

ST MINVER HIGHLANDS PARISH COUNCIL

Extraordinary General Meeting – 19th March 2021

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Zoom on the above date

| Ref | Item | Action |
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| 249/3 2021 EGM | Persons Present / Apologies: Cllr. V. Darnell, Cllr. N. Wapshott, Cllr. N. Mably, Cllr. M. Dingle, Cllr. D. Hutley, Cllr. M. Parnell, Cllr. B. Gisbourne, Cllr. S. Mitchell, Cllr. R. Harris. Cllr. V. Darnell took the Chair. There were no apologies received. In attendance: S. Theobald, Clerk. | |
| 250/3 2021 EGM | To Receive Declarations of Interest from Members / Dispensations applied for: None at this time. | |
| 251/3 2021 EGM | Public participation: No members of the public present. | |
| 252/3 2021 EGM | Reports from outside bodies: Beach Management Committee. Cllr. Dingle opened the discussion. His feeling was that the funding issue and design of the Beach Ranger's 'office' should be the priority of this meeting. Cllr. Wapshott said he felt confused as the plan first muted was that Highlands would order, fund, and site such an 'office'. It now seemed as though Lowlands had put the money in place and had ordered a building to serve as an 'office' for the Beach Ranger. He therefore was questioning whether they actually needed any financial contribution from Highlands. Cllr. Harris said that back in 2020 this Council had asked Cornwall Council to supply an 'office' for the Beach Ranger but this had been unforthcoming. Since then changes had occurred, Cornwall Council had allocated money from the car park revenue to fund the Beach Ranger and as the car park is in Lowlands they receive this money. But Cllr. Harris felt that, in order to retain some degree of control over the Beach Ranger's activities as 95% of Polzeath is in Highlands Parish, Highlands should part fund this venture. | |
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Parish Clerk: S. Theobald
Tolcarne, Trebarwith Road, Delabole, PL33 9DB
Tel 01840 213558
Email: clerk@stminverhighlands-pc.gov.uk

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| 252 cont | <p>Cllr. Parnell was of the opinion that it was a shame the first proposal, (of this Council) to order, and fund, a Portacabin at a cost of £4800 had not happened, but like the previous speaker he felt this Council should make a financial contribution towards the cost of the building that has now been ordered by Lowlands PC.</p> <p>Cllr. Dingle felt that a commitment had been entered into to part fund this 'office' and St Minver Highlands PC should honour that commitment.</p> <p>Cllr. Hutley was in agreement with the Councillors who felt Highlands should make a contribution towards the cost of the already ordered 'office' but point out that this Council is not happy with the design of the building as it would appear to be unsuitable for the position it is intended for, it could be a target for vandals and could be a fire risk as it was felt it is not robust enough in its design.</p> <p>Cllr. Mably felt the design was more that of a garden office rather than a Beach Ranger's shelter. She suggested as funds had already been budgeted for this project it should be spent on this project.</p> <p>Cllr. Mitchell agreed the building was of poor design and even with one window removed and a shutter be fitted to the one remaining window it would still be questionable if it was fit for purpose and situation.</p> <p>Cllr. Gisbourne said the building was constructed to meet RNLI beach buildings standard and should therefore be fire proofed.</p> <p>Further he said that time was running out to get this building in place by 1st April and that it was unlikely to be in place before the end of May so his Council thought it was best to expedite the project with all haste.</p> <p>Cllr. Darnell said she felt that she and Cllr. Dingle were 'side-lined' during discussion at Beach Management Committee meetings as they could not / would not vote on final decisions without first bringing any proposal back to Highlands PC for ratification.</p> <p>Cllr. Harris questioned whether decisions made by this committee were voted on before being actioned. Cllr. Darnel said no, they were discussed and debated but no votes had been taken.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Chairman of the Beach Management Committee be required to initiate a voting system on all decisions reached.</p> <p>It was further suggested that Andy Stewart, the Chairman of this committee be invited to attend the April meeting of Highlands PC to clarify how the Beach Management Committee will operate, and how it's duties will be carried out from now on.</p> <p>Cllr. Harris proposed action on the points above, seconded by Cllr. Wapshott but not picked up and put to the vote.</p> | |
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| 252 cont | <p>Cllr. Harris then proposed the £4800, earmarked for the purchase of a suitable building, be paid to Lowlands PC but that it should be noted that Highlands PC do not think the proposed building, now ordered, will be fit for purpose in the long term. This was seconded by Cllr. Hutley and agreed. Cllr. Gisbourne abstained from the vote.</p> | |
| 253/3 2021 EGM | <p>Public Toilets, New Polzeath: Cllr. Darnell reported that having spoken to Rob Andrew, Cornwall Council had offered two options.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. St Minver Highlands take over the public toilets under a Tenancy at Will (whilst the terms of the lease are being addressed) on 1st April whilst CC evaluate the schedule of dilapidations and the cost incurred. Cc could not guarantee to carry out the required work before the end of the year, or2. CC give Highlands a grant to cover the cost of the required work and Highlands engage contractors to carry out this work. <p>Cllrs. Harris, Dingle and Darnell were not in favour of the latter option as it would involve obtaining three estimates for each specialist trade and they felt the toilets should be brought up to serviceable condition prior to being devolved to Highlands PC. It was further requested that the terms of the lease be finalised within three months of devolution. A meeting had been scheduled by CC for 1pm on Thursday, 25th March to discuss these options.</p> <p>Cllr. Wapshott asked if the funding for the day to day running of these toilets was in place and was told that 10k was earmarked for this purpose.</p> <p>Cllr. Dingle was of the opinion that CC had procrastinated over the past twelve months but were now expecting this Council to take over the running of these toilets with only two weeks' notice and without a formal lease in place, no costings of repairs needed, no certainty of how much land surrounding the toilet block will fall within Highlands PC's control. He could not support the devolution under these terms.</p> <p>Cllr. Hutley agreed but felt the outcome of the meeting on 25th March should be awaited.</p> <p>Cllr. Mitchell felt that devolution of these toilets should not happen amidst so much uncertainty.</p> <p>Cllr. Harris agreed with the previous speakers but would await the outcome of the meeting on 25th.</p> <p>Cllr. Parnell agreed but questioned whether this Councils reluctance to</p> | <p>Note: 12k was budgeted in 19-20</p> |

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| | <p>take control of these toilets in the given timescale might lead to their closure? It was not the wish of any Councillor to see the closure of these toilets. It was agreed to await the outcome of the meeting scheduled for March 25th.</p> | |
| 254/3 2021 EGM | <p>PA21/00710 and PA21/00694: Cllr. Dingle questioned why Lowlands PC had debated and voted on PA21/00710 when it was clearly in Highlands Parish? It was agreed an e-mail be sent to Lowlands Clerk asking her to be certain of the location of planning applications before including them on the agenda for Lowlands Parish Council.</p> | |
| 255/3 2021 EGM | <p>Date of next meeting / Items for next agenda: To consider a donation to St Minver School. Next meeting: 13th April 2021.</p> <p>There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.40pm.</p> | |