

Meopham Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 30th October 2023 at 7:00pm at Judsons Pavilion

Members Present:

Cllr M Adam
Cllr D Bramer
Cllr S Buchanan – Vice-Chairman
Cllr A Evans
Cllr P Haslam
Cllr C Price – Chairman
Cllr D Sims
Cllr B Wade
Cllr P Watson (*arrived at 7:22pm*)

In Attendance:

S Fishenden – Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
G Duffort – Assistant Clerk

Item 1: Apologies for Absence: To receive and accept apologies

F.C. 165 There were no apologies received.

Item 2: Declarations of Members' Interests: To receive declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests for this meeting

F.C. 166 There were no declarations of interest.

Item 3: To approve minutes of the previous Full Council meeting: 17.10.23

F.C. 167 The minutes of the meeting held on 17.10.23 were approved.

PROPOSED: Cllr Price. SECONDED: Cllr Adam. All in favour.

F.C. 168 Cllr Price PROPOSED the Council entered closed session. SECONDED: Cllr Wade. All in favour.

CLOSED SESSION

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that due to the confidential nature of the next item, the public and press were asked to leave the meeting

Item 4: Investigation: To receive and consider the recommendation received from the Personnel Committee on the proposed consultant for the investigation

F.C. 169 Following confirmation from the Personnel Committee that due diligence had been completed and that WorkNest had advised they were able to deal with the governance-related matters, it was agreed to instruct WorkNest to complete the investigation.

PROPOSED: Cllr Price. SECONDED: Cllr Buchanan. All in favour.

Item 5: Staffing Structure

5.1 LGRC/SLCC Locum Service: To receive an update from the Clerk on sourcing a Locum Deputy Clerk as per decision F.C.130

F.C. 170 It was noted there was no available locums from either SLCC or LGRC, and that this situation would not change in the immediate future due to a national shortage of local council clerks.

6.2 Locum Arrangements: To agree locum arrangements until 31 December 2023

F.C. 171 It was agreed to appoint Mr K Everson, Mr G Duffort and Ms A Scozs on fixed term contracts to provide support to the Clerk until the date of the Full Council meeting in January 2024.

Ms Scozs would be paid at a rate of £25.00 per hour
Mr Everson and Mr Duffort would be paid the SCP10 hourly rate on the pay scales.

PROPOSED: Cllr Price. SECONDED: Cllr Sims. All in favour.

The meeting closed at 7:40pm