CLOWNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on Friday 12th March 2021 via Zoom at 6.00pm

Present Councillors, A Bailey, B Bosworth, D Dixon, M Dixon, S Gregory, N Hoy, G Hughes, N Yewman, J Jackson (Locum Clerk) and 1 Member of the Public

123/20 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs D Salt and R Walker

In the absence of the Cllr Walker, Cllr Bailey took the Chair

124/20 Confirmation that Attendance Register has been Signed

Confirmed by all present.

125/20 Notification of Unregistered Declarations of Personal or Pecuniary Interest

None received.

126/20 Notification of Consideration of a Dispensation

None received.

127/20 Approval of Emergency Action taken by Deputy Clerk in procuring the services of Janice Jackson as Temporary Clerk

Cllr D Dixon proposed that the emergency action to procure the services of Janice Jackson be approved. Seconded by Cllr M Dixon and with all voting in favour the action taken by the Deputy Clerk was approved.

128/20 Explanation to Council for the claims made by Cllr Ross Walker on his Facebook page with reference to a Skate Park

As Cllr Walker was not present it was not possible to receive an explanation for the post. Cllr Dixon outlined his concerns about the content of the Facebook post which he considered to be misleading and inaccurate as it stated that Cllr Walker had been working with Cllr Salt and other independent members of the Council when other members of the Council did not appear to be aware of any such work. Also, the amount stated in the post as being allocated to the skate park was the entire budget for a larger project which has still to be approved by Council. All Councillors expressed their views on the matter.

Cllr D Dixon proposed that the Facebook post was a breach of the code of conduct and should be reported to the Monitoring Officer. Seconded by Cllr Hoy. A recoded vote was taken with Cllrs D Dixon, M Dixon, N Hoy and S Gregory voting in favour, Cllrs Bailey, Bosworth and Hughes voting against and Cllr Yewman abstaining. It was therefore RESOLVED to refer the matter to the monitoring officer.

The Acting Clerk suggested that it may be worthwhile looking into drawing up a document advising Councillors on how they should address Council business on Social Media.

129/20 Consideration of an Alleged Breach of Council Standing Order 13 by the Chair of the Council

Standing Order 13 was read to the meeting.

Cllr Dixon stated that the Chairman has refused to sign the minutes of the meetings held on 7th September 2020, 21st September 2020 and 30th October 2020 and this was a breach of Standing Order 13. The Acting Clerk stated that she had spoken to Cllr Walker and sought the advice of the Monitoring Officer and it that if the Chairman will not sign the minutes for whatever reason then they can be signed by the Vice-Chair. Cllr Bailey confirmed that if the Chairman would not sign the minutes then he would be prepared to sign them. All Councillors expressed their opinions on this matter.

All Councillors expressed their views on the matter.

Cllr Dixon proposed that the Chairman’s refusal to sign the approved minutes of the meeting held on 7th September 2020, 21st September 2020 and 30th October 2020 were a breach of Standing Order 13 and should be reported to the Monitoring Officer. Seconded by Cllr Hoy. A recoded vote was taken with Cllrs D Dixon, M Dixon, N Hoy and S Gregory voting in favour, Cllrs Bailey, Bosworth and Hughes voting against and Cllr Yewman abstaining. It was therefore RESOLVED to refer the matter to the monitoring officer.

130/20 Consideration of an Alleged Breach of Council Standing Order 4 by the Chair of the Council

Standing Order 4 which deals with the calling of meetings was not read to the meeting as it was very lengthy. Cllr D Dixon stated that a legally called meeting had been cancelled by the Chairman after a parishioner had said that the meeting had not been advertised correctly without checking that this information was accurate. There was much debate on this matter with all Councillors expressing their views.

Cllr D Dixon proposed that the cancelling of the meeting on the say so of a Parishioner without checking that the information was correct was a breach of Standing Order 4 and should be reported to the Monitoring Officer. Seconded by Cllr Hoy. A recoded vote was taken with Cllrs D Dixon, M Dixon, N Hoy and S Gregory voting in favour, Cllrs A Bailey, B Bosworth and G Hughes voting against and Cllr N Yewman abstaining. It was therefore RESOLVED to refer the matter to the monitoring officer.

131/20 Consideration of a Motion of No Confidence in the Chair of the Council

In view of all the matters above Cllr D Dixon proposed a vote of no confidence in Chairman of the Parish Council. Seconded by Cllr N Hoy. A recoded vote was taken with Cllrs D Dixon, M Dixon, N Hoy and S Gregory voting in favour, Cllrs A Bailey, B Bosworth and G Hughes voting against and Cllr N Yewman abstaining. The vote of no confidence was therefore carried.

Councillors voiced their appreciation to Chairman of the meeting for everyone being able to express their views fully and allowing the items to be discussed in depth.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.43pm