



## **PUBLIC MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

### **SUB COMMITTEE**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

**Present: Councillor Oakes (Chair)**

**Councillors Robinson & Solomon**

**Apologies for absence:** None

**Also in attendance:** Christopher Cook - Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer  
Cllrs Edwards, Fletcher, White & Willey.

**Members of the public: 5**

Members of the public were permitted to speak on each Agenda item for a period of 3 minutes. This meeting was advertised as a Public meeting and as such could be filmed or recorded by broadcasters, the media and members of the public. The public were advised that whilst every effort is taken to ensure that members of the public would not be filmed, it could not be guaranteed.

**Minutes 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

#### **49/2022SC Chair's Welcome & Announcements**

Cllr Oakes (Chair) welcomed residents to the Sub Committee Meeting of the Parish Council and delivered Health and Safety housekeeping rules.

No members of the public intended recording the Public Meeting.

#### **50 Public participation**

No Public participation.

#### **51 To receive Apologies for Absence and approve the reasons given**

No apologies.

Councillors **Resolved** to note.

#### **52 Declarations of Interest**

Councillors **Resolved** that no Councillors were liable for Dispensations.

Councillors **Resolved** that no Councillors were liable for written Dispensations or Gifts.

Councillors **Resolved** to note.



**53 Minutes of the previous Sub Committee Meeting(s)**

The Minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020 were a true record of the Sub-Committee.

There were no Minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 as the Sub-Committee Meeting was cancelled.

Proposed Cllr Oakes (Chair), seconded Cllr Robinson that the Minutes 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020 were a true record.

Councillors **Resolved** to note. Two agreed, & one abstained.

**54 Matters arising from the Minutes for report purposes only.**

None

**55 Correspondence**

No correspondence to the Sub-Committee.

**56 Review of Vexatious Complaints Policy**

Cllr. Oakes (Chair) referred Councillors to the Council Policy (Persistent & Vexatious Complaints & Correspondence Policy), adopted 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022 (See Minute reference 1009 (iii)).

Councillors would consider whether the 'persistent' status for a resident should be actioned in accordance with Policy conditions in view of the comments out at the Extraordinary Council Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022 (See Minute reference 9)

**57 Public Bodies**

The Press and Public and Councillors not serving on the Sub-Committee were requested to leave the Meeting due to the confidential nature of the following Agenda Item.

**58 To consider a Complainants Case**

Councillors reviewed all correspondence as highlighted in the Extraordinary Meeting Agenda Item 9 and Minute reference 1009 (iii).

Councillors considered that the complainant had contravened several points under Section 8 of the Persistent and/or Vexatious Complaints & Correspondence Policy and met the conditions under step 2 of Section 10, having ignored Step 1 of the warning as offered in the Parish Council's response to the complainant in a letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

Councillors were aware of the conditions of the Policy under Item 13, but were also concerned that the same complainant had previously been the subject of persistent & vexatious correspondence against the Parish Council.



A decision was made on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019 by the Sub-Committee to make the complainant a persistent & vexatious correspondent, and the complainant was written to on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

Many historical points of concern raised by the complainant and further serious allegations of breaches of the Code of Conduct against the Parish Council Chairman had been addressed in the Assessment Decision Notice from the Monitoring Officer Cornwall Council. The allegations consisted of:

- Failed to treat the complainant with respect
- Bullied the complainant
- Intimidated or attempted to intimidate the complainant
- Conducted himself in a manner, which is contrary to the Council's duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct
- Brought his office or council into disrepute

There were no findings that there had been any breaches of the Code of Conduct by Cllr Edwards, and the Council noted that no offer of an apology had been forthcoming from the complainant.

The Sub-Committee noted that the complainant had made a few formal and serious Code of Conduct allegations against Cllr Edwards in 2019. The complaint was made in several parts, including bullying and disrespectful behaviour. Cornwall Council rejected all of the matters and I and the other Councillor were informed that all the matters were closed on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

Cllr Oakes (Chairman) would remain as the single point of contact (SPOC) for purposes of any communication.

Proposed Cllr Oakes (Chair), seconded Cllr Solomon. All agreed

Councillors **Resolved** to note and recommend persistent status to the complainant concerned. All agreed.

**ACTION: The Chairman to write to the complainant regarding the decision made by the Sub-Committee.**

## **59 Public Bodies**

The Press and Public, and Councillors were re-admitted to the meeting. Details of the Sub-Committee decision were relayed to all Councillors.

Councillors **Resolved** to note the decision of the Sub-Committee 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

## **60 Date of next meeting**



The Sub-Committee will meet to revisit the recommendation made at this Meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at 7:00pm with the option to meet after 6 months of this decision on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

**61                    End of meeting 20:50**

**Signed.....**

**(Chairman)**

**Date.....**