

DOWNTON PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 26th March 2018 at Downton Baptist Church, South Lane, Downton at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr Mace (Chairman) and Cllrs Brentor, Cordell, Cornell, Gentle, Mason, Quarmby, Pearce, Ricketts, Sutcliffe, Watts and Yeates.

In attendance: Mrs Bev Cornish, Parish Clerk

Also present: Four members of the public.

Public Question Time:

Mr Paul Stevens, representing a resident, gave a short briefing on the changes made to the planning application for land at the rear of The Kings, 9 High Street, Downton.

On behalf of the Parish Council, Cllr Peter Quarmby responded with several comments on the changes made and in comparison to the concerns raised in the Parish Council's comments on the previous application. He said the Parish Council would not be able to give an approved response until a full planning application had been received from Wiltshire Council.

A representative of the Downton Society advised that it would await sight of the new full planning application but the Society had strongly objected to the previous application.

Part 1

247.17 To receive apologies from Councillors: The Clerk confirmed that no apologies had been received.

248.17 To consider and resolve to approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 12th March 2018: Downton Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2018 as a true record and they were signed by the Chairman.

249.17 Declarations of Interest:

a. To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers:

Cllr Sutcliffe declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest in the matters raised during the public session in relation to the planning application and did not speak during the discussions.

b. To consider any Dispensation Requests received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered:

The Clerk advised that she had not received any requests for dispensations.

250.17 To resolve to refer any business raised by the public in public discussion, and any other matters or items of information from councillors, to the appropriate committee or to resolve to agree on any other action: No matters were raised which required referral or further action.

251.17 To receive a short verbal report from Cllr Mace and:

a. To consider the Memorial Hall Working Group's recommendation that the Council should engage Mr Roger Taylor of Wellers Hedleys to provide specialist legal advice on the process of leasing the Memorial Hall and its new extension; and

b. To resolve to agree that the initial cost of this advice should not exceed £2,500 in value and that it should be taken from the allocated reserves.

Following a detailed report from Cllr Mace and his confirmation that legal advice had also be sought and received from the National Association of Local Councils, Cllr Sutcliffe proposed, Cllr Quarmby seconded and it was RESOLVED that Mr Taylor be engaged for a fee not exceeding £2,500 and that the cost be taken from the Parish Council's allocated reserves.

252.17 Next meeting: The next meeting will be held on Monday 9th April 2018 at 7.30 pm at the Band Hall, Gravel Close, Downton.

Part 2 – EXEMPT MATTERS – CONTRACTS & LEASES

253.17 Cllr Mace to propose the following resolution – ‘That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they be instructed to withdraw in view of the confidential nature of the business on contracts and leases about to be transacted’: Cllr Sutcliffe seconded and it was RESOLVED that members of the public be temporarily excluded from the meeting.

254.17 To consider and resolve to approve the contents of a draft Memorandum of Understanding to be agreed between the Parish Council, the Memorial Hall Committee and the Downton Community Pre-School together with supporting documentation for the Leasing of the Memorial Hall Extension:

Cllr Mace gave a lengthy briefing and explanation of the Memorandum of Understanding and supporting documentation and responded to questions from councillors. Cllr Brentor proposed, Cllr Yeates seconded and it was RESOLVED that the documentation be approved subject to amendments to be made as a result of the discussions and that the approval of the final version be delegated to Cllr Mace and members of the Memorial Hall Working Group.

With no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Members of the Council considered the foregoing in the matters in consideration of their duties: Equal Opportunities, (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability); Crime & Disorder, Health & Safety, and Human Rights.