



Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Lenham Parish Council **Held on 8th August 2022 at 6pm at Lenham Community Centre**

PRESENT Cllr. J Britt, Chairman presiding.

Cllrs. P Culver, K Hammond, S Heeley, N Osborne & A Ratcliffe

J Bate RFO, L Westcott Clerk

Public participation

No members of the public in attendance.

22/54 APOLIGES FOR ABSENCE RECIEVED

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr. M Cockett and A Walmsley.

22/55 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS

Declarations of interest on Agenda items. No declarations received.

Declarations to changes to the Register of Interests. No declarations received.

Requests for dispensations. No requests received. Cllr K. Hammond has a standing dispensation (relating to SOHL).

22/56 NOTIFICATION OF INTENTION TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH OR RECORD ITEMS

There were none.

22/57 TO AGREE BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE FOR MBC LOCAL PLAN INSPECTION

Cllr. J Britt reported that the inspection is due to start on 6th September 2022 and the inspector has requested additional information from MBC, each topic has its own deadline for submission, some of these fall after the date of 18 August which is when the written responses need to be submitted.

This makes it a tight turn around for everyone involved to read and analyse information submitted. LPC has written to the inspector to point out the unfairness as this information should have been submitted with the original plan and subject to consultation. The inspector is hinting at a stage 1b, this will include the “legal soundness”.

a. To discuss general approach to funding / addressing potential external funding from SOHL

J Bate explained the budget lines set up for this work are:

- a. Legal Fees – MBC Local Plan
- b. Neighbourhood Planning
- c. Planning
- d. Other Professional Assistance for Heathlands

The amount remaining in these budgets is £32,246.33

J Bate explained that the money already spent on the WPF (legal fees) can be covered by money received once the s106 agreement has been signed – a resolution will be required to show this credit against this budget item once that materialises. **This was agreed.**

Cllr. J Britt reported that external funding will be available, the timescales for this are currently not known, but it is progressing. J Bate stated that any funding received under s139 will have to be used as s137 funds, this can only be used for the benefit of the community. A discussion was held about how fighting Heathlands will be a benefit to the community – there was a



recognition this will not be a simple win or no win. However, at the consultation held in November 2021 those members of the public who attended were asked whether they would support the parish council in providing specialised technical and legal support at the independent inspection, the response to this was overwhelmingly positive.

The proposed expenditure to use the budget available above is £30450.00

b. To discuss legal representation

All agreed the proposed legal representation is acceptable.

c. To discuss planning specialist representation

All agreed the proposed planning specialist representation is acceptable.

Budget for the planning specialist is to be covered by SOHL.

d. To discuss / agree funding for transport specialist advice

All agreed the proposed transport specialist representation is acceptable.

ACTION Cllr. S Heeley to contact John Russell to confirm.

e. To discuss / agree funding for landscape specialist advice

All agreed the proposed landscape specialist representation is acceptable.

The meeting closed at 19:30