

THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the extra-ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Friday 14th December 2018 at 10.00am in the Parish Council Office, New Green Centre, Thurston.

In the Chair: Cllr. Dashper

Present: Cllrs. Haley, Hasler, Moss, Mrs O'Connell and Robinson. **In Attendance:** Mrs V Waples, Clerk and 1 member of the public.

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 10.00am. It was confirmed that the Chairman was in attendance in accordance with LGA 1972 Schedule 12 Paragraph 11(1) and Council's Own Standing Order 30 which states that at a Parish Council Meeting the Chairman, if present, shall preside.

1. **To resolve that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the meeting has been called to consider a complaint against the Council, Officers of the Council and members of the Council and that under the Data Protection Act 1998, a council has obligations as to how it uses personal data about the individual complainant and those named in the complaint** – it was resolved by a majority decision to exclude the member of the public on the above grounds.

It is recorded that the Chair did not participate in the vote on this matter.

The member of the public left the meeting.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –**

- a) Apologies of absence were received from Cllrs. Fawcett, Mrs Morris & Rainbow due to personal commitments and Cllr. Thurlbourn due to a work commitment.
- b) Council consented to accept these apologies by a majority decision.

3. **TO HEAR THE COMPLAINT AGAINST THE COUNCIL WITH REFERENCE TO THE COUNCIL'S COMPLAINT PROCEDURE:**

Following a challenge to the exclusion of the member of the public as per the resolution under Agenda Item 1, it was resolved by a unanimous decision to allow the member of the public to attend the meeting to monitor the circumstances of the personal welfare of the complainant.

It is recorded that the Chair did not participate in the vote on this matter.

The member of the public returned to the meeting and the grounds of their presence were explained to the meeting and acknowledged.

- a) Chair to introduce everyone – the Chair provided an introduction to all present.
- b) Chair to explain the procedure – the Chair outlined the procedure with reference to the Council's complaint procedures.
- c) Complainant to outline the grounds for the complaint - CONFIDENTIAL
- d) Council members to ask questions of the complainant - CONFIDENTIAL
- e) Clerk to explain the Council's position - CONFIDENTIAL
- f) Council members to ask questions of the clerk - CONFIDENTIAL
- g) Clerk and complainant to be offered the opportunity of the last word - CONFIDENTIAL

4. **Council to consider whether or not the grounds for the complaint have been made** – the Clerk and the complainant left the room whilst the members considered the complaint.

So signed by the Chairman at the meeting of 23rd January 2019

It is recorded that the Chair did not take part in the vote that ensued during the consideration of the complaint.

5. **Council to convey to the Clerk and the complainant the Council's decision** – the Chairman verbally advised the Clerk and the complainant that the complaint had not been upheld as the Council had found no grounds for the complaint. It was confirmed that the Council had found no evidence of any accusations against the complainant or against their integrity. The Council also recommended that all Councillors participate and benefit from training in the Register of Interests with reference to the Suffolk Local Code of Conduct.

It is noted that the Chair will provide the complainant with the written decision of the Council within the next couple of days.

6. The Chairman closed the meeting at 11.35am.