

Bungay Town Council

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of this Council which took place at the Council Chamber, Broad Street on Thursday 8th February 2018 starting at 7.45pm.

Present : Clls Matthews, Lincoln, Adams, Barnes, Bradley, Collins, Harnden, O'Neill and Prior. Cll Woods joined the meeting at 8.50pm. Also present were 4 members of the public.

1. To accept apologies

Apologies were received from Cll Groom and Woods.

2. Interests

No interests were declared.

3. To receive public representations on agenda items

Dr Lodge asked why the consultation was being held this year and said that distribution of the consultation leaflet was poor.

Mr Riley advised that he had made a written submission about non agenda items but expressed concern that as responses were anonymous this could result in duplications. He also said that household members may have different opinions on the consultation issues but only one form was delivered to each household.

4. To consider the approval process relating to the Budget consultation document and the document's validity

Cll Matthews reported on a meeting with Mr J Friend the Deputy CEO of SALC. Mr Friend had subsequently reviewed the Council minutes and committee reports relating to this matter and had concluded that the process was not flawed and that the Clerk who had consulted the Town Mayor and Deputy before the leaflet went to press had not exceeded his authority. The full text of Mr Friend's response was distributed to members.

Clls Adams, Bradley, Collins, Harnden, O'Neill and Prior expressed views critical of the approval process, questioned the validity of the exercise, the contents of the leaflet and the distribution of it. Various Clls Matthews, Lincoln and the Clerk responded to these points. Cll Barnes supported the responses given and considered the process valid. The Clerk advised that he was aware of some distribution issues and was addressing them.

Cll Matthews summed up by saying that in the light of the SALC advice and the explanations given at the meeting she hoped that the Council could move on.

Signed.....
Date.....

5. To consider the content of the newsletter published in *Bungay & Beyond*

It was noted that the newsletter contained some out of date information, some corrections/additions suggested by members had not been incorporated and the wording relating to the consultation exercise had not been seen by Cll Prior before the newsletter went to press as had been intended. Cll Woods, the other member who was to have had input, had seen it. In the event the piece relating to the consultation was not separate but was incorporated into the Town Mayors newsletter. Cll Prior had been contacted by the Deputy Mayor and was happy with the text. The out of date information related to events that had taken place after the newsletter went to press.

6. To appoint a working party to review the Council's communication processes

It was agreed that Cll Matthews, Bradley and Prior join the LCAS working party who would review this process. A report from this meeting would be made available as soon as practical and a detailed report would go to the main March meeting. It was also agreed that Cll Lincoln would prepare a draft press release about the Council's plans and circulate it to members.

Signed.....

Date.....