



WEST ACRE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES of the EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD on
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 21st 2013
at 7pm at the VILLAGE HALL

An extraordinary meeting of West Acre Parish Council was held on Wednesday August 21st 2013 at 7pm in the Village Hall. Those present were Sally Bridle (chair) Henry Birkbeck, Colin Filer, Antonia Hanbury, Ralph Sliwa (Councillors) and Sue Filer (Parish Clerk). Also present were residents Belinda Bush and Faye Neale.

1 Apologies - Councillor Jeremy Cameron sent his apologies.

2 Declarations of Interest - Henry stated that he was on the Board of WAFL.

3 Minutes - The minutes from the previous Parish Council Meeting held on Monday August 5th 2013 were signed as correct.

4. Business Item - To decide on the Parish Council's response to West Acre Theatre's planning application for a proposed illuminated sign.

a) The meeting adjourned physically for a few minutes to view the sign, which was illuminated and would continue to be illuminated until 10pm to give councillors the chance to see the effect on the neighbourhood.

The Parish Council then returned to the Village Hall to discuss the sign. Basically all the councillors were in agreement that the sign was acceptable.

Sally found it difficult to accept that the sign had already been produced and erected. She, like the majority of the councillors, was very disturbed that on the planning application form Andy Naylor had ticked "Yes" to Section 5 Neighbourhood and Community Consultation. This was untrue

and in agreeing to the sign itself the Parish Council felt that it was important to point out the falsehood to the Borough Council. Sally proposed this and Colin seconded it.

As there was some concern about the level of light produced, Colin proposed that, subject to later inspection in the dark, the Parish Council felt that the sign was acceptable. This was seconded by Ralph.

Further discussion continued around the general lack of community consultation that had been initiated by WAFL and the Theatre itself.

It was generally felt that there was a great need to build bridges between the Theatre, the Parish Council and the Village.

At this point Sally asked if the residents could leave the meeting as some private business had to be discussed.

b) Sally stated that Henry's behaviour in forwarding her private response to the planning application to Andy Naylor was a betrayal of trust and broke Parish Council rules. Any Parish Council discussions not in the public domain must not be forwarded to the public. Sally stated that she should have asked Henry to withdraw from the meeting because of his interest in WAFL and the Theatre and offered her resignation on the basis of this failure. This was unanimously rejected by the councillors.

Henry then apologised saying that he didn't realise that it was wrong, merely that he felt it was important that the Theatre knew what was being said. He was very sorry that Sally had been upset by this matter. Sally asked Antonia if she, as Henry's partner, felt compromised by the situation. Antonia replied that she didn't feel compromised and would like to stay on the Parish Council.

Colin suggested that the Parish Council should put the matter behind them now and move on. This was generally agreed.

Sally put forward the resolution that "People are to be physically excluded from a meeting if they have pecuniary or other interests in the matter under discussion". Colin seconded this. Sally said that she would inform WAFL, Andy Naylor, Isobel Smith and Clive Hadfield of this.

Other Matters for Discussion -

i) Rural Fair Share. Sue had printed a petition as several councillors had shown interest in signing this. Ralph took responsibility for sending this off to the minister concerned with this matter.

ii) Local Plan Consultation. Henry stated that West Acre was now designated as a hamlet having no proposed development other than the new Village Hall. He asked whether residents would like to see more.

Sally responded that the Village Consultation Document had shown that many people would like to see some affordable housing. Some possibilities were discussed.

The date and time of the next Parish Council Meeting had already been fixed as Monday November 4th 2013 at 7pm at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm approximately.