

MINUTES OF THE SPROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD AT THE BARLEY ROOM, TITHE BARN, LOWER STREET, SPROUGHTON ON 25TH JUNE 2013, AT 7.30PM

Councillors present:

Cllr S.Curl (Chairman), Cllr H.Davies, Cllr V.Durrant, Cllr J.Kitson, Cllr G.Moore

Mrs S. Frankis, Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

39 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE TO BE RECEIVED

There were no apologies to be received.

40 TO ACCEPT MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

41 CONSIDERATION FOR DISPENSATIONS FOR A PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no dispensations to consider.

42 TO CONSIDER OPTIONS AND DECIDE BANKING AND DEPOSIT ARRANGEMENTS FOR PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The Parish Council currently has two bank accounts, both with the Co-operative Bank. The Parish Council has recognised its need to spread the risk of any potential financial loss given that any funds lost due to the collapse of a financial institution would not be compensated for by the F.S.C.S. With regards to recent news concerning Co-operative Bank, the Parish Council acknowledged there is an urgency to relocate the Parish Council funds with alternative financial institutions.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to spread any potential financial loss risk by allocating Parish Council funds to (i) one current account, to be held with a high street bank, and (ii) three accounts for holding the reserve funds, all to be held with different institutions, thereby currently restricting exposure at up to £50k per institution.

Cllr H.Davies had researched suitable banking authorities and had circulated a summary of the details of varying accounts offered by well-known banks, to the Council prior to the meeting. At this time the Parish Council retains doubts regarding holding its funds with the Co-operative Bank and so agreed to disregard the bank from their considerations. The Parish Council agreed to disregard Lloyds TSB Bank, as free banking would only be offered for the first 18months of holding an account.

Cllr H.Davies agreed to draft a comparison matrix of the accounts offered by HSBC, Barclays Bank and Unity Trust Bank.

Cllr H.Davies agreed to select six financial institutions for comparison purposes with which the Parish Council could consider holding its reserve funds. It would then choose three. Councillors agreed to work in pairs to each consider the suitability of two institutions.

Considerations would be given to -

- **the current financial standing of the institution**
- **the rate of interest offered**
- **the period of notice required for accessing funds**
- **the availability of multiple withdrawals and penalties incurred**
- **ease of access for deposits/withdrawals/transfers**

The Council unanimously agreed it is essential for the matter to be resolved speedily and that final decisions ought to be made at the Parish Council meeting to be held on 10th July 2013.

43 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

Cllr V.Durrant asked if the recent report, circulated by Cllr H.Davies, into the underlying causes of the recent resignations of councillors from the Parish Council would be considered at the next Parish Council meeting. Cllr S.Curl advised that the findings will remain confidential and will not be considered but that the proposed recommendations would be considered at the meeting to be held on 10th July 2013.

Cllr S.Curl referred to the recent emails received from the resident of the Root Barn regarding noise disturbance created by some of the organisers of the village fete, on Sunday 23rd June 2013, whilst they were collecting a tent/marquee and tables and chairs. The Parish Council had agreed to loan the event tables and chairs and that they could be collected at 09:00; the Council had not been aware that a tent/marquee had been stored at the Barn and that it was to be collected at 08:00.

The Council agreed to write to Sproughton Events to advise them that the Parish Council had received a complaint regarding their activities and to ask Sproughton Events to write a letter of apology to the complainant.

The Council agreed to carry out an internal review of the courtyard usage on a Sunday.

Cllr V.Durrant and Cllr J.Kitson agreed to review the documentation relating to the gift of the Barn to the Parish Council and the user conditions, and to report their findings to the Council.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chairman : _____

Date: _____