



PUBLIC MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

SUB COMMITTEE

Monday 8th February 2023

Present: Councillor Oakes (Chair)

Councillors Robinson & Solomon

Apologies for absence: None

Also in attendance: Christopher Cook - Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

Members of the public: 0

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 8th February 2023

62/2023SC 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.

63 Public participation

No Public participation.

64 To receive Apologies for Absence and approve the reasons given

No apologies.

Councillors **Resolved** to note.

65 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.

66 Minutes of the previous Sub Committee Meeting(s)

The Minutes of the 8th August 2022 were a true record of the Sub-Committee Meeting.



Proposed Cllr Oakes (Chair), seconded Cllr Robinson that the Minutes 8th August 2022 were a true record.

Councillors **Resolved** to note.

67 Matters arising from the Minutes for report purposes only.

None

68 Correspondence

No correspondence to the Sub-Committee.

69 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.

70 To consider a Complainants Case

Councillors were mindful of decisions from the previous Minutes and that no correspondence had been received from the complainant since the 8th August 2022 viz-

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 28th 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 9th December 2019 by the Sub-Committee to make the complainant a persistent & vexatious correspondent, and the complainant was written to on the 20th 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 Councils 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 the matters and I and the other Councillor were informed that all the matters were closed on 16th December 2019.

Councillors felt on balance that the persistent and vexatious status should be extended due to the fact that this was a second occurrence, and reviewed again 8th August 2023 with a view to lifting the restriction following a further probationary period between February and August 2023.

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 after the Public Meeting 22nd February 2023.

71 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 8th February 2023.

72 Date of next meeting

The Sub-Committee will meet to revisit the recommendation made at this Meeting on the 8th August 2023 with the option to meet after 6 months of this decision on the 8th February 2024.

73 End of meeting 19:50

Signed.....

(Chairman)

Date.....