



Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of Alderholt Parish Council held at 7pm on Wednesday 28th February 2024 at Alderholt Chapel.

Present: Cllr A Hibberd (Chairman), Cllr A Butler, Cllr S Butler, Cllr S Emberson, Cllr G Logan and Cllr D Tooke

In Attendance: 4 members of the public and Nicky Ashton, Parish Clerk

50.24 Welcome from the Chairman:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Chapel for the use of the room.

51.24 To receive and accept apologies for absence:

There were no absences.

52.24 To receive declarations of interest and/or consider the granting of dispensations:

There were no declarations of interest or dispensation requests received.

53.24 Public Forum

A member of the public spoke to raise concerns regarding communication and felt this was an issue. They suggested that the Parish Council email parishioners when meetings are being held so they are made aware.

54.24 To review pledges received so far, to review the Council's financial position, and discuss the setting up of a crowdfunding page:

At the current time 95 pledges have been made totalling £10162.00. The Clerk reported that as per the General Reserves policy the minimum levels of reserves are set at three months of the annual precept requirement due to potential additional costs associated with the Public Inquiry it would be prudent to hold a minimum of six months, the Internal Auditor agrees with this level of general reserves. It was also pointed out that Councillors must seriously consider whether the current shortfall in donations is likely to be raised, the impact on earmarked reserves and how this might be viewed by parishioners.

A crowdfunding page has now been created but has not gone live. The transaction fee is 2.4% +20p (per pledge) +VAT. Members **RESOLVED** to proceed with the crowdfunding page with a target amount of £30000.00 and a date of 14th March for funds to be raised. Cllr Logan will prepare a leaflet for distribution to all the households in the parish and Cllr Emberson will generate a QR code for the leaflet. It was agreed to put an update on both the Council's Facebook page (to be shared to the village Facebook page) and the website to update parishioner's and to ask for assistance in distributing the leaflets.

55.24 To appoint the following to act on behalf of the Council at the Public Inquiry (subject to necessary funds being available):

- Planning Barrister – Members **RESOLVED** to appoint Mr S Bell.
- Planning Witness – Members **RESOLVED** to appoint J Witherden (the Council's Neighbourhood Plan Consultant).
- Transport Consultant – as three quotations have not yet been obtained it was agreed to delegate the decision to appoint the Consultant to Cllr S Butler and the Clerk by the following Wednesday.



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56.24 To agree alternative representation at the Dudsbury Homes Planning Inquiry should the necessary funds not be available:

Members **RESOLVED** to look at the possibility of having a solicitor present or other suitable advocate.

57.24 To appoint the relevant person to write the statement of case on behalf of the Council by 21st March for the Dudsbury Homes Planning Inquiry:

Members **RESOLVED** to request the barrister and expert witnesses write the statement.

With no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.14pm.