

BOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Council Meeting of Boughton Parish Council held on Monday 23rd July 2018 at 7.30 p.m. in Boughton Village Hall, Butchers Lane, Boughton

Present: Councillors: S Potter (Chair), T Wright (Vice-Chair),
J Clarke, A Dale, K Greatorex, Mrs R McDonnell, Mrs J Shephard,
R Wilson

In Attendance: Mrs J Bunting – Parish Clerk/RFO

Other Attendees: None

18/1897 Apologies for Absence received from Councillors not in attendance

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr S Trott (personal). These apologies were approved.

18/1898 To record Members Declarations of Interest (on Agenda Items Only)

There were no declarations of interest. Councillors declarations of interest are recorded in their statutory declarations which are held on the parish council website.

18/1899 Public Open Forum Session

None.

18/1900 Joint funding of a dedicated PCSO post with Spratton Ward parishes. To report on matters outstanding from 9th July 2018 Council meeting and subsequent meeting with representatives of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner 11th July 2018

The Chair reported that he and Cllr Wilson together with District Councillor Shephard had attended a recent meeting with a representative of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to discuss details of concern raised by the Parish Council in relation to the contract and inter-parish agreement. Whilst the representative had sympathised with the concerns raised the PCC wanted a consistent contract across each parish which comes forward for a PCSO. The Police thought that the package was fair and although they recognised that they were passing on some risk to the parishes in respect of absenteeism they were bearing the cost of training and other related employment costs. There were no further monies to take back any of the risk and the costs will be coming from the budget of the Police & Crime Commissioner so there was no extra money for cover. The meeting had been informative and helpful but did not move forward on the risk of absenteeism in the contract. Cllr Wilson reported that he had spoken to the Chief Executive of NCALC on the issue of value for money. NCALC were less concerned with the value for money situation and had indicated that it would be unfair of an auditor to come forward and not support a specialist service for the benefit of the community. The issue with the payment of VAT was still outstanding.

General discussion took place and the consensus was that the parish council had undertaken due diligence and good governance and had addressed the risks as far as was reasonably practicable, however, Cllr Wilson stated that it was important that the parish council

recognised the risks and understood the legalities. Cllr Clarke stated that it was quite right that the parish council had looked at the sponsorship of a PCSO so rigorously and it had been a worth while exercise. Cllr Wilson had made some constructive changes to the documentation. Councillor Mrs Shephard referred to the two additional paragraphs included in the Sponsors Agreement. Councillor Wilson confirmed that he had drafted the paragraphs but that the full text had not been included by District Councillor Shephard. In response to a question from Councillor McDonnell he explained that they had been included to reflect the resolution passed at the June council meeting which required a review of the funding/cost allocation by the Parishes after twelve months. However, as a consequence of the omitted text there was no provision included in the agreement to resolve the matter should the parishes fail to agree on any proposed changes to the funding arrangements.

The Chair confirmed that he would request regular meetings with the PCSO and the Area Sergeant and the work load of the PCSO would be closely monitored.

Cllr Greateorex proposed going ahead with the sponsorship of the PCSO and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs Shephard. Councillor Wilson pointed out that the proposed resolution was a duplication of the resolution already passed at the June meeting. The outstanding matters which had led to the meeting with the OPCC arose from the resolutions at the May meeting. The OPCC had explained why they would not change the provisions for absenteeism. No meeting with the other parishes had taken place and District Councillor Shephard had informed Cllr Wilson that there was now no possibility that the wording in the draft Sponsors Agreement could be changed. Therefore, the Parish Council was unable to proceed any further.

The Chair summarised the position. There was full agreement amongst councillors that having a dedicated PCSO was in the interests of the community. The initiative had been supported at the annual parish meeting and Neighbourhood Watch AGM. The parish council had received legal advice and full consideration had been given to this and the comprehensive advice given by Mrs Bunting, the Parish Clerk. The risks identified by the due diligence process had been debated fully and appropriate consideration had been given to the parish council's obligations to confirm value for money within the PCSO agreement.

18/1901 To consider final drafts of the PCSO Agreement and the Sponsors Agreement as received on the 26th June 2018

Resolved: The parish council agreed to proceed with the sponsorship of a PCSO and authorised the Chair to sign the agreements.

Cllr Wilson was thanked for all his hard work in leading the parish council so diligently through the process.

The Chair and Clerk/RFO have acknowledged, and agreed, that it should be documented as part of these minutes, that Councillors Wright, Clarke and Wilson have each expressed their reservations about proceeding with the PCSO and Sponsors agreements despite several matters being unresolved. The matters relate to the structure of the PCSO agreement in the context of a sponsorship arrangement, the proportion of the total funding which Boughton Parish has to contribute, the nature and financial implication of the risks identified and the overall concern that the agreement does not represent value for money for Boughton Parish. These matters were either highlighted from the outset or reported in February following the financial review.

Clerk's Note: Details of the issues and the concerns raised by the councillors are set out in the minutes of recent parish council meetings.

18/1902 Urgent Matters for Report Only (notified to the Chair before the Meeting)

- a) Cllr Clarke reported that the parish council had been consulted on the amended planning application (DA/2011/0666) for Land at Brampton Lane, Boughton (Buckton Fields Phase 2).
Resolved: The Planning Consultant who had previously advised would be requested to draft a response to the amendments to DDC. Delegated powers were given to the Chair and Cllrs Clarke and Wilson to agree a quote for the work up to £500. This would be paid from the Legal and Consulting Reserve.
- b) The Clerk was requested to contact NCC Highways regarding the proximity of the new white lining to the build out in Moulton Lane following a recent accident.
- c) The provision of fibre optic broadband to the parish would be discussed at the next full council meeting in September.
- d) The Clerk was requested to contact the Conservation Officer at DDC.

18/1903 To Confirm Date of Next Meeting

The next full council meeting will be held on Monday 10th September 2018 at 7.00 p.m. in Boughton Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.05 p.m.

Signed as a true record of the above meeting.

.....

Cllr S Potter (Chair)

10th September 2018