

OLLERTON WITH MARTHALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16th April 2007 at Ollerton, Marthall & Little Warford Village Hall, 7.30pm

Meeting started at 7.30 PM

Present – Cllr's A. Street (Chair), J Holmes, G. Mason, G Littler, J Roberts, D Hawkins, R. Weston, R. Barnes, E. Davison & B.C. E. Fisher.

07/31 - Apologies for Absence – none

07/32 – An address by the Chairman.

Good evening Councillors, Gentlemen & Madam. We are here tonight to co-opt a new Parish Councillor to fill the vacancy created by the death of our much valued friend and colleague, Gordon Hodgkinson.

But before we proceed I think it is proper to acknowledge the presence of one of the candidates for the vacancy, Mr. Richard Scott and to welcome, as always our Borough Councillor Ted Fisher and two other member of the public. Also to remind everyone that whilst the meeting is always open to the public – it is not a public meeting and the public must not take part at any time (unless specifically invited to give information by the Chairman).

I also place on record that we have and are following scrupulously the procedure laid down by statute for filling what is defined as a casual vacancy on a Parish Council.

The vacancy was posted on the council notice boards explaining that a councillor would be co-opted if a bye-election was not claimed by 10 electors. The date, by which claims for a bye-election had to be submitted to the Electoral Officer at Macclesfield Borough Council, was 15th March 2007. No claims for a bye-election were received by Macclesfield Borough Council.

We actually went a step further than the statutory requirements and also published the vacancy in the Parish Post.

Two candidates have put their names forward and you have all received copies of the documents provided by Mr. Richard Scott and Dr Martyn Beresford.

If I could summarise the information provided before we vote.

Mr. Scott

Is the biggest landowner in the area.

He is a farmer, as is Adam one of his sons.

Mr. Scott has lived in the Parish for over 50 years.

He was a Rural District Councillor 35 years ago.

He supports farming and the environment and believes that diversification is necessary to support farming activities.

Dr Berrisford.

Dr Berrisford has recently retired, having been a General Practitioner in the area for over 35 years.

He has lived in Ollerton for over 30 years and his children attended the village school.

He is interested in the preservation of the landscape and of the rural environment consistent with new developments.

07/33 – The process for voting is that each councillor will mark one name on a voting slip and pass this slip to the Parish Clerk who will count the votes and announce the result.

07/34 – Dr Berrisford received eight votes. One councillor abstained. Therefore, Dr Martyn Beresford has been co-opted onto the Parish Council.

07/35 – It was resolved to hold an open meeting to allow Parish Councillors and interested members of the electorate to hear the arguments for and against the proposed restructuring of Local & County Councils. Subsequently a meeting has been arranged for 7.30pm on 16th May 2007, at the Village Hall. Cedric Snipe from M.B.C. will present the Two Unitary Council Option (East & West) and an officer (not named) from C.C.C. will present the Single Unitary Option.

07/36 - Expenditure totaling £210.67 was approved and the cheques signed. As per attached schedule.

07/37 – Correspondence.

- (i) Allianz Cornhill have issued a schedule which includes Officials Indemnity and Libel & Slander the premium remains the same.
- (ii) The Precept, £3150.00 has been paid into the deposit Account.
- (iii) The minutes of the Standards Committee Meeting held on 17th April have been received.
- (iv) The Minutes of CHALC meeting held on the 15th February have been received and passed on to Cllr Littler.

07/38 – Date of next meeting – 14th May 2007
Special Open Meeting – 16th May 2007

Meeting ended at 8.10 pm