

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Fressingfield Parish Council held in the Sancroft Hall, Fressingfield on Tuesday 29 August 2017

Present: Garry Deeks; Hilary Day; Philip Eastgate; Judy Fullam; Ian Smith; Nick Stolls; Andrew Vessey; Dave Wheeler;

In Attendance: Lavinia Hadingham; Carol A Smy (Clerk)

8 members of the public attended including several candidates for co-option

17.1 Chairman's welcome – The Chairman welcomed everyone to this meeting and spent a few moments explaining the reasons for this being a single item meeting and the procedure that would be followed for the co-option process. The situation the Parish Council found itself in, with five vacancies, was most unusual and there was not a defined method in place. Therefore, the process would be by ballot. It had to be stressed that this was not a 'secret vote' (as had been stated to the Clerk about the most recent co-option) but a ballot, as occurred previously. This is the way Fressingfield had always proceeded when co-options were required. Voting records were retained by the Recording Officer (the Clerk to the Council). Candidates would require a majority vote to be co-opted, with a second ballot taken in the event of a tie.

17.2 There were no apologies for absence

17.3 Members' Declarations of Interest – none

17.4 Co-options

17.4.1 The candidates present were invited to address the Council and Members then invited to put any questions. JC was asked about his views on the collective response required of a Council and his views on working as part of a team. He felt this was not a problem for him. He was next asked about attendance at meetings, as it was known he was often away from the village; he felt this would not be a difficulty. He was then asked about his and PC's joint pen portrait and JC's point about feeling he and PC worked well as a team and would be an asset to the PC if voted for as a pair (it had previously been explained, to the candidates and Council, that a 'buy one get one free' system did not operate) and how would he react to one being elected and the other not. JC replied that he would have to consider this position. PC was asked most of the same questions as above but stated that if elected alone would not take the seat. AD was asked if there would be a conflict of work hours and meetings and he did not foresee a difficulty, likewise he did not envisage a familial conflict. He would have no problem with collective working. PD was asked why she thought there was an advantage to knowing little about Fressingfield. She felt she could bring an open mind, with no pre-conceptions. She had no problem with training and commitment of time and enjoyed taking courses. JK was asked if he were elected would he step down from his position as Chairman of the village housing group and he stated he would. Tom L explained his skills in business and working with ventures in many parts of the world had been developed, along with mentoring skills and he felt these were transferable. He felt that people were basically the same everywhere regardless of nation or status. Tracey L was asked why she had left the PC previously and she explained that she had moved too far from the village to be eligible. She was asked how she would work with the collective responsibility and she stated she had worked in many different companies and when a decision was taken one worked with it to produce the best result.

17.4.2 A ballot was taken and the result was as follows:

John Castro	3
Pam Castro	2
Alex Day	5
Pam Douglas	2
Lucy Hardy	2
John Kelsall	4
Tom Lindsay	7
Tracy Livingstone	7
Chris Martin	2

Tom Lindsay, Tracy Livingstone and Alexander Day were duly co-opted onto the Council.

As John Kelsall had four votes a second ballot was taken and the result was five votes in his favour so he was duly co-opted.

17.4.3 The Chairman welcomed the four new members and thanked everyone for putting their names forward.

17.4.4 As there was still one place to be filled this would be duly advertised and a second co-option would take place. It was hoped those who had put their names forward would consider doing so again.

17.4.5 The new Members of the Council signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office.

17.4.6 All members of the Parish Council, including those co-opted at this meeting, were given information/guidance folders containing the following items:

- New Councillor Quick Guide – Welcome to Fressingfield Parish Council
- New Councillor Quick Guide – Roles and responsibilities within the council
- Member Officer protocol
- Meeting dates 2017
- Guidance notes for Councillors on declaring Interests under the Suffolk Local Code of Conduct
- Suffolk Local Code of Conduct
- Suffolk Local Code of Conduct flow chart
- Standing Orders
- Financial Regulations
- The Good Councillor's Guide 2017 edition

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.25hrs

**Signed:
Chairman**

19 September 2017