**Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12th April 2017 at 7.30pm in the Bishampton and the Villages Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs Hodgkins, Cheetham, Dickinson, Argyle, Beever \* (\* arrived late to the meeting).

**In attendance**: Clerk

**1. Apologies:** Cllrs Blears(W), Tucker, Merrett(W), Robertson.

**2. Declaration of interest**

a)  Register of Interests: Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests.

b)  To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.

**None.**

c)  To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.

d) Written requests for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011).

Councillors who have declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, or an Other Disclosable Interest which falls within the terms of paragraph 12(4) (b) of the code of conduct, must leave the room for the relevant items.

Failure to register or declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest may result in the commission of a criminal offence.

|  |
| --- |
| The meeting opened @ 7.30 pm, 3 members of the public were present to discuss the item 1 on the agenda. Public Question Time occurred at the end of the meeting. See notes at end of the Minutes. |

**3. To discuss the lease on the Dolphin Inn. DC**

Cllr Cheetham reported that an informal meeting took place between the Clerk, Cllr Cheetham and Mr Lee Jones on 29th March, following a telephone call to the clerk on the 28th March 2017. The purpose of this meeting was to inform the council of the content of the discussions.

Mr Jones intends to leave the Dolphin Inn and to come to the Parish council with a proposal for a suitable replacement. The intention is that there would be no gap between Lee Jones and his replacement starting at the Dolphin.

The clerk will undertake financial checks on applicants. A panel made up of parishioners and council members would assess the suitability of applicants’ proposals.

A new lease would be needed between the Parish Council and the new lessee.

**It was agreed** that the parish clerk will liaise with Lee Jones during the process and make decisions on behalf of the Parish council alongside two parish council members. She is to seek expert advice when necessary.

**4. To discuss the tenancy of the Village Shop. RH**

Cllr Hodgkins confirmed that the Village Shop business is up for sale. An advert positioned on site has not created any interest. Currently no agent is involved in the sale.

A suggestion was made that the Parish Council promote the possibility of the lease becoming available, however the current lease is until May 2019. To be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting on May 8th 2017.

Cllr Hodgkins reported that the tenant of the flat above the shop will liaise closely with the Parish Council regarding the termination of his lease. It was agreed that a rent review will be undertaken before the property is re-let. Clerk to organise.

Cllr Beever arrived at 8pm, after Public Question Time, and a brief resume of the meeting was given.

**5. Date of next meeting:** The Bishampton Parish Meeting will be on Monday 8th May 2017 at 7.45pm followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting at approx. 8.45pm.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed ..………………………………………………… …………………………..

Chair Date

**Notes from PQT**:

* Confirmation that Lee Jones has done an excellent job in creating a successful business at the Dolphin Inn. Investing his own money in the property.
* Lee Jones is to start the process of finding his replacement, and bring a proposal to the Parish Council.
* The same procedure for assessing applicants will be undertaken as in the past, with members of the public and councillors interviewing applicants once the clerk has checked the references and the financial records of applicants.