

BOWNESS ON SOLWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of the council called by the Chairman held on Monday 12 April 2021 at 7.00 pm by Zoom conference call.

Present Cllrs Carruthers (Chair), Birkett, Coates, Evans, Graham, Harrington, Hinks, Martin, Reay, Wills.

J C Wood (clerk)

No apologies for absence received.

The council observed one minute's silence before the business of the meeting in memory of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh.

1. Declaration of interest. Cllr Martin declared an interest in respect of item 4 of the agenda and sought a dispensation to answer questions which the council approved.
2. It was RESOLVED for this meeting only to suspend the standing orders.
3. The council received a report from the Chairman and Vice-Chairman in relation to a meeting on 18 March 2021 with Mr Ian Hunter at his request. The Vice Chairman reported that the purpose of the meeting with Mr Hunter had been to advise the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of tentative plans to seek to develop land he has purchased in Bowness for car parking for around 70 vehicles some of which might be available for the use of parishioners. Mr Hunter was advised that any decision as to the future involvement of the Parish council would need to be discussed and decided by full Council after taking appropriate advice.

Three Cllrs severely criticised the Chair and Vice Chair for meeting Mr Hunter. Three Cllrs maintained that the Chair and Vice Chair should not be meeting Mr Hunter without the Council having prior knowledge. The Chair and Vice Chair told the Council that the Clerk knew about the meeting beforehand. This was an informal meeting, and it would have been discriminatory not to meet Mr Hunter at his request and that they stood by their actions. As pointed out to all Cllrs this would have been brought to the May Council meeting as the matter was not urgent and there is no proposal to put forward at this point in time.

4. Planning application Highland Laddie, Glasson, FUL/2021/0017. Discussion took place in which Cllr Martin spoke but also answered questions. She stated that she was having the plans redone as they are of poor quality and gave assurances that the first floor of the pub would be for private use and not bed and breakfast. It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council does not object to the application and welcomes the re-opening of the pub. However, it does have concerns about parking that have been raised by local residents, the presence of an illuminated sign and the location of a gable end window.

Date of next meeting Wednesday 19 May 2021 Lindow Hall, Bowness on Solway immediately following the annual parish meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.22 p.m.