

(These minutes are published subject to approval by the Parish Council and to any amendments that will be recorded in the minutes of the Meeting at which they are approved)

Groby Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Groby Parish Council held at 7.00pm on
Monday 4 February 2008 at the Parish Council Chamber, Leicester Road, Groby

Cou/285/07-08 Present

Members: Cllr P Batty (Chairman), Cllr J Batty, Cllr Beck, Cllr Cartwright, Cllr Emmerson, Cllr Hodges, Cllr Hollick (arrived at 7.01pm), Cllr Jones, Cllr Lindsay, Cllr Marvin, Cllr J Smith, Cllr L Smith (arrived at 7.01pm), Cllr Stockill (arrived at 7.03pm) and Cllr Yarwood.

Cou/286/07-08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Purves

With the absence of the Vice Chairman it was proposed by Councillor P Batty that Councillor Beck be elected Vice Chairman for the meeting the Council **RESOLVED** to elect Councillor Beck as Vice Chairman for the meeting.

Cou/287/07-08 Declarations of Interest

- Cllr P Batty – Personal interest in item 7 (Borough Councillor Report) as Borough Councillor.
Personal interest in item 9 (Planning and Development Committee 2 February 2008) as acted as Chairman for the meeting
Personal interest in item 14 (Marina Park Footpaths) as a user of the park
Personal interest in item 11 The Klondyke as a Borough Councillor
Personal interest in item 12 (Meeting with Leicestershire County Council) as he was present at the meeting.
Personal interest in item of correspondence 17333 as the writer was known to him and his previous involvement in the issue.
- Cllr J Batty - Personal interest in item 14 (Marina Park Footpaths) as a user of the park
- Cllr Beck – Personal interest in Bradgate Landfill site as a relative is employed there.
- Cllr Cartwright – Personal Interest in item 4 (Clerks Report) as Secretary, Groby Neighbourhood Watch and Committee Member of the Leicestershire and Rutland County Neighbourhood Watch Association, HBBC Groby Ward Borough Councillor and Chairman of the Field Head and Groby Parish Plan Project.
Personal interest in item 5 (Police Report) as Secretary, Groby Neighbourhood Watch and Committee Member of the Leicestershire and Rutland County Neighbourhood Watch Association and Chairman of the Field Head and Groby Parish Plan Project.
Personal interest in item 6 (County Councillor Reports) as HBBC Groby Ward Borough Councillor and Chairman of the Field Head and Groby Parish Plan Project.
Personal interest in item 7 (Borough Councillor Report) as HBBC Groby Ward Borough Councillor and Chairman of the Field Head and Groby Parish Plan Project.
Personal interest in item 9 (Planning and Development Committee 2 February 2008) as a member of the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Planning Committee and would not take part in the vote on any proposals for Groby.
Personal interest in item 11 (The Klondyke) as HBBC Groby Ward Borough Councillor and Chairman of the Field Head and Groby Parish Plan Project.
Personal interest in item 13 (Highfield Road Play Area) as HBBC Groby Ward Borough Councillor and Chairman of the Field Head and Groby Parish Plan Project
Personal interest in item 14 (Marina Park Pathways) as HBBC Groby Ward Borough Councillor and Chairman of the Field Head and Groby Parish Plan Project
Personal interest in item 15 (Precept Leaflet) as HBBC Groby Ward Borough Councillor and Chairman of the Field Head and Groby Parish Plan Project
Personal interest in item 16 (Parish Plan) as Chairman of the Field Head and Groby Parish Plan Project and would remain in the Chamber to give advice on the topic but would not take part in any vote.

- Cllr Hodges Personal interest in item 14 (Marina Park Footpaths) as a user of the park
- Cllr Jones Personal interest in item 14 (Marina Park Footpaths) as a user of the park
- Cllr Lindsay – Personal interest in item 16 (Parish Plan) as a Committee Member of the Field Head and Groby Parish Plan Project
Personal interest in item 14 (Marina Park Footpaths) as a user of the park.
- Cllr J Smith - Personal interest in item 12 (Meeting with Leicestershire County Council) as she was present at the meeting
Personal interest in item 4 as a relative is an employee of Druck.
- Cllr Stockill - Personal interest in item 14 (Marina Park Footpaths) as a user of the park.
- Cllr Yarwood - Personal interest in item of correspondence 17333 as a neighbour
Personal interest in item 4 as a neighbour to the site leased to the Scouts.

Cou/288/07-08 Minutes of meetings held on 11 January 2008 and 21 January 2008

RESOLVED (9 votes for, 3 against with 1 abstention) that the closed session minutes of the meeting held 11 January 2008 be accepted and signed as true record subject to the following amendments. Councillor Cartwright abstained as he had not been present at the whole of the meeting and therefore was in a difficult position in voting either for or against their acceptance as a whole.

Cou/266/07-08 Present

Add Cllr Emmerson to the list of those members present.

Cou/268/07-08 Declarations of Interest

Delete “challenged the Chairman’s authority to do so and” from the first line on page 96.

Move “The Chairman asked Cllr Cartwright why he had taken his place with the members of the public behind him rather than his normal allotted place alongside Councillors in the Chamber. Cllr Cartwright held up what was referred to as a copy of the bible and that he needed room to spread out all his evidence to conduct his case properly.” From the first paragraph on page 96 to the conclusion of the third paragraph under minute **Cou/268/07-08** on page 95.

Under **RESOLVED** add “Abstentions: Cllr Cartwright”

In the final paragraph add “Cllr Cartwright left the meeting and the Chairman” after “Closed Session”

Cou/269/07-08 Staffing Matter

Last but one paragraph – delete “that as we appeared to have had difficulties with the availability of members to hold Staffing Committee meetings”.

For clarity a revised copy of the minutes with the amendments highlighted in bold text are attached to these minutes as Appendix A.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held 21 January 2008 be accepted and signed as true record subject to the following amendments. Councillor Yarwood abstained as he had not been present at the meeting.

Cou/271/07-08 Apologies for Absence

Add “it was proposed by the Chairman and” before “the Council”

Cou/275/07-08 Public Participation

Third paragraph amend “pub” to “public”

Cou/276/07-08 Weekend Bus Services – Groby Village Area

Add at the end of the first paragraph “the local Member of Parliament be sought”

Amend the final line of (i) to read “(the meeting to be held during March when the evenings would be lighter to encourage older residents in the vicinity to attend)”;

Cou/279/07-08 Payment of Accounts

In the final paragraph amend “Fee” to “Arrangement”

Cou/283/07-08 Committees and Outside Bodies

Grants Committee – Clarification that the appointed member is “J” Smith.

Cou/289/07-08

Clerks Report

(i) Recent Deaths

The Clerk reported two tragic deaths within the village. One of a young man who took his own life at The Klondyke and the second of a young man killed in a car accident on Sacheverell Way at the weekend.

(ii) Druck Lease

It was reported that the lease had been exchanged on Friday 1 February. Work has commenced on the new car park area on 4 February with the scraping of the surface, the gravel would be arriving on Wednesday and it is hoped that the fencing would be installed on Thursday and Friday.

Harvey Ingram has assessed the time spent on the matter and with the contribution from Druck the contribution from the Council is to be £1500 plus VAT.

(iii) Bradgate Landfill Site

Considerable concerns had been raised at the recent Liaison Committee meeting where additional concerns had also emerged. A more detailed report would be provided at the next meeting of the Landfill Liaison Committee which would be in turn reported to the Parish Council.

(iv) Scout Meeting

A meeting had taken place with the Scouts on 31 January 2008. Councillors L and J Smith commented that the discussions and outcomes were positive.

(v) Internal Auditor

The Clerk reported that she had undertaken discussions with other sources to provide the Council's internal audit and the costs were in the region of £350 - £450 per day. She had subsequently spoken with Ian Fraser the internal auditor previously used by the Parish Council to undertake its annual audit. Mr Fraser had previously indicated that he no longer wanted to undertake the job, however after discussion he had agreed to remain as the Council's auditor and would visit the Council in early March to undertake the first part of the audit. The usual fee of no more than £300 would be charged.

(vi) Law re the Co-option of members to fill vacancies on the Council and the effect on Quality Status

Following an enquiry from the Council at the meeting on 21 January 2008 the Clerk had investigated the law in relation to the Co-option of members to fill vacancies on the Council and the possible effects on Quality Status. The Clerk read the following advice to the Council

1. Insufficient Candidates

If there are insufficient candidates, those who are and remain validly nominated (if any) are declared elected. If they constitute a quorum they may fill the remaining vacancies by co-option.

Under the Quality Parish Scheme :

“For a Parish Council to be awarded with Quality Status, it will be representative of, and have a mandate to serve its community. On application, the parish council must provide evidence to show that:

- For first accreditation only: at least 80% of all council seats were filled at the beginning of the current four year term by members who stood for election at that time.
- Or re-accreditation; all (100%) council seats were filled at the beginning of the current four year term by members who stood for election at that time.

As the Parish Council had filled all of its vacancies by election at the beginning of the four year term its ability to apply for Quality Status would not be affected. Co-opting a member for the casual vacancy at this point would have no effect on any application. If the Council was to gain Quality status before the end of the current four year term and fill the vacancy by co-option before the next elections the co-opted member would be required to stand down and 100% of the seats would have to be filled by election – there could be no vacancies. If subsequent to a full Council being elected a casual vacancy occurred it would have no effect on the Quality Status.

(vii) Events

The Clerk highlighted some events that were taking place in the near future, members were asked to inform the Clerk if they wished to attend.

- Undertaking Tree Works – 5.30pm – 7.30pm Thursday 21 February at HBBC
- Natural England Regional Seminar, Obligations to Biodiversity – 10.30am - 12.30pm – Thursday 7 February at Nottingham Racecourse
- Leicestershire Rural Partnership 5th Annual Parish Website User Group – 10am – 12.30pm – Tuesday 26 February at Beaumanor Hall

At 8.04pm the Chairman suspended Standing Orders and adjourned the meeting for a period not exceeding thirty minute to receive reports from representatives of outside bodies and for a period of Public Participation not exceeding 15 minutes.

Cou/290/07-08 Police Report

PC Kelly provided an update and the Crime Figures for December 2007

House Burglaries (Attempted)	0
House Burglaries (Actual)	0
Garages, Sheds & Out Building Burglaries (Attempted)	0
Garages, Sheds & Out Building Burglaries (Actual)	2
Theft of Motor Vehicle	0
Theft From Motor Vehicle	0
Damage to Motor Vehicle	1
Non-Domestic Assaults	1
Domestic Assaults	0
Robbery	0
Crimes That Don't Affect Residents	14
Total Groby Crime Figures	18

Councillor P Batty asked PC Kelly if there were any further details of the accident that had taken place on Saturday night in which a young man had been killed. PC Kelly responded that the information currently publicly available was that it was a single vehicle accident, the driver had been killed and a passenger had been injured.

PC Kelly commented that incidents of speeding on Sacheverell Way were high and that in one hour of monitoring vehicles, five drivers had been caught and fined for speeding. Checks would continue and the situation would be monitored.

Councillor Marvin asked about the monitoring of under age drinking in the village and whether shops were selling alcohol to under 18's. PC Kelly responded that the alcohol consumed was not necessarily purchased from shops and much was taken by under 18's from their homes. Councillor Marvin stated that she was aware of an incident that had taken place at the weekend and would inform PC Kelly of the details outside of the meeting.

PC Kelly reported that there had been an increase in motor cycles using land at the back of the Community College and that action was being taken with regard to this. Councillor P Batty commented that there was also similar activity in Cowpen Spinney.

Councillors Hollick and Marvin left the meeting at 8.16pm, Councillor Marvin returned at 8.17pm, Councillor Hollick at 8.20pm.

Cou/291/07-08 County Councillor Reports

County Councillor Sprason had provided a written report that had been distributed to Councillors and was available to those members of the public present at the meeting.

Councillor P Batty commented on a report from County Councillor Fraser that had appeared in the Spotlight in relation to the proposed Skateboard Park at Groby Community College. It was viewed that the report had given a misleading slant on the proposal and had put pressure on the Parish Council to support the scheme.

It was viewed that as the article came from a County Councillor the Spotlight would not have need to check the accuracy of its content as it came from a trusted source. Concern was expressed that statements may be made about the Parish Council and its involvement in projects that may not be accurate.

The Council discussed the possibility of the Spotlight checking with the Parish Council the content of articles where it was mentioned and also the attendance of County Councillor Fraser at Parish Council meetings.

Cou/292/07-08 Borough Councillor Reports

Councillors P Batty stated that he had no specific items to report but that he was willing to answer any questions on Borough Council matters put to him.

Councillor Cartwright reported that Rachel Jarvis from Groby had recently received the Disabled Sportswoman award from Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. He had no other matters to report but was willing to answer any questions on Borough Council matters put to him.

There were no questions for either Borough Councillor.

Standing Orders were reinstated at 7.34pm. A member of the public commented that he had not had opportunity to ask his questions. It was moved by Councillor S Jones, seconded by Councillor Hodges and carried that Standing Orders be suspended for a further period of 5 minutes.

At 8.36pm the Chairman suspended Standing Orders and adjourned the meeting for further a period not exceeding five minutes.

Cou/293/07-08 Public Participation

A member of the public asked if the minutes of the Extraordinary General meeting held on 11 January 2008 contained names of public and whether the tape recording of the meeting would be retained. Councillor P Batty responded that the minutes did not contain any names of members of the public and that the tape was retained by the Clerk as an aide memoir.

Another member of the public asked when the minutes of the Extraordinary General meeting held on 11 January 2008 would be available to the public. They were informed that it was hoped this would be later in the week.

Standing Orders were reinstated at 8.40pm.

Cou/294/07-08 Planning and Development Committee

Councillor Cartwright declared a personal interest in this item as a member of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Planning Committee and left the room during its consideration.

Councillor P Batty presented the minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2008.

Planning Applications

- a. **07/01492/FUL - 57 Leicester Road**
No objections subject to neighbours being consulted.
- b. **07/01477/COU - Groby Lodge Farm**
Express disappointment to HBBC that no pre-application consultation has taken place with all 3 Parishes that may be significantly affected by this relatively major change of use application. Request an extension of the Consultation Period to allow for a meeting with Planning Officers for clarification of a number of points and concerns to be discussed, possibly involving all 3 Parishes. Too short a time period for the Parish Council to consider and digest all the reports and information and submissions by the developer as no pre-application consultation was offered, bearing in mind the concerns that were raised by the Parish Council in respect of a similar application on the same site.
- c. **07/01472/FUL - Barclays Bank, 28 Ratby Road**

No objections subject to neighbours being consulted.

- d. **08/00027/FUL - Maindy, Bradgate Hill**
No objections subject to neighbours being consulted.
- e. **08/00031/FUL - 4 Ash Court**
No objections subject to neighbours being consulted.

RESOLVED having been proposed by Councillor L Smith and seconded by Councillor Hodges that the above comments be submitted to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and that the minutes of the Planning and Development Committee be approved. It was **NOTED** that Councillor Batty stated that he would take no part in the decision making process at the Borough Council on application 07/01477/COU - Groby Lodge Farm.

Cou/295/07-08 Payment of Accounts

It was proposed by Councillor Hodges and seconded by Councillor L Smith that the payment of accounts schedule be approved.

<i>Payee</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Amount £</i>	<i>Date Paid</i>
Various	January salaries	4763.33	25.01.08
HM Revenue & Customs Only	Tax & National Ins	1917.07	31.01.08
Y B Sherratt	Office Cleaning	12.00	
David J Barker Ltd	Top soil - Cemetery	70.00	
Arco Limited	Rigger gloves x 3	23.62	
The Ratby Co-operative Band	Christmas Tree event	110.00	
Information Commissioner	Data Protection Register	35.00	
LRALC	CILCA Training Session	50.00	
Granart	Kerb inscription	41.00	
Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council	Charges incurred re uncontested elections	704.20	
Hensons Hardware	Parks consumables	46.03	
		£7,772.25	

RESOLVED to approve the payment of accounts Schedule as set out above.

Cou/296/07-08 The Klondyke

The Clerk informed the Council that she has sought an update of the latest situation with regards to The Klondyke from Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. She had been informed that officers had visited the site on 22 January 2008 and the agreed works had not been carried out, The Borough Council would be writing to the owner of the site in this regard.

RESOLVED to write to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council requesting information on whether they were on target with the production of an action plan and whether any further information was currently available.

Cou/297/07-08 Highways Meeting Held With Leicestershire County Council on 25 September 2007

The Clerk had sought information from the County Council on the progress of matters that had been raised at the joint meeting on 25 September 2007. Amongst the items raised had been parking on Wallace Drive, Lena Drive, A50/A46 roundabout, safety scheme in the village centre and the roundabout at Sacheverell Way.

RESOLVED to write to the County Council to ascertain what progress has been made on the issues raised during the meeting held on 25 September 2007 and to request a further meeting with Highways Officers following the recent fatal accident on Sacheverell Way to discuss traffic calming and other possible speed reduction measures to prevent another such accident.

Cou/298/07-08 Highfield Road Play Area

The Clerk reported the results of the consultation undertaken with residents in the Highfield Road area on the retention of the play equipment at Highfield Amenity Area.

Fifty letters had been delivered to addresses in Highfield Road and Whitehouse Close, 22 people had responded to the consultation with one respondent having no view as they did not use the park. The remaining respondents wanted to see the play equipment retained and the swing returned. Some of the respondents wanted to see more equipment and of these two wished to see equipment for older children. Suggestions had also been made by four others for additional non-play equipment at the park in the way of a seat and litter bin.

The Council discussed the return of the play equipment and the further items suggested by respondents.

RESOLVED after it was proposed by Councillor and seconded by Councillor Marvin to:

- (i) Replace the missing swing seat and also replace the one currently in situ;
- (ii) Install a litter bin;
- (iii) Put up a "No Ball Games" bylaw notice
- (iv) Install for a trial period (until 1 October 2008), to assess the impact of any anti social behaviour, a concrete and wooden seat.

Cou/299/07-08 Marina Park Pathways

The Clerk summarised the response received from the FLAG Team at Leicestershire County Council, in respect of the pathways and highlighted that the Practical Completion Certificate was achieved and the works taken into the Council's possession on 9 June 2006. The defects liability period for faults other than plant failures had expired on 9 December 2006.

As Councillor Purves had been involved in the discussions following the completion of the project it was **RESOLVED** to defer consideration until a future meeting but in the meantime Councillors Jones, Stockill, Lindsay and P Batty undertook to form a Working Group to visit the site and inspect the footpath.

Cou/300/07-08 Precept Leaflet

The Council was asked to approve the Precept Leaflet for 2008-2009. The Clerk stated that she had changed the figures quoted for 2007-08 as the Net Operating Costs had been included rather than the Net Expenditure. This had not affected the Council's budget or finances in anyway and was purely an administrative error in the preparation of the leaflet. This matter had previously been reported to the Council at its meeting on 7 January 2008.

RESOLVED, 13 votes for with 1 abstention (Councillor Hollick), after it had been moved by Councillor Hodges and seconded by Councillor L Smith to approve the Precept Leaflet for publication.

Cou/301/07-08 Parish Plan

Councillor Cartwright had declared a personal interest in this item but remained in the Chamber to provide advice as necessary in his role as Chairman of the Field Head and Groby Parish Plan Project.

Following the production of the Groby and Field Head Community Project Parish Plan – The Report, October 2005 and beyond the Parish Council was required to provide an input as a Service Provider. Rather than discuss The Report, members were asked to submit their comments to the Clerk within 2 weeks to allow the Clerk and a Working group of members to collate them and produce a draft response

for approval by the Council.

RESOLVED, 13 votes for with 1 abstention (Councillor Cartwright) to form a Working Group to collate with the Clerk the comments returned to her, the membership of the Working Group to be Councillors P Batty, J Smith and S Beck, the draft response to be considered by the Council.

Cou/302/07-08 Correspondence

17323 – Department for Communities and Local Government – Consultation on Orders and Regulations Relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England – Individual Councillors to respond to the consultation if they wish.

17333 – D Burke – The Clerk to investigate the best way to remedy the situation.

17336 – Leicestershire Footpath Association – To renew the subscription for 2008 at a cost of £5.

Cou/303/07-08 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 18 February 2008 as per the previously agreed schedule.

Cou/304/07-08 Tree Maintenance

Due to the expiration of the allotted meeting time this matter was not considered.

Members of the public left the meeting at 9.53pm and the Council moved into closed session.

At 10pm the Chairman moved Standing Order 82 to allow the meeting to continue for a further 10 minutes.

The meeting closed at 10.10pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date

Closed Session of the meeting held on 4 February 2008

Staffing Matters

Due to the expiration of the allotted meeting time no resolution was made in respect of these matters.

The meeting closed at 10.10pm.

Signed

Date

(These minutes are published subject to approval by the Parish Council and to any amendments that will be recorded in the minutes of the Meeting at which they are approved)

Groby Parish Council

Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting of Groby Parish Council held at 8.00 pm on Friday 11 January 2008 at the Parish Council Chamber, Leicester Road, Groby

Cou/265/07-08 Clerk Appointment

In the absence of a Proper Officer it was proposed by Cllr. Lindsay and seconded by Cllr. Marvin that Cllr. Hodges be appointed to Clerk this meeting.

RESOLVED that Cllr. Hodges be appointed Clerk for this meeting.

Cou/266/07-08 Present

Members: Cllr. P Batty (Chair), Cllr. J Smith, Cllr. Marvin, Cllr. Lindsay, Cllr. Cartwright, Cllr. Jones, Cllr. L. Smith, Cllr. Hodges, Cllr. Beck, Cllr. J Batty, Cllr. Stockill, Cllr. Hollick, Cllr. Yarwood **and Cllr Emmerson..**

Some 15 members of the public including residents of Ratby.

Cou/267/07-08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M Purves.

Cou/268/07-08 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman Cllr. P. Batty reminded members that as the agenda item to be addressed related to serious concerns raised by a member of staff against a member of the Council that it would be sensible for a personal interest to be declared on behalf of all members.

All members declared a Personal Interest in item 3 on the agenda.

Cllr Cartwright - Personal Interest as Secretary, Groby Neighbourhood Watch and Committee Member of the Leicestershire and Rutland County Neighbourhood Watch Association, all items on the Agenda as HBBC Groby Ward Borough Councillor. **The Chairman asked Cllr. Cartwright why he had taken his place with the members of the public behind him rather than his normal allotted place alongside Councillors in the Chamber. Cllr. Cartwright held up what was referred to as a copy of the bible and that he needed room to spread out all his evidence to conduct his case properly.**

The Chairman then responded to a number of procedural challenges from Cllrs. Hollick, Jones, Beck, Emmerson and Cartwright and responded to vociferous interruptions by members of the public, firmly pointing out that this was a formal Council meeting in session and as the agenda item now to be discussed related to a serious staffing issue that Public Participation had not been included on this agenda consistent with the strict long established Groby Parish Council Policy of successive Councils that matters relating to staffing issues were always heard in closed session. Furthermore, the Chairman pointed out that as there was a potential for matters to be referred to other authorities this could be prejudiced by a public debate.

The Chairman then pointed out that whilst this Extraordinary General Meeting had been properly requested by Cllr. L Smith, Chairman of the Council's Staffing Committee, and Cllr. Lindsay to address a very urgent staffing matter, this was not nor could be a disciplinary meeting or tribunal. That was not the function of the Council but matters still could ultimately be referred to other authorities.

Despite the constant interruptions and attempts to disrupt the meeting, the Chairman pointed out that all members had agreed at the previous Council meeting that this staffing issue would have to be heard in closed session and at the request of Cllr. Jones, he had included a clear note on the published agenda of this meeting that "as this item will raise issues relating to employees of the Council it is likely to be discussed in closed session from which members of the press and public will be excluded".

At this point the Chairman again had to warn members of the public for their constant interruptions and attempts to disrupt the proceedings, the Chairman also had to caution Cllr. Jones for her constant interruptions which he considered to be an incitement of the members of the public and for her refusal to accept the authority of the Chair once a ruling had been made, in the presence of members of the public.

The Chairman then confirmed that he now intended to propose, subject to a vote of the Council, taking the Council into closed session to debate item 3 on the agenda.

Cllr. Cartwright (**challenged the Chairman's authority to do so - delete**) referred to a letter that he had distributed to all Councillors earlier in the day and stated that he would not be willing to stay and participate in the debate if members of the public were excluded as the matter referred to him.. The Chairman reminded Cllr. Cartwright that this was not a Court room, this was not a trial or a tribunal and outlined how he had intended to proceed, which was to give Cllr. L Smith a maximum of 10 minutes to present his concerns, then a maximum of 10 minutes to Cllr. Cartwright to respond and finally 10 minutes for members to request any points of clarification and to allow any proposals that members may wish to be considered by Council to be put forward.

Cllr. Cartwright responded that this was not acceptable to him and stated that it was his intention to leave and take no further part in the proceedings unless he was allowed to have an independent witness of his choice to stay and witness the proceedings.

The Chairman repeated his earlier clarification of the purpose of the meeting and the procedure he wished to follow and reminded Cllr. Cartwright that the Council had an obligation to hear Staffing Matters in Closed Session and that any independent witness would by definition not be a member of the Council and therefore not entitled to remain present if the Council moved into closed session.

The Chairman then proposed that under the provisions of Sections 100 and 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 that the Council move into closed session and that the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

RESOLVED: The Council moved into Closed session to discuss agenda item 3. For: Cllrs. Lindsay, Smith J., Batty J., Stockill, Yarwood, Hodges, Marvin, Smith L., Batty P. Against: Jones, Hollick, Beck, Emmerson, **Abstention Councillor Cartwright.**

8.20pm The Chairman moved the Council in to closed session, **Councillor Cartwright left the meeting and the Chairman** thanked members of the public for attending and bade them goodnight. A number of members of the public continued to make disparaging remarks and displayed a reluctance to leave the Council Chamber. Eventually after some minutes members of the public vacated the Chamber as they had been asked to do. **after Cllr. Cartwright announced that he was leaving.(delete)**

Cou/269/07-08 Staffing Matter.

Members were presented with statements from a member of staff outlining a number of serious concerns and an exhaustive and detailed debate ensued with all members present given the opportunity to ask questions and put forward their points of view.

At the conclusion of the debate members expressed grave concerns in respect of the matters that had been drawn to their attention and their wish to try and defuse and if possible resolve a difficult situation before it escalated.

A proposal was put forward by Cllr. L. Smith and seconded by Cllr. Lindsay: "That this Council elect a new Chairman of the Emergency Committee to replace Cllr. Cartwright and that this Council elects a new *standby* member of the Staffing Committee to replace Cllr. Cartwright".

RESOLVED to elect a new Chairman of the Emergency Committee to replace Cllr Cartwright and that a new standby member of the Staffing Committee be elected to replace Cllr Cartwright.

9 Votes for Cllrs. Lindsay, Smith J., Batty J., Stockill, Yarwood, Hodges, Marvin, Smith L., Batty P, 2 Against Cllrs. Jones and Hollick and 2 Abstentions Cllrs. Beck and Emmerson

The Chairman then invited volunteers/proposals for the vacant position on the Emergency Committee,

Cllr. Marvin proposed and Cllr. J. Smith seconded Cllr. Stockill who accepted but stated that he did not wish to take on the position of Chair, Cllr. Stockill proposed Cllr. Yarwood as Chair, seconded by Cllr. Marvin.

RESOLVED: Cllr. Stockill be elected to Emergency Committee – 9 Votes for Cllrs. Lindsay, Smith J., Batty J., Stockill, Yarwood, Hodges, Marvin, Smith L., Batty P, 2 Against Cllrs. Jones and Hollick and 2 Abstentions Cllrs. Beck and Emmerson

RESOLVED: Cllr. Yarwood be elected Chairman of the Council’s Emergency Committee – Cllrs. Lindsay, Smith J., Batty J., Stockill, Yarwood, Hodges, Marvin, Smith L., Batty P, 2 Against Cllrs. Jones and Hollick and 2 Abstentions Cllrs. Beck and Emmerson

The Chairman asked for volunteers to be “standby” member for the Staffing Committee, Cllrs Beck and Lindsay volunteered.

The Chairman proposed (**that as we appeared to have had difficulties with the availability of members to hold Staffing Committee meetings - delete**) that it made sense to elect both volunteers to the Staffing Committee.

RESOLVED: To elect Cllrs. Beck and Lindsay as standby members of the Council’s Staffing Committee. 9 Votes for Cllrs. Lindsay, Smith J., Batty J., Stockill, Yarwood, Hodges, Marvin, Smith L., Batty P, 2 Against Cllrs. Jones and Hollick and 2 Abstentions Cllrs. Beck and Emmerson

The meeting closed at 9.42pm

Signed
.....
Chairman

Date