

## **Minutes of the Special Town Council Meeting, 7.00pm on Tuesday 1st December 2020 via Zoom.**

**Present:** Councillors, J Emmerson, (Chairman), Barnes, Brown, Dodds, Irwin, Kirby, Patterson, Rutland, Strike, Turnbull and Watson.

**In Attendance:** Mrs. J. McGeeney, Town Clerk and J Stevely. Also, in attendance Ward Councillors Faulks and A Watson; A Metcalfe (Gazette Reporter) and one member of the public.

The Chairman, Cllr James Emmerson opened the meeting and welcomed all present to the virtual December Special Meeting 2020 Meeting of Ingleby Barwick Town Council.

- 1. Housekeeping:** The meeting was held using Zoom video technology in line with the changes to the regulation which came into force on 4th April 2020. The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.
- 2. Notice of Meeting:** The Chairman noted that the Notice of the Meeting had been published on the Town Council's website and on the notice board at the Ingleby Barwick Community Hall, Beckfields.
- 3. Apologies for Absence:** None.
- 4. Declarations of interest:** Cllr Watson declared a personal/non-prejudicial interest in all items involving her role as a Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Ward Councillor, also as an owner of Fix-It DIY. Cllr Strike declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in all items as a Ward Councillor. Cllrs Emmerson and Patterson declared a personal/non-prejudicial interest in anything related to Agenda item 5: Sandgate shops.
- 5. Sandgate Shops update:**

### **CLLR EMMERSON AND CLLR PATTERSON LEFT THE MEETING DUE TO A PERSONAL INTEREST. CLLR WATSON IN THE CHAIR.**

At the previous meeting of the Town Council held on 17th November 2020, it was agreed that a special meeting be held and that Ward Cllr Ross Patterson be invited to attend to make representation on his course of action. Cllr Watson had previously chaired this item on the Agenda, whilst she stood by the decision that there was a non-prejudicial interest, she had taken advice and it was deemed 'whilst such interests would not normally prevent participating in the decision there may be situations where the matter being discussed is so significant for, and closely connected, with the interests of the other body that a fair minded and informed observer would think there to be a real possibility of bias'. In this respect Cllr Watson felt that she could not chair the meeting during consideration of this item and requested nominations for Chairman. It was felt that Cllr Rutland could not take the seat as she had expressed an opinion at a previous meeting. Cllr Strike proposed Cllr Irwin which was seconded by Cllr Turnbull.

### **CLLR WATSON LEFT THE MEETING, CLLR IRWIN IN THE CHAIR**

The Town Clerk gave members an update and had previously circulated to Cllrs an email trail sent by Ward Councillor Patterson for their consideration. There was a mixed reaction from

Cllrs as to the actions of Cllr Ross Patterson as well as how the Town Council should proceed. After discussions Cllr Strike PROPOSED that the Town Council make a complaint to Stockton on Tees Borough Council regarding the actions of Ward Cllr Patterson, this was SECONDED by Cllr Turnbull. The Town Clerk advised that as not all Cllrs were in support of the complaint, a formal complaint could not be made by the Town Council as a whole. However, individual councillors were entitled to complain.

Cllr Strike further PROPOSED that a letter from the Town Council, and signed by Cllr Irwin, be sent to Cllr Patterson highlighting their disappointment and the proposed actions being taken regarding erecting signage in the Rings Community Hub car park, as a result of Cllr Patterson's comments. This was SECONDED by Cllr Rutland. The Town Council wished to draw a formally draw a line under this matter. A vote took place, there were four in favour of the motion, three against and one councillor abstained. AGREED that a letter be sent to Ward Councillor Patterson as detailed.

#### **CLLRS EMMERSON, WATSON AND PATTERSON RETURNED TO THE MEETING**

- 6. Social Media Protocol** – This was brought to the Town Council's attention following a post on social media. It was felt that the Town Council's Social Media Policy needed to be reviewed. It was agreed at the previous meeting of the Town Council that a Policy Review Committee be established. The Terms of Reference for this committee would be presented at the next meeting of the Town Council. It was felt that the social media protocol should be reviewed once this committee is established and an agreed framework be adopted.
- 7. Increase in Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour:** Following an increase in crime and anti-social behaviour in Ingleby Barwick it was proposed to produce an information leaflet to be circulated to every household detailing contact telephone numbers for Enforcement and the Police PROPOSED by Cllr Strike and SECONDED by Cllr Emmerson. AGREED that the leaflet be designed and circulated to all households of Ingleby Barwick.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm