

## BRITWELL PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BRITWELL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2019 AT 7.00 P.M. IN THE PARISH COMMUNITY CENTRE

**Present** Cllr O.Isernia (in the chair)  
Cllrs. R Anderson ,P.Murphy and S.Wright.

**In Attendance** : Mr. J. Holder (Locum Clerk) ;  
Mr P Roles & Mrs Y Roles

#### **19/17/PC Chairman for the Meeting**

It was **agreed** that Cllr Isernia should be the chairman for the meeting.

#### **19/18/PC Public Discussion**

18.1 Mrs Roles expressed her disappointment, as a former councillor, that notwithstanding the result of the referendum, Slough BC had decided to abolish the Council. She said that this last year with the NAG and Council working together, good things had been achieved. If it had not been for the holiday accident, a further good community event would have taken place in November. On a personal level, she further thanked the Council for their support of the Britwell Drama Group but noted that for personal reasons, she could no longer support it and it had been disbanded. Council members in turn were pleased to see Mr Roles recovered and expressed their appreciation of the support of NAG and Mrs Roles herself.

18.2 Mrs Roles asked Cllr Anderson how he reconciled his respective presence on Slough BC and this Council. He said that he made decisions based on the facts, doing what he believed best for the Council when sitting here and what best for Slough BC when attending as a councillor there.

#### **19/19/PC Declaration of Interest**

Cllr. Anderson made a general declaration that he was a member of Slough BC and specifically in respect of agenda item 8.

#### **19/20/PC Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs. M. Carter, Mrs J Finn and J. Finn.

#### **19/21/PC Minutes of the meetings held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January were **approved** as an accurate record of the meetings and signed by the Chairman.

#### **19/22/PC Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)**

22.1 *Co-Option of member (item 19/6)* – The Locum Clerk said that further to his co-option, Cllr Isernia had completed a Register of Interest Form which had been sent to the Monitoring Officer and had also signed a Declaration of acceptance of Office.

22.2 *Abolition Order/TUPE (item 19/10.4)* - The Locum Clerk said that he had written to staff on Abolition and had sent details for TUPE purposes to Slough BC.

22.1 *Summer Celebration 2019 (item 19/11.1)* - In light of the Abolition Order , the Locum Clerk had written to Mr Vyas to confirm the Council would not commit to project planning but that it would still confirm arrangements for the FunFair on the weekend of 22 June. Cllr Wright noted that he was in contact with the Fun Fair. **Action: Cllr Wright**

## **19/23/PC NET & Neighbourhood Police Team**

23.1 There was no report.

## **19/24/PC Updates from Outside Bodies**

24.1 Cllr Murphy reported that the Youth Club had been open during the daytime and evening during half term. There had been 40 young people attending during the day with between 50 -60 in the evenings. Currently there was scaffolding up to put on an insulated roof; the cost was £55k but last year, they had received a funding grant which covered the cost. Round Table had also offered to help with repairs.

## **19/25/PC Planning**

25.1 The Locum Clerk said he had received no notice of any applications.. However he noted correspondence from Mr Damer concerning a proposed development at 143 Farnham Lane, which he had circulated to members. Cllr Anderson said that the applicant had previously tried to build 2 houses on the

## **19/26 /PC Community Governance Review 2018: Abolition Order**

26.1 The Locum Clerk said that there were three areas of activity – a) the Abolition process; b) Without Prejudice discussions and c) Judicial Review.

26.2 As previously noted, further to the Abolition process he had contacted staff and had provided TUPE required details to Slough BC in respect of staff. The main asset of the Council was the Community Centre and land, and Slough BC had details of this from the public records at the Land Registry. Beyond that, because of the two other strands, there had been no further movement.

26.3 Since the last Council meeting, the Locum Clerk had on 25 January attended a meeting at Slough BC with Sushil Thobhani, the Service Lead responsible at Slough BC for the Abolition process and Catherine Meek, Head of Democratic Services. This was a “Without prejudice “ meeting, being without prejudice to any legal action which the Parish Council might take. The Locum Clerk made clear at that meeting that although this two pronged approach had been agreed by the Council at its meeting on 3 December, what it might constitute had not been discussed in any detail nor agreed by the Council. What he therefore stated at this meeting on 25 January only represented his initial thoughts as to what this might be. The Locum Clerk had previously circulated his Notes of that meeting to the Council.

26.4 Mr Holder had yesterday received a Without Prejudice response from Mr Thobhani, requesting a further meeting. Mr Holder had also circulated this letter to members. It was **agreed** that Cllr Wright should accompany Mr Holder to the next meeting.

**Action: Locum Clerk/Cllr Wright**

26.5 The Locum Clerk had instructed Wellers Hedleys and they had in turn briefed Counsel to advise and act for the Council in respect of legal action against the Abolition Order. He understood from solicitors that once a judicial review is filed at court, this would stay the Slough BC Order to abolish the Council. It might then be 4 or 6 months before there would be a full trial to consider the issue. Cllr Anderson said that whilst *in theory* the Abolition Order might be stayed, nonetheless there would *actually* be no parish council for two reasons. Firstly the term of the current parish councillors expires in May but in the absence of any new elections, then there will be no parish councillors in being after May. Secondly, in order to fund the parish council, Slough BC would need to levy a precept on the local parishioners which they will not be doing. Therefore there will be no more money to fund the parish council after April. Cllr Anderson enquired whether the correct questions had been asked or would this be wasting legal costs. Mr Holder said that the Council had previously decided it wished to pursue judicial review in light of the referendum result; he had provided documentation to the solicitors and

he believed the brief to Counsel, which solicitors had drafted and he had approved, was appropriate. Mr Holder said that the Council had submitted its precept for 2019/20 to Slough BC within the timescales it had submitted its precept requests for previous years. However Cllr Anderson had now raised potential new concerns and he would contact the Council's lawyers for their consideration.

**Action: Locum Clerk**

## **19/27/PC Community Centre and Sports Ground**

27.1 *Premises Repairs* – Cllr Wright said that he was awaiting the revised quote for the perimeter fencing.

**Action: Action: Cllr Wright**

27.2 *Pool Table* – Cllr Murphy noted a request from the Bar that as the money container on one of the pool tables was defective and it was no longer being used, that it be removed from the Bar; the manager had found someone to remove it. It was agreed that the Council should dispose of this pool table but before permitting the Bar to remove it, Cllr Wright should check with the local church group if they wanted it

**Action: Action: Cllr Wright**

27.3 *Bookings Ledgers* – The Locum Clerk had previously circulated Ledgers in respect of Hall bookings generally, for Glad Tidings Church and for the playing fields.

27.3.1 *Hall Bookings* - a) In respect of a booking made by R Mohammed for 22 July, the Locum Clerk noted that the Council currently held both the deposit and hire fee for this. The booking had been cancelled at very short notice but due to a family bereavement. Bearing in mind the special circumstances, it was **agreed** that all moneys should be refunded.

**Action: Locum Clerk**

b) The Council **agreed** that due to previous service as a councillor, no charge had been made for a wake held by Mr Lynch for his wife on 13 December. The Locum Clerk noted the entry shown for 7 February should be removed as this had not taken place. He confirmed that Hall bookings payments were up to date.

27.3.2 *Glad Tidings Church* - The Locum Clerk confirmed that all outstanding payments had been made.

27.3.3 *Field Hire* - Cllr Wright said that the remainder of the fee for the Britwell Reserves had been received. He had received a further £150 for Britwell FC but £400 was still outstanding; he would chase.

**Action: Cllr Wright**

## **19/28/PC Finance**

28.1 *Income & Expenditure* - The income and expenditure and bank reconciliation for January 2019 were **approved**. Mr Holder noted two items of income from the Bar. One represented all of the pool takings which the Council had approved taking (see minute 19/14.1) but which had also been confirmed by the tenant. There was also a lump sum part payment. In respect of the bank reconciliation, he noted that two deposit cheques each for £150 had been issued to Mr Chaudri but neither had been cashed. These cheques were now out of date. He had now written to Mr Chaudri to advise of this and on the basis he responded, a replacement cheque in due course would be required.

**Action: Locum Clerk**

28.2 It was noted that the cheque for £150 to C Allchin had been written out in error at the last meeting but had been cancelled before issue.

28.3 In addition to bank payments and direct debits, it was **agreed** to approve the following cheques:-

- £337.20 (inc VAT) to Active Electrical Services for alarm maintenance;
- £2,077.50 (inc VAT) to Manorcott Legal & Business Services for Locum Clerk's services;
- £246.00 to R. Mohammed to reimburse £150 Hall deposit and fee for 22 July plus £50 costs (see minute 19/27.3.1).

**19/29/PC Chicken Ranch Bar**

29.1 The Locum Clerk noted that apart from the moneys earlier referred to, there were still outstanding payments, to consider further in Part 2

**19/30/PC Any Other Business**

30.1 The Premises Working group had noted potholes in the car park and **agreed** these should be fixed. **Action: Cllrs Osernia/Wright**

**19/31/PC Next Meeting**

The next Full Council Meeting to be at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

**19/32/PC Exclusion of the public**

It was agreed that further to S.1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted under Items 14 and 15 on the agenda that the public be excluded and the matters dealt with in a subsequent Part Two meeting.

Part 1 of the meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting

.....Chairman

Dated.....