

D R A F T**Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Halling Parish Council held on 9th March 2016
at the Community Centre**

Present: Chair George Wenham (Lower Ward) – GW; Chris Herbert (Lower Ward) CH ; Kelly Talbot (Lower Ward) KT; Trevor Reynolds (Upper Ward) TR; Les Hitchcock (Lower Ward) LH and Andy Simpson (Lower Ward) AS

Bill Swan – Clerk (WS) and 36 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence. – Mark Joy, Matt Fearn, Richard Thorne.

2. Public Questions

The following points were raised by the public:

Why are Councillors not at an important meeting: Behaviour of Councillors and walking out of meetings: What are the plans for keeping the fire station and have they been shown to residents in private? Councillor Joy lives in Strood so he does not contribute financially to Halling: Could the overage clause in item 4 of the Agenda be explained: The cost of running the fire station should it be kept on: It now appears that Councillors who delayed the sale are now taking the glory for selling it: Contractors at Formby Road: Sewage pipe from St Andrews Park: The Parish Council should learn important lessons from the Fire Station Committee meeting on 24th February: The cost to HPC of the delay in selling the fire station caused by the vote to overturn the original decision to sell: The public will be keeping a very close eye on HPC in future.

3. Declaration of any Pecuniary and/or Prejudicial interests - none

4. Halling Fire Station – a proposal that the Parish Council disbands the Fire Station Committee and now accepts the offer of £175,000 from Halling Baptist Church (subject to contract) maintaining the on-going covenant that the property be used for Community Use. That an overage clause stating that in the event the property is sold for development within the next 30 years a sum equal to 50% of the difference between the purchase and sale price be payable to HPC. That the land to the west of the building (access to the Lower Recreation Ground) remains in the ownership of Halling Parish Council and that a right of way be granted to the purchaser of the Fire Station to provide for their access to the rear of the building. Any net resulting income made from the sale be prioritised for use for the improvement of both the Lower and Upper recreation grounds in Halling and other property owned by the Parish Council .

It was proposed by Chris Herbert, seconded by Trevor Reynolds, that this proposal be accepted.

A recorded vote was taken with Les Hitchcock, Chris Herbert , George Wenham, Trevor Reynolds and Kelly Talbot in favour with Andy Simpson abstaining.

5 Closed item: Kent Legal Services – update on meeting with KLS representative.

TR reported on the meeting with Mr Patel of Kent Legal Services. He promised to go back to his colleagues with HPC's views and will get back to the Council as soon as possible.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.