

MINUTES OF ASHELDHAM AND DENGIE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD on Monday 13th May 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: - Cllr A Snowdon, Cllr Mrs C Faulkner & Cllr Nick Kelly

In attendance: Mrs. S Sayer (Clerk)

Members of the public: 10

Cllr Snowdon welcomed everyone present to the meeting starting at 7.05 p.m.

19-20/021 - ELECTION OF CHAIR

- a) Cllr Faulkner nominated herself for Chair citing that she felt it to be best as Cllr Snowdon had been unwell for some months and that until such time the Parish Council had full membership at which time maybe the Chairperson could be rethought. Cllr Kelly seconded this nomination. Agreed and then the new Chair signed the Acceptance of office. Cllr Snowdon informed those present that his recent illness had not affected his ability to carry out his duties. Also at this point in the meeting Agenda item 3 (minute reference) 19-20/023 was decided. (See 19-20/023)

19-20/022 - Co-options for two remaining vacancies on the Parish Council.

- a) The question arose as to whether Cllr Fluker needed to be present for an appointment to take place. The Clerk suggested that it would definitely be better if the candidate was present at the meeting, as had not be able to contact the Cllr Fluker prior to meeting to make sure he still wanted to be considered for co-option back onto the Parish Council. Cllr Snowdon made his feeling of dismay known at this point as to why Cllr Fluker resigned, only to request to be co-opted and informed all those present that Cllr Fluker was currently the subject of a formal complaint. He also stated that the vacancies had not been advertised and were not on the website. The clerk informed those present that there was, in fact, no need to advertise as the vacancies were following an election, and the members could co-opt. However, Cllr Snowdon stated that an email had been circulated from MDC that Councils were free to follow their process. The Asheldham Residents Association had circulated the vacancy information and it was stated on the website under Councillors.
- b) Cllr Snowdon, informed those present that he had heard from a resident that Mr and/or Mrs Brown, may well be interested in being co-opted onto the Council.

A discussion took place and it was agreed that this item be deferred until the next meeting and that advertising and enquiries be carried out to ensure as many people were aware.

19-20/023 - ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

- a) Cllr Kelly nominated himself for Vice-Chair which was seconded by Cllr Faulkner and the new Vice-Chair signed the Acceptance of office (see 19-20/021) – at this point members reverted back to Agenda item 2 (minute reference 19-20/022)

Cllr Snowdon declared that he was afraid something like this might happen to which Cllr Kelly replied that it was done.

SIGNED.....

CHAIR

ASHELDHAM & DENGIE PARISH COUNCIL

3RD JUNE 2019

19-20/024 - ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES

It was stated that it might be best left until the Council had a full complement of members before deciding on who would be responsible for the various subjects. However, members proceeded and appointed where they could.

- a) Finance – Cllr Faulkner
- b) Transport –
- c) Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils (DHGPC) – Cllr Snowdon
- d) Bradwell Power Station Local Community Liaison Committee (LCLC) –
- e) Police – PC as a whole
- f) Tree Warden – Jo Griffiths has agreed to continue
- g) Footpaths – Cllr Snowdon
- h) Asheldham Quarry Liaison Committee (AQLC) – Cllr Snowdon
- i) Highways – Council & Clerk
- j) Personnel Committee (requires 3 people) –

The Clerk informed the members that EALC (Essex Association of Local Councils) would help set up this committee.

Cllr Snowdon stated it would be difficult with just 3 members as there would be no higher level to appeal to as the Chair would currently have to be part of the Personnel Committee and that a non-councillor could be asked to be part of the committee. The Clerk informed the members at this time that a non-councillor would not be allowed to be part of a Personnel Committee as the Clerk is employed by the Parish Council. Cllr Snowdon, disagreed and referred everyone to the Asheldham and Dengie Parish Council “Standing Orders” 4b which state the following:-

“The members of a committee may include non-councillors unless it is a committee which regulates and controls the finances of the Council”

The Clerk was still adamant that this was incorrect and informed members that this item should be deferred until the next meeting whilst it was checked with EALC.

It was at this point that Cllr Snowdon, stood up, and declared that he resigned from the Council as it was a “Quango”; before he left the hall reminded the Council that they could no longer continue as they were not quorate.

The meeting closed at 7.15 p.m. and all other agenda items would be deferred until such time the Parish Council was once again quorate (meaning 3 people out of 5 members) so that decision would be legal.