

St Cleer Parish Council**Minutes of the Meeting of the Extraordinary Council meeting on 21st October 2020, virtually**

Penelope Andrews		In attendance
Sue Harbord, Councillor	Chair of Council to Item 4	In attendance
Suzanne Horsfield, Councillor		In attendance
Jon Prinn	Vice Chair of Council, Chair of Council from item 4	In attendance
Clive Sargeant, Councillor		Apology Accepted
Martin Blunt, Councillor		In attendance
Brian Smith, Councillor		In attendance
Brain Seage, Councillor		In attendance
Chris Ullman, Councillor		In attendance
Derris Watson, Councillor		In attendance
Andy Webb, Councillor		In attendance

1	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies were received as above</p>
2	<p>Members Declarations</p>
3	<p>Chairs answers to questions from Councillor Seage</p> <p>SH outlined the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Councillor Seage asked for these questions to be answered on the 28th of October, and they had accordingly been added to that draft agenda. When this meeting was called, he emailed Councillor Smith and asked if they could be addressed on 20.10.20, which I facilitated. 2. I was then asked to add these questions as a motion to this agenda. This could not be done as it was too short notice and only the Clerk can add a motion to the agenda. I was then asked to add the proposed motion to the 28th of October Agenda, I then explained, that in my opinion this proposed motion was against Standing Order 10i. <p>I then received an email</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you, Sue. I needed evidence that I had done all I could to get the issues raised in the motion put before a full and open parish council. I now have that. Good luck. Councillor Brian Seage <p>Throughout this torrent of emails, I have always made clear that I was willing to answer the questions. But please note that under Standing Orders anyone can ask a question but they are not compelled to answer. I would like to reassure all Councillors that I believe I have followed the Standing orders in this matter and been as patient as possible.</p> <p>1, Why was the application of the candidate for co-option, compared with that of a previous candidate as this has not happened before?</p> <p>The applications to the council for both individuals had been previously circulated. At a guess the wording seemed familiar to the Councillor so they looked back at the previous application.</p>

	<p>2, Why was the word <i>verbatim</i> used when perusal of the two application statements shows that this was not the case? There are no grades of verbatim. The Oxford Dictionary is brief and clear; 'the same word for word', is the given definition. I have no control over the choice of words used by any Councillor.</p> <p>3, Why was the candidate subjected to aggressive, harassing and irrelevant questions in a manner that was totally different from previous such interviews? This is subjective. You have already been advised to refer the matter to the monitoring officer.</p> <p>4, Why was the interview the last item on a very long agenda? When a person is co-opted, they have to sign a declaration of acceptance of office which is then countersigned by the clerk. This must be done before they can serve on the Parish Council. As we are working remotely this cannot be done immediately. It would be unfair to have a person co-opted to the Council at the start of the meeting and then for them not to be able to take part in that meeting.</p> <p>5, It seemed that the outcome of the vote was anticipated and was followed by the immediate closure of the meeting. Why did that happen? The outcome of the vote was not anticipated hence the order of the agenda. The item was over so the meeting was closed.</p> <p>6, In an email the Clerk stated that the decision was made to prevent '<i>cartel voting</i>'. What does that mean? The Clerk did not comment on the decision of the Parish, she stated that the motion was proposed to prevent "cartel" voting. Three years ago, there were 2 vacancies and three applications for cooption to the Parish Council. These consisted of a couple and one another Candidate. Only one member of the couple was voted on, I remember similar reservations being expressed at the time.</p> <p>I have made the decision to step down as Chair with immediate effect.</p> <p>I would like to single out and thank Derris Watson, Andy Webb, Brain Smith and Jon Prinn for their support and wisdom. Roni for her dedication, advice and hard work. Plus, the Councillors that work hard for the benefit of our community.</p> <p>I have now decided that there are better things to do with my time than deal with a petulant and pedantic individual that has no regard for procedure and is unwilling to accept democratically made decisions of the Council if they are contrary to their view.</p>
4	<p>Jon Prinn as Vice Chair then called for the Election of a new Chair of the Parish Council AW Nominated Jon Prinn this was seconded by PA. The motion was carried. Jon Prinn was elected the Chair of the Council.</p>
5	<p>Motion to Restrict the meeting due to the Nature of the Agenda Proposed by JP seconded by AW Motion carried</p>
6	<p>HR Matter Jon Prinn outlined to the Council some pressing HR matters and outlined what the Council as a whole needed to do to address these corporately owned issues</p>
7	<p>The Meeting was closed</p>