

Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held at 6.30pm on Friday 15th August 2025 in the Parish Hall Somercotes.

These minutes have been compiled by Catherine Hedley (Acting Clerk)

Present: Cllr J Parker (Chair)
Cllr E Sherman (Vice)
Cllr C Addison-Lees
Cllr P Wardle
Cllr P Slater

Also in attendance:
Catherine Hedley (Acting Clerk)
Lee Gardner (Monitoring Officer AVBC)

Absent: Cllr J Walker
Cllr S Walker
Cllr E Watson
Cllr J Coles
Cllr P Curran-Bilbie
Cllr S Tomlinson

26/25: Apologies for Absence: Cllr Barron

27/25: Social Media: The Acting Clerk stated that she would be recording the meeting to assist in the formation of minutes.

28/25: Declaration of Interests: –

Cllr J Parker – Item 32/25. Personal – remain in meeting
Cllr E Sherman – Item 33/25. Personal – remain in meeting

29/25: Variation in Order of Business - None

30/25: Items to be taken in seclusion:

(a) The following statement was read out by the Chair.

“That in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, such that it would be prejudicial to the Public Interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the meeting resolves that public and press will be temporarily excluded – Items 32/25, 33/25 and 34/25.”

- (b) Council **APPROVED** a dispensation for Mr Lee Gardner to remain in the meeting as it was deemed to be in the public interest.

31/25 Council **APPROVED** the minutes of the Extraordinary Meetings(2) held on 4th July 2025.

32/25 Having received and considered the verbal report from the Chair on emergency action taken following the Clerks resignation, Council **RESOLVED** unanimously:

- (a) To grant retrospective **APPROVAL** for the actions taken by the Chairman.
- (b) To **INSTRUCT** the Acting Clerk to review and amend Standing Orders to include Emergency Action procedures and to present them to a future meeting for approval.

33/25 Having received and considered the written report and verbal update from the Chair of the HR sub committee detailing the emergency action taken following the Clerks resignation, Council **RESOLVED** unanimously:

- (a) To grant retrospective **APPROVAL** for the actions taken by the Chair of the HR Sub-Committee.
- (b) That the independent HR external provider be instructed to carry out an investigation into the issues contained in the report including a forensic examination of the IT systems by an outside body.
- (c) To **APPROVE** the temporary employment of Catherine Hedley as Acting Clerk for an initial period of 12 weeks
- (d) To **APPROVE** the employment of John Richardson on an ad hoc basis as Consultant RFO following the Deputy Clerk/RFO's continued sickness absence.
- (e) To formally record the Councils gratitude to the parish wardens, bar staff and others who had provided considerable support to the council during this difficult period.
- (f) That the council did not recognise the meeting held on 1 August 2025 at Birchwood Methodist Chapel as an official meeting.

34/25 A discussion took place following consideration of the letter received from the Monitoring Officer dated 17th July 2025.

The Monitoring Officer advised that following those discussions and the resolutions approved at Items 32/25 & 33/25 he was satisfied measures were being taken to address the issues raised in his letter dated 17 July 2025.

He also reiterated however that action points 2-4 contained in that letter still applied and would be enforced.

The meeting ended at 19.34