



BRAMSHOTT & LIPHOOK PARISH COUNCIL

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A MEETING OF THE LIPHOOK MILLENNIUM CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE TOOK PLACE AT 8.00PM IN THE HASKELL CENTRE, MIDHURST ROAD, LIPHOOK ON THURSDAY 19 MAY 2011

MINUTES

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs E Hope (Chairman), Cllr M Croucher, Cllr R Evans, Cllr Ms J Poole (Parish Councillors), Mr A Groves (Clerk). Five members of the public and one member of the press were present.

25/11 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Action

Preliminaries: Mobile Phones, Exits, Loop System, Toilets, Tape Machine.

26/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - None.

27/11 MINUTES OF MEETINGS – 7 APRIL 2011

For Decision: To agree the minutes of the meeting.

Proposed: The Chairman **Seconded:** Cllr Poole **Vote:** For: 4

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

Clerk

28/11 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES – 7 APRIL 2011

None; the Clerk confirmed that he had dealt with all the decisions he had been responsible for.

29/11 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the Events and Marketing Sub-Committee – 19 April 2011.

For Decision: To accept the minutes of the meeting and recommendations.

Proposed: Cllr Croucher **Seconded:** Cllr Evans **Vote:** For: 4

Resolution: The minutes and recommendations of the Events and Marketing Sub-Committee Meeting on 19 April 2011 were accepted.

Clerk

30/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – The declaration was read out.

31/11 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

The meeting was adjourned.

Public Questions.

Dr Tough. Why were the co-opted members representing the community on this Committee not agreed at the Annual Meeting as required by Standing Orders. This contravenes Standing Orders. It was on the agenda to appoint co-opted members but this was not considered and instead a completely different proposal was put to the Council which was “ultra vires” because it was not on the agenda. There was no discussion when the proposal was put so when was it discussed and by whom? Was the reason that you did not know the members who had asked to be appointed? Cllr Croucher would have been able to explain to the Council who we were as he knows us all well. In addition to contravening Standing Orders and being illegal, I think the whole thing is extremely insensitive towards the co-opted members. So why were co-opted members representing the community not appointed at the Annual Meeting and when was the proposal discussed and by whom?

The Chairman. It was discussed by a number of councillors which were going to be on the Millennium Committee. As it was a new Council, we felt that the Committee had a right to look at the co-opted members, say thank you to them, and invite them to stand again if we felt that was what we wanted to do. However the Committee felt that being a new Council we had the right to co-opt the members that we wished to co-opt. It is not usual for a new Council to have co-opted members put forward by whoever. Who put these members forward?

Dr Tough. They were invited by the previous Committee, it was on the agenda and recorded in the minutes that any co-opted members that needed to be invited to be re-appointed should write to the Clerk and register that interest for consideration at the Annual Meeting.

The Chairman. That was the previous Council. There is now a new Council in place that wish to be more open and have people come to meet them and to be able discuss what they are doing.

Dr Tough. Are you implying that we were not open on the LMCMC last time?

The Chairman. I am not going to answer that Dr Tough, it is irrelevant. I am not answering that. (The Chairman invited Cllr Croucher to say something.)

Cllr Croucher. I will re-iterate what you said. There are a number of new councillors and it is a pity they are not here tonight, that didn't know the members. It was not appropriate to be talking about it at the Council Meeting. Therefore it was decided that we would defer the co-opted members for consideration. It is a pity that certain councillors are not here tonight to ask you some questions.

Mrs Groves. Are you intending to appoint co-opted members to the Committee?

The Chairman. We are going to discuss that here, and I asked that to be put on the agenda for this evening.

Mrs Groves. I was on the Committee when it was originally started, and I understood it was in order that representatives could come from the various users of the Hall such as the Scouts and Guides, and the Preservation Society.

The Chairman. Absolutely. That's no problem at all. The fact is that we have got a new Council and we wished to see the people, we don't know them, we have never met them and we felt it was important as a new Committee and new Council to do that and that is why and Cllr Croucher will back that because that is what was discussed. (Dr Tough informed the Chairman that four of the co-opted members were present.)

Mrs Groves. When was that discussed because I attended the Parish Council meeting on Monday and I did not hear that discussion take place at all?

The Chairman. It was discussed prior to the Council meeting.

Mrs Groves. How many members of the Council discussed it?

The Chairman. I must admit, I have not known any other Committee that goes from year to year without meeting co-opted members.

Mrs Groves. I am not asking about that, I am asking who it was that discussed the actual decision that you would at the Parish Council meeting decide not to appoint because obviously that was not discussed at the Parish Council meeting and not visible to anybody?

The Chairman. We looked at the agenda and we decided that we had not had the opportunity to appoint those members as a new Council.

Mrs Groves. I ask again who the “we” consist of because before that Parish Council meeting you actually weren’t a Parish Council so who was the “we” that considered that? (The Chairman asked Cllr Croucher to come in because he was present when they discussed it.)

Cllr Croucher. It was new members of the Council that did not know you.

Mrs Groves. When did this meeting take place because it was not at the Parish Council meeting? Were you as a Parish Council all there?

The Chairman. It was here before the meeting.

Mrs Groves. So it was outside the meeting?

The Chairman. We saw the agenda and we decided that we felt that it was not right with a new Council to be actually doing that. It was not right for a new Council, and a new set up, to be presented with people we hadn’t even met.

Mrs Groves. I understand your reasoning, I am just concerned that it was not discussed at an actual Parish Council meeting with the Parish Council in session, it was informal and ad hoc.

The Chairman. We discussed as we looked at the agenda.

Mrs Groves. Were all the Parish Council members there?

The Chairman. Most of the new Parish Councillors members were there.

Mrs Groves. Could we ask who was present?

Cllr Croucher. I don’t know, the Clerk would know who was present.

The Clerk. I was not at the meeting you held wherever it was. You need to answer the question.

Cllr Croucher. The question was whether it was on the Council.

The Clerk. No, the question was who attended the meeting.

Dr Tough. Your pre-meeting.

Mrs Groves. Your pre-meeting discussion before the Parish Council meeting.

The Chairman. We did not have a pre-meeting.

Mrs Groves. You just told me you were, before the Parish Council meeting took place.

The Chairman. It was here as we looked at the agenda.

Mrs Groves. I am asking who the members were at the meeting.

The Chairman. I cannot say because we were all around the table.

Cllr Evans. Are we missing something here? It’s a new council, we have been chosen democratically. If there are any co-opted members we will look at that afresh. Whether its before, after, whenever, its academic because otherwise we could be accused of not being democratic and having the same people on. I do not see what the problem is. Thats it, end of story.

Mrs Groves. I have no issue with you deciding to do that but the fact that it was not decided within a Parish Council meeting. It was not on the agenda.

The Chairman. We looked at the agenda and saw the co-opted members and felt that we needed to give them more than what we could that evening. That was to meet them and find out and what they did.

Mrs Groves. You are conducting business outside the Parish Council meeting and deciding what you were going to decide to do?

The Chairman. I do not need to answer that. I decided in the Parish Council meeting that I wanted to do it that way.

Mrs Groves. So you had previously discussed it outside the meeting with anybody who was around at the time?

The Chairman. How many others members were around, I really feel is irrelevant.

Mrs Groves. It is hugely relevant. Is this how the Parish Council are going to conduct their business in the future? They are going to have ad-hoc meetings and then decide what they are going to discuss at a Parish Council meeting? That is what you said you did.

The Chairman. With respect Mrs Groves we have been very open about this and have discussed this in front of everybody and discussed it in front of everybody on Monday night.

Mrs Groves. I am sorry you did not. It was not part of the Parish Council meeting.

The Clerk. I took the minutes and this was not discussed with anybody at the meeting. There was no discussion at the meeting, Madam Chairman.

The Chairman. I am actually going to bring this to an end because I think this attitude is causing a little bit of a problem.

Dr Tough. It was not discussed in the Parish Council meeting which is hardly democratic Cllr Hope.

The Chairman. The fact is that we made a decision to do that as a new Council because we did not want to carry on in the way it had before. We wanted to say hello to people, to meet them and we have every right to do that, every right.

Mrs Groves. I do not have an issue doing that.

The Chairman. We have every right to do that as a new Council and a new Committee. I have never heard of a Committee that actually that goes into the next situation with everybody.

Mrs Groves. I re-state again I have no concern with that.

The Clerk. Madam Chairman, I was here before the meeting and sitting here at the meeting and there was no discussion by members at this table prior to the Annual Meeting taking place. That did just not happen, I was here.

The Chairman. We actually discussed this didn't we?

Cllr Croucher. Yes.

The Clerk. So you did discuss this.

Cllr Croucher. The meeting had not started.

The Clerk. I was here the whole time.

The Chairman. That's the way it is. I decided that I like to meet people that are volunteering and are being co-opted

Mrs Groves. I totally understand that.

The Chairman. In that case, what is the argument then?

Mrs Groves. The argument is that you decided between you before you even had the Parish Council meeting and then brought it to the Parish Council meeting when it was not on the agenda.

The Chairman. I decided that was the reason. I decided that I wanted to meet the co-opted members and that's the way it is. I am not changing my mind, that's the way it is.

The Clerk checked that the Chairman had said that this was going to be dealt with during the meeting. The Chairman said it would. The Clerk advised that would be unlawful. The Chairman said that she had asked for it to be put on the agenda. The Clerk said the agenda went out before the Annual Meeting. Cllr Croucher said it could be deferred to the next meeting. The Clerk advised that it was only the Council that could determine the appointment of a Committee which he explained, and advised that it be dealt with by the Parish Council.

The Chairman said she would like that to have gone ahead that evening and that she had not stopped this. Dr Tough asked if it would be possible for the Chairman to meet the co-opted members after the meeting. The Chairman agreed. The Chairman said she had expected this to be on the agenda. The Clerk re-iterated that it could not, because the agenda had gone out on 12 May before the Chairman had met with the Clerk. The Chairman said that she had said it would be discussed and had asked it to go on the agenda. The Clerk said he begged to disagree with The Chairman.

The meeting was re-convened.

Members/Public Participation (Code of Conduct, Paragraph 12 (2)). None.

Public Participation. At the Chairman's discretion; Dr Tough offered assistance when items were discussed.

32/11 REPORTS

Financial Report – The Chairman read out the report. No comments; noted.

Administration & Maintenance - The Chairman invited the Clerk to report.

Projector. The Clerk informed members of the major technical problem with the projector which he explained. It had been intended to replace it anyway with a more powerful machine capable of providing a better picture quality for the Cinema shows. The cost of equipment with the correct specification was £1,399. It would mean that the additional projector would not need to be purchased as the current projector could be used as the portable projector. There was a cinema showing on 3 June 2011. The back-up was to hire a projector, or use the current projector but in a floor mounted mode.

Surround Sound System. The Clerk reported that the surround sound system had been placed on the equipment list as directed at the last meeting. The equipment was currently being borrowed, and the owner said he would be willing to sell it for £100. It was estimated to cost about £900 brand new.

Roof/Tiles. Repair work needed to be carried out on the roof. Brown water markings had appeared on the ceiling in the foyer which was due to the way the roof was shaped, the pointing and flashing needed attention, and some guttering needed to be installed. This would cost about £600 and could be funded from the Maintenance Fund.

Discussion. The purchase of the items and the repairs. The Chairman invited Dr Tough to comment as the former Chairman of the LMCMC.

For Decision: Purchase of the surround sound system at a cost of £100.

Proposed: Cllr Croucher **Seconded:** Cllr Evans **Vote:** For: 4

Resolution: Agreed.

Clerk

For Decision: Purchase of the projector at a cost of £1,399.

Proposed: Cllr Croucher **Seconded:** Cllr Ms Poole **Vote:** For: 4

Resolution: Agreed.

Clerk

For Decision: Repairs to the roof at a cost of approximately £600.

Proposed: The Chairman **Seconded:** Cllr Croucher **Vote:** For: 4

Resolution: Agreed. Clerk
33/11 SUB-COMMITTEE/WORKING PARTY /TEAM APPOINTMENTS

Members considered the membership of the Marketing and Events Sub-Committee, the LMC Storage Working Party, and the Catering Review team.

Discussion: Who was eligible to fill the appointments, the powers of the Committee, and to defer making the appointments to the next meeting. The Chairman permitted Dr Tough to participate in the discussion.

For Decision: To defer the appointments until the next meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Croucher **Seconded:** Cllr Ms Poole **Vote:** For: 4

Resolution: Agreed; to be deferred to the meeting on 14 July 2011. Clerk

34/11 EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Motion: “This Committee resolves to exclude members of the public and the press during the consideration of the following item, as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were to be present during that item there would be disclosure of exempt information as specified in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A (as amended) to the Local Government Act 1972”.

Proposed: The Chairman **Seconded:** Cllr Croucher **Vote:** For: 4

Resolution: Agreed.

EXEMPT SESSION DECISIONS

7E/11 Minutes of the Exempt Session 7 April 2011. Agreed.

8E/11 Matters Arising – 7 April 2011. Draft Catering contract and associated reports to be circulated to members prior to the LMCMC on 14 July 2011.

Business Concluded: 8.35pm. Confirmed at the meeting: 14 July 2011

Signed: Chairman

Draft minutes until approved by the LMCMC, which does not preclude the implementing of decisions