

A MEETING OF BRAMSHOTT AND LIPHOOK PARISH COUNCIL TOOK PLACE ON MONDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2011 AT 8pm IN THE PEAK CENTRE, MIDHURST ROAD, LIPHOOK.

MINUTES

Present: Cllr E Hope (Chairperson), Cllr M Croucher (vice-chairperson), Cllr B Easton, Cllr R Evans, Cllr D Hoskins, Cllr D Jerrard, Cllr B Moulard, Cllr J Poole and Cllr P Robinson [Parish Councillors]. Twenty members of the public and two members of staff were present, no member of the press attended.

Announcement: Cllr Don Jerrard read out the resignation received from Cllr Jeremy Austin-Olsen.

1. Chairpersons Announcements: Preliminaries: Mobile phones, fire escape, hearing loop and voice recorder.

2. Apologies for absence: Cllr A James

3. Declarations of interest: The declaration statement was read out.

4. Minutes of Parish Council Meeting - 25th July 2011.

Corrections: The minutes should record That Cllr B Moulard and Cllr J Austin-Olsen voted against the motion to provide a Human Resources.

For decision: to agree the minutes of the meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Croucher. **Seconded:** Cllr Poole

Resolution: Agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Unanimous.

5. Matters arising from the above minutes:

Cllr Croucher: We still haven't heard from EHDC about the tree behind the Parish Office. Cllr Hope agreed that this would be followed up from the parish office.

6. Minutes of Committees and Reports from Working Parties:

Planning Meeting of 22nd August 2011, report by Cllr Don Jerrard.

The two main items were the gypsy site in Devils lane (of which there has been no further news from EHDC on their decision) and the Bohunt site. A public forum was to be set up, however, difficulties arose as a proposal from the agents appointed by Hampshire County Council [HCC] had been received which is confidential, and remains so. GL Hearn has also stated that they wish to discuss this. Cllrs Croucher and Jerrard met with Julia Mansi and were warned to be careful where plans concern Parish Council land. As many members of the public have expressed interest and concern over the site, it was agreed that a Joint Open Forum be held by both Planning and Sports and Recreation.

For decision: to agree the minutes of the meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Jerrard. **Seconded:** Cllr Hope

Resolution: Agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Unanimous.

Finance & Policy Meetings 11 July/12 September. Report by Cllr Croucher.

The meeting on the 12th September was largely taken up by report from the Accounts and Annual Return Working Party [discussed below]. It was explained again that the

minutes from the 11th July meeting were late due to non-production from within the Parish Office. This resulted in Cllr Robinson and Cllr Hoskins having to hand distribute these to all parties.

For decision: to agree the minutes of the meeting.
Proposed: Cllr Croucher. **Seconded:** Cllr Hoskins
Resolution: Agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Unanimous.

Member - Officer Protocol Working Party.

It was agreed that Cllr Hoskins and Cllr Poole would be added to the members of this working party, which would start work shortly.

Recreation Meeting of 5th September 2011. Report by Cllr Poole.

Discussion and investigations into the Play Park [phase 2] are continuing. The main areas being investigating of funding options; obtaining breakdowns as to costs. Discussion regarding the Football Club had also been taking place. The Parish council want to help but it is not possible to expand the current pitch, so will have to wait for a purpose built football pitch.

LMCMC Meeting of 15th September 2011. Report by Cllr Hope.

Two staff members were in attendance, their presence was particularly welcomed and they were thanked for attending. Their input and feedback is invaluable. Problems continue with the round tables, which are difficult to put up and take down. If they cannot be adapted we may have to buy new ones. New curtains are being arranged. The cost of hiring rooms was discussed and it was decided that the prices should remain static and not be increased.

Web site Working Party of 10th August 2011. Report by Cllr Easton.

Difficult negotiations have been taking place with ex-councillor John Tough [JT]. It was JT that volunteered to set up web site for the council, however, since he is no longer a councillor, the Parish Council need access and control. The domain name belongs to the Parish Council and we always believed that JT was working on behalf of the PC in volunteering to be Web Master. However, JT refutes this and is refusing to divulge the passwords required to access the website. We are in the position currently were we cannot publish anything of our own accord as JT believes it his own web site and belongs to him personally. A new website will have to be set up from scratch to that the PC can control what [and when] information is published online. Cllr Hope confirmed that staff will receive training be able to do this.

Standing Orders Working Party of 4th August 2011. Report by Cllr Hoskins.

Three documents are being compared. The current Standing Orders, the National Association of Local Councils [NALC] Model Standing Orders and the version of Standing Orders prepared by the clerk. The version prepared by the clerk is an amended version of NALC and this has been examined along side the NALC provisions and amended as appropriate. In the majority of cases the Model Standing Orders have been preferred over the amended version. The whole document will be given to Councillors for their consideration when it is completed, which will hopefully be in time for next months meeting.

Cllr Hope: Can you explain how the provisions compare?

Cllr Hoskins: The current S.O. is very restrictive and constrains the actions of councillors quite drastically. They were drafted in a negative way with additions, which seem to have been added over the years. As yet we cannot find evidence of resolutions, which have been agreed to amend the Standing Orders, although we believe that there, were some taken. It is likely that they have just 'evolved' over time.

Cllr Robinson: If the Model Standing Orders have been designed by NALC why are we not accepting them?

Cllr Hoskins: We are proposing to adopt them, but felt duty bound to explore the merits of the halfway house presented by the clerk. In the majority of cases this is drafted in a more restrictive manner and in many ways it dilutes authority and access away from Councillors. Where this has happened the Model Code has been preferred.

Mr Atherton: What is the problem with the NALC standing orders?

Cllr Hoskins: Nothing. There is a problem with the ones we have currently and also a problem with the version presented to us by the clerk. We have compared all three and are removing any restricting language, which had been inserted.

Mr Atherton: How long will this take?

Cllr Hoskins: Possibly another few weeks, but hopefully before the next meeting.

Mr Atherton: Why has it been so time consuming?

Cllr Hoskins: There are 4 members of the WP working very hard on a very boring topic. We are being very thorough and the experienced Councillors are inputting all the possible ramifications. We meet every week for approximately two hours.

Mr Atherton: Why hasn't every councillor got a copy of the Model Standing Orders instead of just the Working Party?

Cllr Hoskins: Not correct. I personally sent a copy of the past, intermediate and Model Standing Orders to every single councillor.

Mr Atherton: Why didn't Cllr Croucher attend?

Cllr Croucher: I have been involved in the previous discussions.

Mr Atherton: Why did you not get involved with this WP you should have done.

Cllr Croucher: There is presently lots of Committee work and Working Party commitments. This work is being divided up and covered by those councillors willing to attend. Cllr Hoskins is very capable and it gives new Councillors a chance to learn.

Mr Atherton: This is not acceptable you should have joined. You have had no input.

Cllr Croucher: We needed to sub divide the work and experienced Councillors have been present in that capacity to advise on ramifications. Cllr Hoskins, the chairperson of the WP was happy for it to run on that basis and Cllrs Easton and Poole have been very influential and helpful.

Mr Atherton: No. Cllr Croucher should have done it.

Cllr Hoskins: We were only elected in May, the WP started in June and we were mostly on holiday in August – give us time, it is a big job.

Cllr Hope directly to Mr Atherton: Cllr Croucher has already given you his answer and this point has been answered. Please move on.

Mr Atherton: I maintain that Cllr Croucher has the most experience and should have done it.

Mr Finney: Is there anything in the old Standing Order to prevent the adoption of the new Standing Orders?

Cllr Hoskins: No. The adoption process will be by resolution [majority vote]. All councillors will be presented with the recommendations of the WP. This will be discussed and voted upon at full council meeting in the normal way.

Mr Trodden: Standing Orders are the rules you have to abide by, have they been changed without the council agreeing this? Why can you not find the resolutions?

Cllr Easton: there have been instances where motions have been presented to have amendments, but due to the terrible state of the files in the office it will be a difficult and long process to find everything.

Mr Trodden: Your current Standing Orders - would ANY council anywhere use them?

Cllr Easton: No

Cllr Hope: Absolutely not.

Accounts and Annual Return Working Party [AARWP]. Report by Cllr Jerrard.

The report from the 11th July was handed out at that meeting. It was also given to ex-councillor Tough to put on the website – but it didn't get put on. This WP was set up, as some councillors could not accept the financial accounting statements and annual governance statement in the Annual Return. The WP was to investigate this to enable these statements to be signed off. Detailed and highly confidential matters needed to be looked as initial investigations pointed to the fact that some payments may not have been procedurally correct, rendering them lawful. This is a WP not a formal committee, so we meet 'as and when' and get on with our specific tasks. We have probably had 30 or so meetings. I will present a further report when we get to Item 9 on the agenda.

7. Receive the Monthly Report for the Chairman of the F&P Committee.

Cllr Evans and Cllr Mouland checked the Monthly accounts and payments this month. They were OK and no concerns were reported.

For decision: To agree the monthly accounts.
Proposed: Cllr Croucher. **Seconded:** Cllr Hope
Resolution: Agreed. Unanimous.

8. Public Participation Session. Meeting adjourned.

Mr Trodden: Historic documents, have you found in your investigations, a secret file on me?

Cllr Hope: We cannot give information at the moment as there is an investigation ongoing and we do not want to corrupt it.

Mr Trodden: Previous Councillors of this Parish Council have wronged me. I would normally submit a Data Subject Access request, but I will wait until your investigation is finished as long as I can have this information afterwards?

Cllr Hope: Yes, your rights to see your files will come, in time.

Mr Atherton: I attempted to get a hard copy of the minutes, but they were not available. Why?

Cllr Hoskins: They are available from the Parish Office. We can send you a copy if you leave us your address. Where did you go to find this hard copy?

Mr Atherton: Went to the Parish Office but did not ask for a copy.

Cllr Hoskins: If you make the effort go to the Parish Office, please ensure you ask a member of staff – they would have given them to you straight away!

Mr Atherton: Not happy, should be available without asking for a print off.

Cllr Hope: We would not have piles of paper printed off, as this is not environmentally friendly.

Mr Atherton: I would like to know why you didn't sign the minutes in the minute book.

Cllr Jerrard: I would like to agree with Mr Atherton about inaccessible documentation. As a councillor I have repeatedly come in to look at the Agenda Book and the Minute Book. It transpires that our clerk does not even keep one. This is completely unacceptable as any member of the public should be able to see these. There are still no Agendas to look at and these are not even put on the website. This council must address this and put this right.

Cllr Croucher: We have had a particular problem with computers this week. There is completely inadequate documentation on file to be able to access our computers in order to 'fire them up'. Obviously, this is a very serious matter and a third party had to be employed to gain access. Also in answer to the Minutes being signed [as raised by Mr Atherton] the minutes are not official until they are adopted. We should not be publishing daft minutes particularly as there have been a number of inappropriately

written ones; we only wish to publish on-line when approved. You can come to a meeting and the draft minutes are available, you will see that they are now watermarked with DRAFT running through them so there is no confusion as to what you are looking at.

Mr Atherton: I am not happy – you have not signed them chairman.

Cllr Hope: No. I will not sign the draft ones; I will sign the ones that are approved.

Mr Atherton: If you are passing them you should be signing them.

Cllr Croucher to Mr Atherton: They can be signed at any time; they do not have to be signed in public.

Mr Atherton: It is normal practice to sign at the meeting.

Cllr Croucher to Mr Atherton: Well, that is the difference between the old council and the new council. That is what we have been advised to do by HR.

Mr Atherton: What is HR and why do you need one?

Cllr Croucher: This has been discussed at length at the last meeting. We have experienced staffing issues and have been advised to have this facility.

Mr Atherton: Why? There is already the required experience within this Parish Council.

Cllr Croucher: No, there is not.

Mr Atherton: But Cllr Croucher has many years of management experience surely?

Cllr Hoskins: The position of Councillor is a transient one – we are voted in and voted out. There must therefore be a permanent facility available to ensure the welfare of our employees and ensure staff needs are catered for. We have many members of staff - they need support, and someone to speak to in confidence about any matter that is concerning them or to gain advice as to contractual provisions etc.

Mr Atherton: There is plenty of experience in management of staff.

Cllr Hoskins: This is not about management Mr Atherton, it is about the rights and welfare of our employees.

Mr Atherton: This should be the clerk's role.

Cllr Hoskins: Unfortunately this has not been appropriate in a number of cases and we have been advised by EHDC to get HR for the wellbeing of our employees.

Mr Atherton: Why? You have your own solicitor.

Cllr Hoskins: No. Councils don't retain solicitors on a permanent basis. We may chose to obtain legal advice on a particular and specific issue should we need it, but we do not retain a solicitor just for the sake of it.

Mr Atherton: In that case, EHDC should have a solicitor for you to use.

Cllr Hope directly to Mr Atherton: Councillor Hoskins and others have continued to answer your questions in a very well mannered, controlled and informative way. However, for some reason you are not stopping asking more and more questions - continually covering the same ground despite the fact that answers have been provided. I can confirm that EHDC told this council to do this; the clerk cannot do this independently and neither can these councillors. That was taken as a motion in the last council, but in the last 4 years of council it didn't happen despite being passed. It was supposed to. We are putting that right.

Mr Finney: I am alarmed to hear about the computer systems and your inability to access them. It is vital to have a security policy and a plan for implementing it.

Cllr Croucher: Yes, we do have a security policy. The proper officer as being in place signed this off. However, when we tested it, today, it wasn't!

Mr Finney: A proper plan includes testing and including that it works.

Cllr Croucher: Yes, I agree. The council is subject to an external auditor that should check this security, and a proper officer that should ensure it is present. It seems neither party did this. Now that we know about it we can correct it.

Cllr Easton: We have never in the past, been allowed to enter the office. We have never been able to check anything previously.

Mr Burns: Re: the football team, can I have your assurances that you will fight for a proper football pitch and proper recreational facilities?

Cllr Hope: Yes we will do our very best.

Cllr Croucher: The owners of the Bohunt land made an offer for us to buy land for allotments. However, the contracts had so many problems that they needed to be rectified. The problem here is that this is all within the gift of the owner of the land – not us. We could go through the very lengthy [10 years] process of compulsory purchase, but that would cost a significant amount of money. At this stage we need to carry on talking to try to find common ground.

Mr Burns: you need to let us know what is going on.

Cllr Jerrard: Yes, we agree and that is why we re planning to have a specific forum for this. We welcome input and discussion from all parties.

Cllr Robinson: We have made special arrangements for extra cars to be able to park, by blocking off the play area at one side. I hope that helps.

Mr Atherton: Why is this still being discussed when it has already been agreed upon?

All councillors: No it has not. You must have read that in the Herald!

Mr Atherton: I heard this from the owner of Bohunt.

All councillors: Who?

Mr Atherton: The business.

Mr Burns: Don't get IML involved in this Mister! They don't own the land.

Cllr Hope: Confirms to Mr Atherton that he is mistaken, that IML do not own the land, it is privately owned by a property developer.

Meeting reconvened.

9. Annual Return for year ending 31 March 2011.

Cllr Jerrard: This cannot be done yet, that is why the WP was set up. The Audit Commission was contacted. They are not expecting it any time soon.

Report of AARWP.

The Public Version of the Interim Report was read out. A press release was issued to explain the situation; despite this however this article in the Herald is very inaccurate. The Report in its full form was accepted by the Finance and Policy committee on the 12th September 2011. The public version will be put on the website.

In brief, it has been necessary to suspend the clerk and terminate the employment of temporary acting deputy clerk to conduct the investigation. This is due to the factual evidence required into the history of the payments made to staff, flowing from a series of grievances brought against the council.

Payment [A] £2,500 April 2007. It would seem that the approval of this payment was not recorded anywhere in any minutes of the council. This lack of transparency led Cllr Barry Hope to launch a Freedom of Information request, which was fought by the Council. The Council were eventually forced to release the fact after being instructed by the information commissioner in 7 Oct 2009. We continue to search.

Payment [B] £8,500 26th November 2010. This was made on the recommendation of Hedleys LLP after a further series of grievances were brought against the council. We cannot find motions approving the retention of Hedleys, we can find no client care letter, the terms of their appointment was never minuted as having taken place at a Parish Council meeting. It seems that either Cllr Newman or Cllr Tough of their own volition arranged everything but we continue to search.

Hedleys LLP. £350 plus vat to clerks solicitor, £650 plus vat and £1,950 plus vat to Hedleys that we have discovered to date. Hedley's also later carried out further work in writing letter threatening actions in defamation against Councillors and members of the public. It would seem that they have done this work for nothing, as we can find no charge for this as yet. We could find no real record of the costs and it transpires

that these were being sent privately to Cllr Nigel Newman to his home address. We continue to search.

Thompsons. After the May election, the clerk through his solicitors, Thompsons, issued a further complaint against the council. The temporary acting deputy clerk referred the matter to Hedley's on 16th May. She did not inform the Council of this until 13th June. A letter has been sent to Thompsons but they have not replied.

Whistleblowing Disclosures. These were uncovered during our investigations, some old and some new. Also, we have had new reports made to us in the last couple of weeks. We have to make confidential enquiries to investigate these as serious allegations of bullying have been made against the clerk. Apparently, this was reported previously, but not dealt with. There is certainly no mention of Whistleblowing disclosures or complaints in the minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee meetings. We are continuing with these investigations and are interviewing staff, councillors and members of the public in confidence.

Three main areas of law, which govern council procedures, were read out.

- 3 clear working days notice and all papers sent to all councillors in a clear and unambiguous manner so that all members know what is to be discussed and what is to be voted upon.
- It is unlawful for any decision to be delegated to any individual councillor, and the Chairman is no different in this regard.
- Solicitors can only act for a client if they comply with the Solicitors Code of Conduct 2007. Rule 2 of which states that client care information must be sent, indicating what matter they are required to act on, the options available and the likely cost of these actions.

We are doing this internally to start with, as the process of getting in a third party will be expensive. It was felt that we should do the legwork for free where that is possible [such as getting files together in an orderly fashion, putting events into historical order and locating the authority to act for the decisions actually taken etc]. If the Audit Commission is not 100% satisfied with our report, they will themselves order an investigation. We still have to pay for it, but at least they will have less to look for if we have located the files and put them in order first.

We are happy for any third party to come and look at what we are working with and what we have produced, however, we must try to do this investigation as thoroughly as possible and as cheaply as possible in the first instance. The report will be sent to the audit commission and other statutory bodies. It will be made public.

Since having access to the Parish Office it has been discovered that the whole place is in the most unbelievable and incredible mess. We are more than happy if any member of the public wishes to see the state of the place, they can be escorted in to view it. Then it may be possible for some level of understanding as to the difficulties we have faced to be appreciated. It is one hell of a mess.

Mr Atherton: Assistant clerk on maternity leave. Is she involved?

No.

Mr Atherton: Temporary deputy clerk, has she been suspended because of this?

Yes. She was being extremely obstructive in providing the evidence we needed. Her contract was terminable on 4 weeks notice and this decision was taken in order to complete the investigation.

Mr Finney: How were the payments processed and authorised. Have you been able yet to establish the process?

There seems to have been no process. The arrangements were made between Cllr Newman, Hedleys and the clerk. We do not yet know why this was done in this fashion, but we hope that Cllr Newman will accept an invitation to talk to us about it, in the same way as the other councillors past and present are doing.

For decision: To agree not to sign of the Annual Return, but to continue to make the enquires necessary and keep the audit comm. Informed.

Proposed: Cllr Jerrard. Seconded: Cllr Croucher

Resolution: Agreed. Unanimous.

10. Budget and precept planning 2012, 2013.

This was put forward. Cllr Hoskins requested that this be explained to her as she was new and didn't feel comfortable agreeing to something that could have financial consequences. Councillor Croucher offered to sit down with the information and explain how it all works.

For decision: To agree the budget and precept planning as set out.

Proposed: Cllr Croucher. Seconded: Cllr Hope

Resolution: Agreed. Abstain – Cllr Hoskins.

11. Appointments

A volunteer was sought for a Council representative on the Peak Centre Trust. The Councillor who originally agreed to stand here was Cllr Sangita Judge; however she cannot attend at all for some reason. Cllr Hope is happy to do this.

Decision: Cllr Eve Hope to become the Parish Council representative for the Peak Centre Trust.

Proposed: Cllr Hope. Seconded: Cllr Hoskins

Resolution: Agreed. Unanimous.

12. Parish Council Website.

Motion proposed by Cllr Easton.

"The Parish Council will authorise the Website Working Party to instigate all necessary possesses and procedures to create a new Parish Council website, using the existing domain name (registered to Bramshott and Liphook Parish Council), and secondly, as the current web master Dr Tough will not verbally relinquish the passwords and information needed for full control, or enter into a contract to this effect, that the council stops using the current website forthwith."

Cllr Moulard: If we have no control of the website, how can we set up a new one?

Cllr Easton: We have got things in place to be able to do it.

Cllr Robinson: Do we have access at this point in time to publish things?

Cllr Easton: No access at all.

Cllr Robinson: How can we tell people that we can publish them then?

Cllr Jerrard: The last lot of minutes were put on after we told JT that they would be put on liphook.co.uk if he didn't.

Mr Burns: can you use the community site in the mean time so we can get the truth, rather than rely on a load of old bunkum.

Cllr Hope: agreed that the reporting in the Herald is very skewed and we may have to put things on the community website in the meantime.

Mr Trotter: is the old website going to come down?

Cllr Easton: Yes.

Mr Burns: How can he [JT] get away with this?

Cllr Croucher: JT thinks he owns the intellectual property rights. He did it for free, no contract was entered into, he refused payment, and he refused contracts. He is in control. That situation should never have been allowed to happen.

Cllr Easton: We owned the domain name from the start; the staff and we should have managed it. We have given him a fair chance to put it right. The time has run out. We will now take control.

Motion: as above

Proposed: Cllr Easton. **Seconded**: Cllr Moulard. **Agreed**, unanimous.

Motion proposed by Cllr Hoskins

“The Parish Council resolve to hold Parish Council meetings and some committee meetings in August annually, as set out and agreed in the Parish Council meeting programme.”

Cllr Moulard: there may be too many people on holiday?

Cllr Jerrard: I don't agree. August is traditionally the holiday month. The planning committee does still have meeting in August as submissions never stop, there should be an F&P meeting but not a full council meeting, as otherwise councillors won't be able to take a holiday.

Cllr Robinson: This may be a kneejerk reaction due to the tremendous pressure we are under at the moment. In normal years there probably won't be this level of workload. Next year (please God) we won't have this.

Cllr Poole: if only a few Councillors were present, members would be reluctant to make important decisions.

Cllr Croucher: We work as a team and are not expected to come to every meeting. I take my holidays whenever I chose and never go in August. However, the F&P is in charge of lots of very important things, and having a two-month gap for F&P is too lax. You wouldn't run a business like it.

Amendment proposed. To allow for a Finance and Policy meeting be held in August. **Proposed** Cllr Hoskins. **Seconded** Cllr Croucher. **Vote**. Unanimous.

Amended Motion

“The Parish Council resolves to hold Finance and Policy meetings in August annually, as set out and agreed in the Parish Council meeting programme.”

Proposed Cllr Hoskins. **Seconded** Cllr Croucher.

Resolution Agreed. Unanimous.

Motion proposed by Cllr Hoskins.

“In accordance with other local Councils such as Haslemere, with regard to the publication of costs and salaries of public servants, that staff salaries be published on the Council website with immediate effect”

Cllr Jerrard: I can't support this without further thought I think it should be only senior officers? At the moment we don't even know what our own staff are paid. I would like to adjourn this and reconsider it at the next meeting. To enable consultation with staff etc. Perhaps we would just publish salaries grade bands?

Mr Burns: it could be embarrassing.

Cllr Croucher: You should talk to Haslemere council to see how they do it.

Cllr Hope: It is nearly half past ten, we must move on.

Cllr Easton: I think staff should be consulted.

Mr Burns: It only needs to list senior grades.

Cllr Hoskins : I wish to withdraw the motion and place on the agenda for next month.

Motion proposed by Cllr Hoskins.

“No meeting minutes are to be placed on the Council website until they have been approved by the Committee concerned or by the Full Council.”

Mr Young: When will the minutes be available to us?

Cllr Hoskins: The draft minutes will not be put on the website, but they can be printed off in the Parish Office and must be clearly marked as DRAFT. They will be sent out in the normal way with the Agenda.

Cllr Moulard: Once the committee has approved them it is a *‘fait accompli’* then isn't it. We can't then say 'I wanted to talk about that'

Cllr Hoskins: When you approve minutes you are only agreeing that it is a true record of what was said last month. If the public want to come and speak about anything then they are welcome to do so.

Cllr Moulard: People might read the draft minutes on the website and then chose to come to the meeting to talk about it. If they are already approved then they won't get a chance.

Cllr Hope: They don't change in context. Typos are corrected etc.

Cllr Moulard: People need an earlier opportunity to say stuff.

Cllr Hoskins: Unfortunately we had a very embarrassing situation when we first came into office as Parish Councillors, where minutes were written, which were entirely inappropriate. No Councillor would ever had agreed them, but, they were put up on the website without any prior notification to any councillor that this would happen.

Mr Finney: Aren't you making an artificial distinction? If they are available in the parish office they might as well be available on-line.

Cllr Jerrard: if you put something on the website it is electronic, as soon as you publish in this medium it can be distributed across the entire world in seconds flat. And nobody has a clue whether it has been approved or not. Someone can go in and look at the minutes – that is very different.

Mr Finney: I have previously been into the Parish Office to ask for minutes and been told to stick it where the money stores his nuts!

All Councillors: Shocked.

Cllr Croucher: May I suggest that you write into us outlining this incident.

Cllr Hope: Yes, we would like to hear about that.

Proposed. Cllr Hoskins

Seconded Cllr Robinson

Resolution vote agreed, unanimous.

15. Letter from Phelim McIntyre re: Olympics.

Cllr Hoskins: How can we afford this?

Cllr Easton: what about the BBC on a big screen

Cllr Robinson: no difference between watching outside and watching in the Green Dragon. I don't see any benefit in this

Cllr Easton: We have a big screen in the Millennium Hall we could use that, it would come down to the cost of the BBC transmission.

Cllr Hope: we will look into it. The notes will be sent to the Millennium Committee.

16. Reports from Representatives to outside bodies.

Community Tasking and Coordination Group Meeting.18th July 2011.

Cllr Croucher: There were three things on the agenda for this meeting and all to do with local criminals, so I am unable to comment on this.

Eco-Town Standing conference on 31st August 2011.

Cllr Evans: Nothing to report.

Community Magazine Meeting 12 September 2011.

Cllr Moulard: Circulation has increased this quarter to 3,850. It has been so successful that they are printing another 50. It is doing very well.

Cllr Hope: That is very good. I expect they are really finding your input quite useful.

Cllr Moulard: I also represented the Parish Council at a lunch being held for Mrs Wilson who has retired.

Mr Burns: I would like to say that the new community magazine is much heavier and absolutely wonderful. It is really really good.

Exclusion of the public to approve the exempt minutes.

The open meeting closed 10:35pm and the public were thanked for attending what was a very lengthy meeting.