

STANSTED PARISH COUNCIL**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 27 MAY 2016 AT COURT LODGE BARN, PLAXDALE GREEN ROAD, STANSTED AT 6.00 pm**

PRESENT: Cllr Harry Bott Chairman Except items 3b – 3e
 Cllr Mrs Polly Falconer Vice-chairman In the chair items 3b – 3e
 Cllr John Brooker
 Cllr Mrs Sheila Goodworth
 Cllr Michael Osborne

In attendance Mr Tom Sheldon Except item 3b (part)

Item *Action point*
 Minute no 2016/17/

1 APOLOGIES

93 Apologies for absence were received from

Cllr Daren Sefer	At work
Cllr Kevin Sparkes	At work

It was proposed by Cllr Bott, seconded by Cllr Mrs Falconer and agreed these apologies be accepted. An apology for absence was also received from Mrs Roxana Brammer, Clerk to the Council.

2 INTERESTS

94 Cllr Bott declared a pecuniary interest in items 3b – 3e , as owner of adjacent land.

3 STANSTED SCHOOL**95 a Meeting with Diocesan Board of Education**

The meeting had been called to update the Council on the meeting held on 20 May 2016 between representatives of the Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) and Cllr Harry Bott, Chairman of the Council and Mrs Roxana Brammer, Clerk to the Council; Cllr Mrs Sarah Hohler, Kent County Council and Mr Tom Sheldon, parishioner, on the question of Stansted C of E Primary School.

Cllr Bott presented to the meeting papers which outlined the position the DBE were putting forward, the position as seen by Stansted Parish Council, an outline of what was learned at the meeting, actions taken subsequent to that meeting and decisions to be made by the Council for the way forward.

96 b Representation

Having declared a pecuniary interest, Cllr Bott left the room and Cllr Mrs Falconer took the chair. Mr Sheldon also left the room.

It was unanimously agreed that Tom Sheldon be invited to be a party to all discussions and act on behalf of the Council during negotiations and he then rejoined the meeting.

The position of Cllr Bott was then discussed and it was unanimously agreed that the Council did not consider there was a conflict of interests as an adjoining landowner and that the Council were happy for him to continue to be involved in negotiations. However, in view of the perceived sensitivity of his position, it was agreed that he should stand down from discussions and voting on decisions.

97 **c Valuation**

It was unanimously agreed that the Council should spend an estimated £1,500-£2,500 on a professional valuation of the site as a whole and of the two parts of the site, i.e. the land occupied by the school building and the parish land leased to provide the school playground and that BTF should be instructed to prepare this valuation.

98 **d Legal Representation**

It was unanimously agreed that the Council should appoint a barrister to give an initial opinion on the strength of the Parish Council case on the ownership of the land should the case go to Court.

99 **e Way Forward**

It was unanimously agreed that the Council should proceed on a twin-track approach:-

- Negotiating with the DBE to resolve the situation on a without prejudice basis and with any negotiations subject to full Parish Council agreement
- Confirming position on ownership and preparing case for going to Court and terminating negotiations at any time.

It was also agreed unanimously that the DBE be asked to remove the property from the market as a sign of their good faith in the negotiations.

It was agreed that the parish should be kept informed of the situation by way of the Parish Notes and the item would remain on the Agenda for each Parish Council meeting.

It was agreed that the aim would be to have a valuation and legal opinion for discussion at the Parish Council Meeting on 4 July 2016.

100 **f Conclusion**

Cllr Bott then returned to the meeting.

He was appraised of the discussions and would return to the DBE with instructions to continue to negotiate on a without prejudice basis.

The Chairman thanked councillors and the member of the public for attending and closed the meeting at 7.15 pm

SignedChairman

On theday of2016