

Confirmed Minutes from Extraordinary Parish Council meeting on Friday 19th August 2022 held in person at Binsted Pavilion.

Present: Cllr Alison Melvin (Chair), Cllr Chris Meade, Cllr Graham Jones, Cllr Walley, Clerk Lisa Spindler, Cllr Val Moynan (for AOB only). **Apologies:** Cllr Nicola Hall, Dep Clerk Lisa Tilston.

Clerk Lisa Spindler: This council meets and makes its decisions in public and is committed to community engagement and therefore warmly invites members of the public, the press and the police to attend and make contributions. It was noted that the council is only allowed to take decisions on topics that are published on the agenda, excepting items delegated to the Clerk.

Declarations of Interests: Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest which they may have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item is reached. Unless dispensation has been granted, Councillors may not participate in any discussion of, or vote on, any matter in which they have a pecuniary interest. They must withdraw from the room or chamber when the meeting discusses and votes on the matter. **No pecuniary interests declared.**

22/175 | Chair's Announcements:

(1) RFO appointment

Lisa Tilston's 6 months probationary period as RFO/Dep Clerk with the Council is due to end on 28 August. We have understood for some time that Lisa does not wish to continue in the role of Responsible Finance Officer It has now been confirmed Lisa will not be continuing beyond her probation. It has been agreed that Lisa's current contract will continue until 7 September, to enable her work as Deputy Clerk on 5 and 7 September, to provide holiday cover for Lisa Spindler, and to work on 31August. **Interviews.** On Monday 15th August, Cllrs Meade, Melvin and Clerk Lisa Spindler interviewed two high quality candidates to succeed Lisa Tilston in the post of Responsible Financial Officer.

It was AGREED that the post of RFO be offered to Rachel Audsley, to start on Tuesday 13 September 2022, at a salary of £ per hour. Proposed: Cllr Melvin, Seconded Cllr Meade.

(2) Discussion of a 7pm or 7.30pm start for future Council meetings

Clerk asked whether Councillors would prefer a 7.00 pm or 7.30 pm start to Council meetings. She noted the start time for Council meetings was moved back from 7.00 pm to 7.30 pm a couple of years ago, to cater for councillors needing to settle young children to bed. It was noted that ClIr Hall may still prefer the later start time, but other Councillors can make an earlier start time.

It was AGREED to trial a 7.00 pm start time on 11th October, provided Planning Committee section of the meeting is positioned as a later Agenda item to ensure Cllr Hall can attend; and meeting start time is be reviewed further in October, to consult new councillors. Proposed: Cllr Melvin, Seconded Cllr Jones.

(3) AOB – Land adjacent to Binsted Rec for sale by Pilcher Trust

Cllr Moynan reported that she had spoken to Igor Tolstoy, who was unsure if this area (c. 2.5 acres) could be sold separately from the rest of the estate, and who explained that this question would need to be discussed at a meeting of the Pilcher Trust. It seems likely that the price of the land adjacent to the Binsted Recreation Ground would be c. £20K per acre. It was AGREED that the Chair will write to Mr Tolstoy to outline the Parish Council's interest in purchasing this land, subject to price. Proposed: Cllr Moynan, Seconded Cllr Meade.

Next Meeting Dates:

Extraordinary meeting at the Pavilion on Tuesday 13th September 7pm to Co-opt three new councillors – Postponed due to the ten days mourning for Queen Elizabeth II

Finance Committee Meeting at the Pavilion Wednesday 14^{th} September, 12 noon - postponed **Full Council Meeting** at the Pavilion on Tuesday 11^{h} October at 7.00 pm

Newcomers' Supper at the Wickham Institute Friday 14th October 7.30 pm (all Councillors to attend)

Transport Working Group with public discussion of Frith End and Blacknest Traffic Safety – at Wickham Institute, late September date tbc, 7.00 pm)

Binsted Recreation User's Group – in November, date and timing to be confirmed

Website: binstedparishcouncil.org.uk Facebook: Binsted Parish Council