

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting, 7.00pm on Tuesday 21st March 2023 at The Rings Community Hub, The Rings, Ingleby Barwick

The Town Clerk opened the meeting by explaining that as Cllr Irwin (Chairman) and Cllr Watson (Vice Chair) were unable to attend the meeting a vote needed to be taken to nominate a Chairman.

Cllr Strike PROPOSED Cllr Barnes SECONDED by Cllr Emmerson, Cllr Rutland PROPOSED Cllr Fryer, SECONDED by Cllr Patterson, Cllr Barnes PROPOSED Cllr Emmerson SECONDED by Cllr Dodds. Votes were taken - AGREED Cllr Barnes be Chairman after receiving majority of four votes.

Present: Cllrs Barnes (In the Chair), Dodds, Emmerson Fryer, Rutland, Strike and Patterson.

In attendance – J McGeeney Town Clerk and J Stevely, Admin Assistant; R Bradford (SBC Enforcement); D Gale, N Burns, M Davey (CPAD IB Fund), J Nertney and G Morton from Stockton Council and Richard Otterway from The Boundary Commission.

- 1. Housekeeping** – The Chairman advised those present of the emergency escape procedures and outlined the Town Council's protocol on public participation. It was requested mobile phones be switched to silent. If a call was received and had to be taken Members were politely requested to leave the room.
- 2. Notice of Meeting** – Public Notice has been given in accordance Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972. The Chairman noted the Notice of the Meeting had been published on the Town Council's website and notice board at the Ingleby Barwick Community Hall, Beckfields and the Rings Community Hub.
- 3. Apologies for Absence** - Cllrs Brown, Irwin, Kirby and Watson.
- 4. Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Strike declared a personal/non-prejudicial interest in all items involving his role as a Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Ward Councillor, Chairman of the Ingleby Barwick Community Partnership and also highlighted Item 11. Cllr Fryer declared an interest as an employee of Ingleby Manor School.
- 5. Public Participation Part 1** – None. Cllr Strike requested that a full 10 Minutes of Public Participation be held at the end of the meeting, if required, due to the update from the error made by the Local Government Boundary Commission. Unanimously AGREED.
- 6. Community Safety** – Richard Bradford, Enforcement Manager from Stockton Borough Council gave an update on the latest crime figures for Ingleby Barwick. East Ward was relatively quiet apart from vehicles parking near schools. There had been a decrease in incidents in the West Ward in terms of vehicle problems but there had been an increase in anti-social behaviour.
- 7. CPAD IB Fund** – Deborah Gale from CPAD IB fund (and two of her colleagues Nicky Burns and Marcia Davey) attended the meeting. Councillor Barnes expressed the Town Council's

appreciation of the hard work and dedication carried out by Deborah, and her team. In recognition of this the Town Clerk presented her with an inscribed glass award and flowers and flowers for her two colleagues Nicky and Marcia.

CPAD IB Fund requested assistance from the Enforcement Team at their forthcoming Siren Fest 2023 Event. PROPOSED Cllr Strike, SECONDED by Cllr Emmerson that the Town Councils Enforcement provision be asked to attend, like other events that the Enforcement Service attend if an incident occurred during this time elsewhere on the estate, which would take priority, Officers would leave to attend.

- 8. Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE)**– Mr Richard Otterway, Review Manager from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England attended the Town Council Meeting to apologise and outline their error in the Electoral Changes Order. This had resulted in the number of elected Town Councillors wrongly being reduced from the 12 to 6 for the forthcoming Local Government and Parish Elections on 4th May 2023.

Mr Otterway addressed the meeting and apologised profusely for the error. He gave an overview of the systems that were previously in place at the Boundary Commission and ultimately how the error had been made. It transpired the mistake happened due to 'human error'. The officer, to whom the initial mistake had been attributed to, no longer worked for the Boundary Commission. However, he went on to say there had also been a 'collection of human errors'. Mr Otterway assured Councillors new systems were now in place to ensure nothing like this happened again.

Town Councillors were given the opportunity to submit questions to Mr Otterway who answered them comprehensively and truthfully. Councillors thanked Mr Otterway for his attendance at the meeting along with his honesty.

Two senior officers from Stockton Borough Council (Ged Morton, Director of Corporate Services and Jonathan Nertney, Head of Democratic Services) also attended the meeting to give an overview from Stockton Borough Council perspective, including the law, and to also answer questions.

It transpired that, at this late stage, nothing could be done to alter the number from 6 to 12 elected councillors. Stockton Council submitted a report. This indicated Stockton Council would undertake everything in its power to ensure the situation was rectified in the shortest possible time. Although no definite timescale was given, Mr Nertney highlighted there were several 'key stages' to be carried out which would hopefully result in elections taking place this time next year (2024). In addition, it was recognised by both Mr Otterway and the officers from Stockton Borough Council that no extra costs should be attributable to Ingleby Barwick Town Council. The Town Council are to formally request a Community Governance Review be undertaken following the Elections in May 2023.

- 9. Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 21st February 2023** - PROPOSED by Cllr Fryer and SECONDED by Cllr Strike - RESOLVED the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 21st February be accepted as a true and accurate records of the meeting.

10. Clerk and Chairman's Report

- **Ingleby Barwick East Ward Vacancy** – To notify Councillors a vacancy had arisen following the resignation of former town Councillor, Rick Turnbull. The notice of vacancy had been displayed with a closing date for applications for co-option by the Town Council of 27th February. No applications had been received hence the vacancy would be filled at the May 2023 elections.
- **Pre-election period** - Town Councillors were advised that with effect from 20th March 2023 the Town Council had entered into the pre-election period, formally known as Purdah. This means the Town Council would not make any major financial decisions and correspondence would come from the Town Clerk and not individual councillors.

11. Freedom of Information Request – The Town Clerk gave an overview of a Freedom of Information request regarding Alleged Unconventional Financial Arrangements - Ted Strike Ingleby Barwick Community Partnership This would be responded to within the statutory requirement of 20 days.

12. Committee Minutes and Committee Update reports

- Policy Committee – held on 7th March 2023 PROPOSED by Cllr Patterson and SECONDED by Cllr Emmerson. Cllr Strike expressed his appreciation for the work carried out by the Policy Committee.
- Events Committee – held on 9th March 2023 PROPOSED by Cllr Strike and SECONDED by Cllr Rutland.
- Hub and Town Maintenance Committee – held on 13th March 2023 PROPOSED Cllr Dodds and SECONDED by Cllr Strike.
- Finance Committee - held on 14th March PROPOSED by Cllr Emmerson and SECONDED by Cllr Barnes.

13. Town Council Policies – To agree the following Town Council Policies: -

- **CCTV Policy** – this had been considered by the Policy Committee and presented to the Town Council for approval and adoption. AGREED unanimously.
- **Holiday Entitlement Policy** - this had been considered by the Policy Committee and presented to the Town Council for approval and adoption. AGREED unanimously.
- **Flexible Working Policy** - this had been considered by the Policy Committee and presented to the Town Council for approval and adoption. AGREED unanimously.

14. Borough Councillors' Reports

EAST WARD

- Graffiti in underpass – Haresfield Way and Myton Way.

- Lowfields Avenue – lights at crossing reported several times, Stockton Borough Council have responded to advise that Middlesbrough Signals have visited and reinstated the signals. A further visit will be undertaken to check the controller, it appears that the controller had been vandalised on inspection.
- Damaged bollard – central reservation at Stonebridge Crescent roundabout near St Francis' School.
- Damaged bollard on Ingleby Way on central reservation by Robinson's roundabout.
- Reports from resident on Hilden Park ref anti-social behaviour starting up again.
- Report from a resident in Greys Court of youth damaging his wall. Enforcement had been contacted requesting the CCTV be checked, the camera had been removed a few weeks previous. However, East Ward Cllrs were not advised they had previously been asked about renewing for another year we advised them this would be in South Ward following the Elections in May and were of the opinion that it was paid until May.
- Complaint from resident over dog poo bags being dumped on Beckfields Green.

WEST WARD

- Field Back of All Saints - 18 trees had been planted and work will be begin in early April
 - Romano Park - Work will begin in April with footpaths and upgrading
 - Windmill Park - Work will start over the coming months with some improvements and new play equipment costing around £20,000 from the West Ward Council budget
 - Sober Hall - Resurfacing over 500 metres now completed with five sets of speed humps
- 15. Finance** - The Town Clerk presented the Town Council's financial transactions for the General Account from 1st to 28th February 2023 and the Hub Account from 1st to 28th February 2023. In addition, the Town Council's Bank Reconciliations from 1st to 28th February 2023. RESOLVED that all the financial transaction and bank reconciliation statements be APPROVED. Cllr Fryer to sign the documents after the Town Council meeting.
- 16. Planning Applications** - Details of the Planning Applications up to week ending 12th March 2023 were submitted.
- 17. Matters of Concern to Councillors** – None.
- 18. Date of the next Town Council meeting** - The next Town Council meeting will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 18th April 2023 at The Rings Community Hub.
- 19. Public Participation Part 2** – Cllr Kevin Faulks requested information pertaining to the Financial Transactions in particular in relation to the balance of £7,000 in the Seamer Windfarm account. The Town Clerk informed him that the balance was committed including for example the Wildflowers which amounted to £2,000 as well as the forthcoming Coronation where schools and two care homes on the estate would be supplied with planters and wildflower seeds. The full accounts would be available for inspection at the end of June following submission to Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) which will be published.

The Chairman thanked all for their attendance and participation and closed the meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.15pm