details regarding the recent response to the Sizewell C Scoping document

in which she had compiled in conjunction with the Clerk and stated although she was

happy to carry out this work she did have concerns that she had not received any input

from Parish Councillors.

The member of the public also referred to the recent meeting held with Dr Dan Poulter,

MP and stated she was very concerned the Parish Council were still promoting a new

road for the village.

She stated it would be beneficial if a programme of all meetings was available on the

website and in her view the current website is fine and should not be abandoned.

Finally, she stated there is a need for future meetings with landowners.

A member of the public stated that in his view the draft minutes of all meetings should go onto the Parish Councils website. This request was **Unanimously Agreed.**

A member of the public stated that she was aware that Mr Carter was very upset that his

name has been mentioned at recent meetings. She confirmed the recent meeting with Mr

Carter was not the only meeting held with him and reminded Cllr Sanders that she had

also attended a meeting with Mr Carter and the Chairman just last year. Cllr Sanders

stated this meeting was held in WM Resource Centre to which the member of the public

requested Cllr Sanders not to interrupt her.

She stated that farmers do liaise with one another and the reason for the meeting was so

that Mr Carter could offer land for development to assist the Neighbourhood Plan and he

was even offering to provide a nature reserve.

A member of the public raised his voice and asked the Chairman why he had agreed to

arrange the meeting with Mr Carter knowing this would upset the Chairman of the

Planning Committee. He also referred to comments made by the Chairman at the recent

Neighbourhood Plan Committee meeting in respect of Mr Carters proposal and stated

the comments made were not up to him to make without the agreement of the rest of the

Neighbourhood Plan Committee.

The member of the public continued to raise his voice and stated the Chairman hasn’t

got time to carry out all his roles and therefore he needed to give some up. Finally, he

suggested the Traffic & Parking Working Group needed to become a Committee to

which he provided clarification.

A member of the public stated that Parish Councillors were elected members and the

Code of Conduct needed to be adhered to at all times.

A member of the public stated she wished she had never attended this meeting as she

was disgraced by the behaviour of some Council members and it would be a long time

before she attended another meeting of the Parish Council. Cllr Sanders went to

comment to which the member of the public raised her voice and asked her not to

interrupt her when speaking.

The Clerk stated that she too was disgraced by the outcome of this meeting and the

behaviour of some of those present.

There being no further discussion or comments from the members of the public present the Chairman formally closed the meeting at 9:30pm

Signed:……………………………………………. Dated:…………………….........