

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HUMBERSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2016 AT 7.30 PM AT WENDOVER HALL, WENDOVER PADDOCK, WENDOVER LANE, HUMBERSTON**

**Present:** Cllr. Hall (Chairman)  
Cllrs. Baron, Mrs. C. Hall, Tuplin, Scoffin, Waite and Stevenson

**Apologies:** Cllr. Bailey

There were 5 members of the public present.

**16/42 Acceptance of Apologies**

Received from Cllr. Bailey due to holidays and accepted.

**RESOLVED: That apologies be received and accepted.**

**16/43 Declaration of Interests**

Cllr. Baron advised at this point that he had taken advice on allotment matters and over his DPI in allotment matters. He advised that he “reserved the right to sit at the table as a Councillor and would not leave.” He advised he had no financial interest to gain from allotment matters and would not leave the meeting. The Clerk advised that a DPI did not refer solely to financial matters and that he could not remain in the meeting for allotment issues due to his DPI in having an allotment tenancy. The Chairman then advised that he “had spoken to a lot of people that week and the general opinion from people at NELC, Ward Cllrs. and others is to try it out and to stay in the meeting.” The Chairman went on to say that he “had been advised to declare only a personal interest in allotment matters due to his tenancy” and that he was inclined to agree with Cllr. Baron and would be remaining in the meeting for the allotment items. The Clerk again explained the situation with DPIs and the lawful position over their declaration and that the breach of a DPI was a criminal offence which the Clerk would have to report. The Chairman advised that he “was happy to force the issue” and when the Clerk interrupted and advised that this might not be an appropriate course of action, the Chairman advised the Clerk that she had had her say and that she should be quiet. The Chairman stated “that it was about time the issue was settled and that the Council had been going around in circles over this issue.” The Clerk again interrupted and advised that this was not the case and that earlier in the year the Chairman had sought and received a formal ruling from the Monitoring Officer at North East Lincolnshire Council which verified that any member with an allotment tenancy had to declare a DPI in the matter. The Chairman said that he felt that the Monitoring Officer had been put under pressure from outside forces and that he reiterated his view and that he was going to stop in the room through all of the meeting. Cllr. Mrs. C. Hall advised that she also agreed with this view and that she would also be staying in the meeting. The Clerk strongly advised the remaining members of the Council that this course of action was unacceptable and that anyone with a declared DPI in any item must leave the meeting when that item was discussed and should they not do so, then as the Proper Officer she would have to report the issue the following day as a criminal offence. The Clerk also advised that remaining members should be mindful of upholding the Code and should any breach of the Code occur, then she would not hesitate in reporting the matter to the local Standards Board. In order to protect all members, the Clerk suggested that those members without an interest in allotment matters may wish to defer all allotment items to a future meeting pending the Clerk taking further legal advice.

The three members with DPI’s declared that whilst they acknowledged they had a DPI they viewed this only as a personal interest in allotment matters and would remain in the room.

**16/44      To consider request from residents of ST Thomas Close, Humberston for Support in securing parking restrictions in St Thomas Close and agree any Necessary actions**

Public Break taken at this point in the meeting to allow a resident to make representations on the above subject.

Members reconvened the meeting and agreed to support the residents' requests for parking restrictions for a distance of 8 metres opposite nos 27 ad 28 St Thomas Close.

**RESOLVED: That request for parking restrictions be made of NELC as agreed**

**16/45      To consider future printing arrangements for Newsletter and agree any Necessary actions**

The Clerk advised that arrangements would now be slightly different as Cllr. Bailey had now edited her final newsletter before stepping down. The Clerk had comparative quotations for printing costs and it was agreed that a saving could be made on printing costs. Clerk and Cllr. Scoffin would be organizing the next edition and agreed that the Clerk put in place new printing arrangements and liaise directly with printing contractor to produce the Newsletter. Clerk asked to write to Mr. Jolley thanking him for his input in making the Newsletter so successful to this date and advise that different arrangements were now being put in place.

**RESOLVED: That the Clerk organize new printing arrangements directly with printing Contractor and that letter of thanks be sent to existing printers as agreed**

**16/46      Cemetery and Allotments (if quorate)**

The Chairman again advised that at this point the three members with DPI's were declaring personal interests only in allotment matters. The Clerk reiterated that any member remaining in the room for this item who had a declared DPI in allotment matters, would be in breach of their DPI and be committing a criminal offence and that all members should be aware of this. Again the Chairman said that the situation was not clear but the Clerk refuted this once more and said it was quite clear and that it was the law which governed the Code and that all members had agreed to adhere to the Code in place for the Parish Council. The Chairman advised that allotment matters had been carried over now for some months and needed to be dealt with.

Cllr. Tuplin then asked Cllrs. Hall, Mrs. C. Hall and Baron if they would be prepared to leave the room on this one occasion, pending further legal advice being sought, to ensure that items were dealt with. The Chairman then said that Cllr Stevenson knew the rules and regulations but that the remaining three members were three new members who did not. He advised therefore that instead of putting them in that position, he was going to close the meeting and he then declared the meeting closed. The Clerk advised however that there was still one outstanding item which was Finance, so the Chairman reopened the meeting for that item, payments were agreed to be made, and the Chairman then closed the meeting again. There was therefore no resolution on this item.

**16/47      Finance**

**a) To authorize payments as per list circulated**

Payments as per list circulated were authorized to be made.

**RESOLVED: That payments be made as per the list circulated.**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.05 pm.