

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE JUBILEE PARK MEETING ROOM
At 7.30 pm ON 16th March 2017**

Present: Cllrs Lowings (Chairman), Crummett, Goldsmith, Bennett and Dimoglou.

Apologies received from Cllrs Harvey & Myhill

In attendance Mrs K Wilson (Clerk) and 40 members of the public

Chairman's announcement: In line with good practice and Breckland Council the Clerk has proposed and he had agreed that meetings will now be recorded to assist with the minutes, and this evening is a trial of this. The Chairman put this to the Council and this was agreed unanimously.

1. **To receive and accept apologies for absence.**

Apologies received from Cllr Harvey, and Cllr Myhill who was unwell.

2. **To receive disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests and disclosable pecuniary interests and requests for dispensations from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting.**

Councillor Dimoglou said that it could be perceived that he had interests in items 3, 4,5, and 6 but in his opinion this was not the case but for the sake of propriety he declared he was prepared to leave the room when these items were discussed. The Chair agreed that this should happen, but he added that he wished to speak in the public session.

Cllr Dimoglou then called on the Chairman to stand-down for certain items on the agenda as he had a conflict of interest since Cllr Dimoglou had submitted a complaint to Standards about the way he had chaired the previous meeting.

The Chairman asked the other Councillors present if they were happy for him to continue to Chair the whole meeting, and they agreed he should.

3. **To hold a public session.**

Rev Sally Thurgill asked to speak about the Church Room which were falling into a state of disrepair and that there were a number of options in that it could be demolished and replaced or repaired. Mr Gust from the YVAA said at the current time there was an annual cost for repairs and maintenance whereby if it was rebuilt this option may be more cost effective in the longer term. The original 999 year lease was a full repair and maintenance lease. It has been proposed that a Working Group be set up to explore the options and Rev Thurgill asked that the PC support and participate in the Working Group.

Mr Gust spoke about Item 18 on the agenda re the possible acquisition of a portakabin for new changing rooms. It was asked if the PC could assist with this to save the planning fees for the YVAA. The Clerk agreed to write to the District Councillor for guidance .

7 **Item of Agenda was brought forward by the Chairman
To receive matters of interest from the District/County Councillor.**

Cllr Dimoglou spoke about the increase in Council Tax using Band D as an example. He stated that it represented extremely good value to local tax payers and Breckland provided all the services from just £78 of the £1500 as compared with around £31, the parish precept for the Parish Council.

The Chairman then advised that Cllr Dimoglou was welcome to address the meeting on the agenda items to follow before leaving the room for those agenda items.

Cllr Dimoglou made a number of points including:

- saying it was outrageous that the Chairman had allowed a vote of public no confidence take place at the previous meeting, as it was not an item of agenda for that meeting. He believed it should not have been included as an item of the agenda for this meeting as it was not legal and he would refer the matter to standards.
- He said that the decision that planning matters should in future be referred to Cllr Claussen had been taken forward as policy.
- the minutes of the previous meeting had been wrongly displayed before they had been agreed. He said that the minutes had not properly recorded his absence and omitted to record his apologies. In his view the minutes did not reflect the true position as regards the complaints made against him. He said he had been cleared of any wrong doing by standards and as far as he was concerned there were currently no outstanding complaints against him. He was upset this was still on the agenda along with the spurious allegations of ongoing LGO complaints.
- he said he had not attend the last few meetings as he felt the YPC had done nothing positive for the village since the elections in May 2015 which was in part due to the negative influence of the Yaxham Neighbourhood Plan Group. - he did not understand why the issue of sewage at Yaxham Waters was still included on the agenda as he believed that the Council had been asked to remove it from the agenda.

The Chairman advised that the item stated 'update on ongoing issues '. If there was no update then the Council would move forward to the next item on the agenda. His fellow councillors had confirmed that these items be kept on the agenda until properly resolved.

Cllr Dimoglou was requested to leave the room at this point. He asked to be recalled at the next agenda items.

4. **(Agenda Item 4.) To resolve the way forward following the vote of no confidence in Cllr Dimoglou**

The Chairman re-opened the Public Session and invited members of the public to speak if they wished.

A number of parishioners spoke, the main points raised included:

- a suggestion that a meeting should be held by the Parish Council with Cllr Dimoglou to 'thrash things out and find some common ground' in an effort to resolve the ongoing situation, although it was advised that all formal meetings of the Parish Council were required to be in public by law.
- a number felt that Cllr Dimoglou was merely representing himself, not the village, that the way he spoke clearly illustrating that he did not feel he was a member of the parish council.
- that in a public statement he used the words that public perception is of importance and appeared to accuse the Parish Council of being corrupt (an extract from the public statement was read out confirming this).

- that in that statement he stated that he was unable to attend the meeting as he was out of the country but had been seen in the shop the same morning.
- at the last Breckland Planning Committee meeting Cllr Dimoglou spoke against the Parish Council and on behalf of the developer, claiming that all the 'kids' are having to move out and we must stop this "economic cleansing".
- if Cllr Dimoglou was confident that the Parish Council was in the wrong he should resign and the vote could go to the by-election which would effectively cost the council nothing.
- that Cllr Dimoglou had signed up to a Code of Conduct that stated a councillor's duty was solely to uphold the public interest and this was not happening.
- that the PC should take a vote of no confidence in Cllr Dimoglou for non-attendance, lack of apologies and engaging with the public in an inappropriate manner.

The public session was then closed. The Chairman asked the councillors to comment. After discussion the Chairman proposed the following:

- that through his own actions this Councillor has lost the confidence of this Council; and that
- in order to draw a line under this issue and enable the Council to come back together as a team, Cllr Dimoglou would be asked to provide a public letter of apology to the Council for its next meeting, failing that he should consider his position as a member of the Council.

The Councillors voted unanimously to agree this proposal.

5. **To discuss and update the standards complaint/LGO complaints in respect of Cllr Dimoglou**

As members of the public wished to provide information to the Council on this item, the Chairman re-opened the public session for this purpose.

Parishioners asked the Council to note that from correspondence with the LGO this complaint was continuing, and that in the Neighbourhood Plan Independent Examiner's Report in commenting on points made by Cllr Dimoglou, the Examiner noted that
 "...the dispute relates to whether Mr Dimoglou should have declared an interest at the meeting as a Parish and District Councillor. This matter has not been fully resolved."

The Chairman closed the public session. After discussion, the Councillors noted the comments made and agreed keep this item on the agenda until the matter was resolved.

6 **Yaxham Waters - foul sewage – update if any.**

No update was available.

Cllr Dimoglou re-joined the meeting.

8 **To agree and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 19th January 2017**

The Minutes were not agreed as Cllr Dimoglou asked for them to be deferred as he was referring them to Standards. It was agreed to defer the Minutes until the next meeting.

9 **To discuss Planning Matters and to review any new planning**

applications:

3PL/2017/0148/HOU, Erection of Garage (retrospective) St Walstans,
Mr and Mrs Lyon. Agreed

3PL/2017/0186/VAR, Demolish conservatory and erect first floor extension and
loft Conversion (revised scheme), Mr and Mrs P Bone. Agreed

3PL/2017/0110/F, Forge House, Station Road, Conversion of existing cart
lodge/garage to 2 no. Guest suites, Change of use from residential to Class C1
Agreed

3PL/2016/1499/O 25 dwellings – land north of Norwich Road
It was noted that this application had been refused by Breckland Planning
Committee on 6th March 2017

10. To receive correspondence

A resident's letter had been received in respect of the Lanpro application for 25
houses but this application had already been refused.

11. Neighbourhood Plan

a. Independent Examiner's Report

b. Next steps

c. Referendum

d. Finance

Mrs Oechsle, Chairman of the Working Group, reported that Breckland had
agreed that NP4Yaxham could proceed to referendum on 4th May 2017, as the
first Neighbourhood Plan in Breckland to do so. She thanked everybody involved,
and pointed out that if the Referendum was a success then there would be much
for the Parish Council to consider.

Mr Martin, Vice-Chairman, gave a financial report, and presented two invoices for
settlement: Eastern Office Supplies for printing for £165.74; Small Fish for
consultancy for £71.60. After payment of these the Group's funds would be
£1,301.36.

The Parish Council congratulated the Working Group and the Chairman
presented Mrs Oechsle and Mr Martin with tokens of the Council's and Village's
appreciation of what they had done. Mrs Oechsle accepted these on behalf of the
Working Group and thanked him for his steadfast support.

12. To discuss update on the damaged planters

The Clerk advised that the insurance claim was now being dealt with by the
insurers.

13. To discuss the situation with the updating of Standing Orders.

The Clerk requested again that these should be looked at by the councillors and
updated by priority in line with good practice. It was agreed to email a list of the
standing orders in need of updating to the councillors.

14. To discuss the Yaxham logo, letterheads and branding

The Clerk suggested that the school should be asked if they would like to run a
competition to re-design the logo for Yaxham. The current logo is of poor quality
and requires to be cut and pasted to correspondence. It was agreed that this was
a good idea and the clerk will contact the school.

15. To discuss Financial Matters.

Reports on the up to date finances of the charity were supplied by the RFO

16. To approve payments (inc NP4Y)

Payments were approved to Parish Online (£33.60), The Clerk (£208.96) and the RFO (£78.00) The NPY4 payments are listed under Item 11.

17. To discuss training course – Councillor governance/code of conduct course

The Clerk asked if the Council wished her to attend a half day course on 21st March relating to Standard/Code of Conduct matters. This was agreed and the cost was £17.50.

18. To discuss YVAA request for assistance with application for changing rooms.

It was agreed that the clerk would ask Cllr Claussen how to proceed with obtaining planning permission for the portakabin changing room block on behalf of the YVAA.

19. To note any items for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting.

Cllr Dimoglou requested that his formal complaint to standards against Cllr Lowings should be included on the next agenda.

20. To consider passing a resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), that the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded.

To confirm that date of the next meeting 20th April at 7.30pm.