

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF HILTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16TH APRIL, 7.00PM IN THE METHODIST CHURCH, POTTON ROAD, HILTON

Present: Cllrs P.Balicki (Chairman), G. Barradell, D Bates, K Dunk, A.Goodridge, J.Perez, S.Whyte, W.Wilson.

In Attendance: Jo Perez (Clerk) and 3 Parishioners

1. To receive any apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies were received from Cllr S. Perry.

Cllr J. Perez declared an interest as claim, though for Hilton Parish Council, is addressed to his home and that of the Clerk.

Comments and observations from members of the public and to receive reports from the County and District Councillors (NB Comments from the public should be relevant to items on this agenda only)

Andy Bush asked about the potential costs involved. P.B advised that this would be discussed.

2. Discuss LGS Services outstanding invoices – County Court Judgement, decision on way forward.

The Clerk advised that the agenda heading was not correct and this is actually a County Court Claim.

P.B advised that LGS had now registered a County Court Claim for the amount of £2,774.50 this included interest £59.75, late payment £70.00 and court fees £80.00. The original invoices from LGS totalled £2,863.25, however the Clerk had success in reducing the cost when she had noticed that LGS had applied an increased rate without any notification to or agreement from the Parish Council.

The PC are disappointed that LGS have issued this claim without any further communication or attempt to settle without involving the court.

The PC discussed ways forward. There were discussions amongst the PC about whether we would need to appear in court and the pros and cons of battling this further.

7.15pm

Meeting opened to Ken Attwood as he advised the PC that he had some knowledge of how the court system worked. He advised the PC that we would need to attend the court hearing otherwise the court would find in favour of the claimant. He also advised that if the court found in our favour that the PC would pay nothing.

7.18 closed

Whilst the PC feels that it has a good case it is concerned that by fighting the case further it could incur further costs. The PC also considered the impact on Cllr Perez and the Clerk if the case was found in favour of the claimant as the claim is against their home address.

Despite their disappointment with the services provided by LGS councillors agreed that it would be inappropriate to include a critical statement from the Chairman on the matter.

After much deliberation the PC proposed to pay the outstanding amount despite its misgivings.

W.W Prop, G.B 2nd, 2 against and 1 abstained with all others in favour.

To cover these costs and others the PC will need to transfer £4,000 from the savings account into the current account.

P.B Prop, J.P 2nd, 1 abstained, all others in favour.

3. Meeting Closed

Meeting closed at 7.39pm

Signed.....Date.....