



## SHAFTESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of Full Council held on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013** at 6:00pm in the Council Chamber.

### **Present:**

Cllr Harvey (Acting Chairman)  
Cllr Cook  
Cllr Dibben  
Cllr Lewer

Cllr Pestell  
Cllr Proctor  
Cllr Steve  
Cllr Tippins

### **In attendance:**

Ms Nicola Duke (Town Clerk)  
Mrs Claire Commons (Acting Committee Services Officer)  
15 members of the public

### **Public Consultation**

Cllr Harvey – opened public consultation explaining that she was chairing in the Mayor's absence.

Mr Cook – asked why the meeting had been called with such urgency without the Mayor being present. He stated that he saw no necessity to hold the meeting at such short notice and further stated that he felt the meeting should be adjourned until more time was available. The Chairman advised that the mayor was happy for Cllr Harvey to chair the meeting in his absence.

Mr Thomas – sought clarification to the purpose of the meeting. This was given.

*Cllr Proctor arrived at 6:04pm*

Mr Cook – spoke referring to the events surrounding the parish meeting held in September, expressing concern at the notice given and the fact it had been chaired by the Mayor. He further made comment that some of the organisers of the parish meeting had only been resident in the town for a short period of time.

Mr Madgwick – spoke in response to Mr Cook's comments stating that it was unfortunate that this was raised as it was setting a residency criteria to eligibility to participate in the community.

Mr Hughes spoke in correction to Mr Cook's comments relating to a quote in the Blackmore Vale Magazine.

Mr Austin – spoke in correction to Mr Cook's comment that the motion against the mayor was withdrawn when in fact the motion fell.

Mr Humphries MBE – spoke expressing disappointment at the position the council found itself in. He spoke in Cllr Dibben’s defence that having known him for many years and having served together on the council, Cllr Dibben had been instrumental to delivering for the town. That he had often put council work before his own and had always been, in his view, for the best of Shaftesbury.

#### **2013/64 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Hicks and Cllr Pritchard due to vacation.

#### **2013/65 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS TO PARTICIPATE**

Members were provided with the opportunity under the Localism Act 2011 to declare any pecuniary interests or dispensations to participate in the meeting. There were none.

#### **2013/66 MOTIONS** *(as recorded in the minutes of the meeting of 19th September 2013)*

Motion 4(a) It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Lewer and seconded by Cllr Proctor and **RESOLVED** that the removal of Cllr Dibben from Committees be **REFERRED** to Full Council.

Cllr Lewer spoke as proposer of the motion. Cllr Proctor spoke as seconder of the motion. The motion was debated following which it was agreed that the voting would take place via secret ballot and that motions A and B would be taken together.

Motion 4 (b): It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Lewer and **SECONDED** by Cllr Proctor and **RESOLVED** that the cancellation forthwith of Cllr Dibben’s representation of the council to outside organisations be **REFERRED** to Full Council.

The vote was taken and **RESOLVED** (6 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention)

**RESOLVED:** That Cllr Dibben’s membership of committees is revoked until the end of the municipal year and that Cllr Dibben’s representation of the Council to outside bodies is cancelled for the same period of time.

*(Policy number 1013/EFC/2013/66) (Statutory Authority – LGA 1972 s101) (No Financial Implication)*

#### **Public Consultation**

Mr Hughes – spoke regarding email footers relating to confidentiality stating that they do not apply as it is impossible to bind someone by them. He further spoke regarding the series of complaints in response to Cllrs Dibben’s reference to them during the debate at item 2013/66 asserting that he had given Cllr Dibben several opportunities to reply before referring to the Standards Committee. Mr Hughes spoke in response to allegations from Cllr Dibben that the Shaftesbury Town Facebook page was not censored and provided examples to evidence this.

Mr Madgwick – spoke regarding Cllr Dibben’s conduct during the meeting attesting that it was contrary to the constitution’s protocol on councillors’ personal conduct / behaviour. He further provided examples of emails he had received from Cllr Dibben demonstrating the unacceptable behaviour.

Mr Cook – told council that he would be reporting Cllr Dibben to the standards committee based on the evidence put forward.

Mr Thomas – expressed his opinion that the council had made the correct decision

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7:20pm