

Minutes of the EXTRA ORDINARY FULL COUNCIL MEETING held in the ANZAC ROOM,
Meridian Centre, Peacehaven,
Friday 7th December at 7:30pm.

Members

Councillors: Wayne Botting
Daryll Brindley
Rachael Coles
Claude Cheta
Alan Milliner
Melvyn Simmons
Andy Smith
Sue Griffiths
Lynda Duhigg

Jackie Harrison-Hicks (Chair)
Andy Loraine
Ron Maskell
Dave Neave
Robbie Robertson
Job Harris (Deputy Chair)
Ann Harrison
Ron Maskell

Present:

Councillors:

Jackie Harrison-Hicks (Chair)
Robbie Robertson
Melvyn Simmons
Andy Smith
Alan Milliner

Dave Neave
Sue Griffiths
Job Harris
Claude Cheta

In Attendance

Tony Lopes – Acting Town Manager
Deborah Donovan – Civic & Marketing Officer

GENERAL BUSINESS

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Mayor's announcements

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Cathy Gallagher, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee

I urge council to make a positive decision to move forward with the least cost to the tax payer

John Livings, North Ward

Advised that the recommendations don't make sense. Council will be in purdah in 3 months and in 6 months time there will be a new council. There has been a lack of training in place for councillors; this is a failure of SALC.

In response: Cllr. Robertson explained that the councillors involved did attend the relevant courses
Cllr. Harrison-Hicks said that this would be looked into

Action: The office would look into appropriate courses

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Cllr. Smith, said that all Members need to decide on an action plan for both Members and Staff/Officers. The recommendations suggested by the Acting Town Manager are sound and would need to be funded but what process do we adopt?

Toni Lopes, asked who actions the plan?

Cllr. Smith perhaps we should agree that the action plan is arranged by a committee, i.e. Policy & Finance or maybe set up a working group or should the Officers outline a plan of action?

Toni Lopes explained that the onus is up to Council Members to decide

Cllr. Smith stated that we agree ^{*in} principle the action plan but a report needs to be on the next agenda of FULL COUNCIL which identifies the funding costs

Cllr. Cheta emphasised that 2 quotes should be sourced for best value of money

Toni Lopes explained that 1 & 2 are the better value, solicitor's fees are far more expensive, point 3 can be looked at further but may not have time to carry out a review

Cllr. Neave asked if there was a Staff handbook in place and suggested that all documents should be revised

Cllr. Smith suggested members accept the proposed recommendation report from the Acting Town Manager

Cllr. Harrison-Hicks said that Trevor Leggo would be available to advise

Cllr. Smith again suggested to members that, in principle we agree the action plan at an extraordinary FULL COUNCIL (after the budget meeting) which would cover all 4 points, which Officers will in the meantime put in place.

Cllr. Robertson replied that PTC have policies in place already and that other Councils cannot dictate to PTC a way forward on this. Perhaps a declaration of interest should have been made at the start of the meeting! He added that he couldn't work under these circumstances as some councilors mentioned in the report had in fact broken the code of conduct.

Cllr. Smith asked Cllr. Robertson if he had read the report and suggested that he probably didn't understand the report

Cllr. Robertson said it clearly states that 3 Councillor's had broken the code of conduct

Cllr. Smith replied that no-one mentioned in the report has been to a standards board, therefore nobody is guilty the standards panel therefore, sent their recommendations to Peacehaven Town Council – Members need to decide a way forward and formulate an action plan

Cllr. Cheta suggested that a handbook would need to be refined; policy and procedures need to be implemented to identify what's wrong.

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CONSIDER APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. W Botting – noted (work commitments)
Cllr. D Brindley – noted (family commitments)
Cllr. A Harrison – noted (holiday)
Cllr. A Loraine – noted (work commitments)
Cllr. R. Maskell – noted (family commitments)
Cllr. L. Duhigg -- noted (holiday)
Cllr. I Buchanan – noted (no reason)
Cllr. R Coles – noted (no reason)
Cllr. Neave questioned if there was an IT problem as some apologies were received but not from all

**TO DISCUSS THE RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION REPORT RECEIVED FROM CATHERINE KNIGHT,
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR LEGAL SERVICES**

The recommendations were not available to the general public domain

Discussion:-

Cllr. Smith said that he had spoken with the Monitoring Officer Catherine Knight and stated that there was no finding of guilt on the part of any of those investigated. The monitoring officer decided to use 'other options' which in this case was to make four clear recommendations to the Council" listed in the report.

Toni Lopes responded saying that there are 4 areas that must be addressed and that it is imperative that members follow the correct procedures; the onus is on the members of the council

Cllr. Smith added that training would be necessary and to identify a clear format to take forward, he also asked would the training be of benefit to the current council and suggested that there would be no gain, he for one would not be standing for Peacehaven again!

Toni Lopes explained that all documents would need to be looked at with a professional body who could implement item 4 with the recommendation to be reviewed in February / March for both Members and Staff/Officers. Members should consider careful use of spending public money and asked who would benefit from the training especially when there is an expected local election in May 2019

Cllr. Robertson added that Councillors had training on May 2015 and there is a handbook available for Members and further training was arranged in April 2016 where all members were invited to attend but only a handful actually attended, so if training is arranged for this current council, would they all turn up?

Cllr. Griffiths proposed that she would be pleased to recommend suggestions 1 & 2 and stated that if point 4 was agreed then at least 2 others quotes would be required. She agreed that Members need further training

Toni Lopes explained that Council find themselves in unforeseen circumstances and suggested that the funds would be found where necessary

Cllr. Griffiths asked would this be taken out of general reserves?

Toni Lopes replied yes that is a possibility



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PROPOSAL

Cllr. Neave PROPOSED a recommendation to Members that all documents are revised by the Officers whatever the cost

Cllr Harrison-Hicks (Chair) asked for a vote:

Seconded Cllr. Andy Smith

In favour: Cllr's. Claude Cheta, Job Harris, Alan Milliner

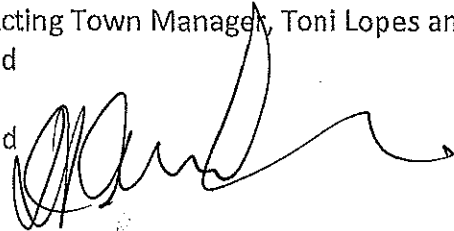
Abstentions: Cllrs: Robert Robertson, Melvyn Simmons, Sue Griffiths

Cllr. Robertson asked the table, what happens if the Code of Conduct is broken, what is the punishment?

No response

It was **AGREED** that the proposed action plan is produced by the Acting Town Manager, Toni Lopes and would be presented to Council in January to **AGREE** to take forward

Cllr. Neave suggested that in the meantime a press release is issued



NEXT MEETING

TO CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 29th January 2019 at 7:30pm PRECEPT – after on PINK PAPER to discuss the report prepared by the Acting Town Manager

Noted

THE MEETING ENDED AT 18.40

Signature:



Date:

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