

GREAT EASTON AND TILTY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF EGM MEETING HELD 18th MARCH AT 7PM
ONLINE MEETING VIA TEAMS

Present: Paul Kelly (Chairman) – Tristan Martens (Vice Chairman) – Mark Claxton - Fiona Down – Julia England – Peter Neale – Nicole Thake.

Clerk: Wendy Hall

- **Welcome**

The Vice Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm.

- **Complaint Received Regarding Councillor Conduct and ACV.**

Vice Chairman Tristan Martens advised that the purpose of the EGM is to discuss the two complaints received in relation to the ACV and against Cllr Kelly and Cllr Neale, he advised that the PC have an obligation to meet to discuss the written complaint that was received from Mr & Mrs Scott of The Swan in Great Easton.

Allegations have been made about the way the PC went about submitting the ACV, this was discussed and voted in the November 2020 meeting, Wendy approached UDC but received no replies, it was chased again in late January, further email was sent and a reply received advising that the officer was on compassionate leave, forms were then sent over, completed and returned to UDC, they then requested more information which was supplied.

Mr & Mrs Scott were then made aware of this by various comments that had been made on Facebook. Mr & Mrs Scott are challenging the validity and are asking for the nomination to be withdrawn as Cllr Kelly and Cllr Neale were part of a financial group to acquire the Swan, the reputation and integrity of the PC is a primary concern.

Cllr Kelly asked what the two complaints were, Cllr Martens advised that 1 x complaint is against Cllr Kelly and Cllr Neale and their code of conduct 2 x complaint is against the PC in relation to the ACV, Cllr Kelly reads from the November minutes, and asks Clerk if she still holds notes from this meeting, she advises that once minutes are typed no notes are held. Cllr Kelly asks how the decision, Cllr Martens advises by a vote, Cllr Kelly suggested no vote was taken, the last time a vote was taken was in relation to Burns playing field.

Cllr England advises that she remembers voting for this at the November meeting. Mr & Mrs Scott are stating that the Cllrs concerned failed to declare an interest. Cllr Martens states that the purpose of tonight's meeting is just to discuss the complaint, both issues are now being managed by UDC.

Cllr Kelly declares that he doesn't agree with Mr & Mrs Scott's claims and he will answer any questions from the investigating officer regarding any allegations that have been made.

Cllr Martens notes that records will show there has been an issue and that the PC have taken this seriously and the complaints have been discussed and noted as this could cause serious harm to the PC.

Cllr Thake asks if the meeting next week will run as normal – Cllr Kelly answers yes it will run as normal.

Cllr Neale advises that in the complaint that was received from Mr & Mrs Scott on 16th March 2020 at 18.24 no councillor was named, Cllr Neale was informed that there had also been a separate complaint form submitted to UDC naming the councillors, Cllr Neale asked if we have seen this, Clerk advises that she has seen the form, Clerk is asked to share the form after the meeting.

Cllr Martens advises that another Councillor had been approached by Mr & Mrs Scott about the integrity of the ACV, they had been approached several years ago but nothing had been done.

Cllr Claxton advises that he was the one that Mr & Mrs Scott approached as they are neighbours, they asked if the ACV had been discussed anytime since the November meeting, he advised them that it hadn't.

Cllr England stated she was very disappointed as this matter had been going on since the autumn.

Cllr Martens advises that there have been strong allegations made from Mr & Mrs Scott that Cllr Kelly & Cllr Neale made the offer before the meeting, Clerk has spoken to the Monitoring Officer and it would be advisable that the two Cllrs stand down until the matter is resolved.

Cllr Kelly has agreed to stand back and informs the Councillors that he was going to stand down in May from the P.C.

Cllr Neale has agreed to stand back whilst the investigations are ongoing, he will also answer anything received in relation to this from UDC, he does challenge Cllr England's suggestions.

Cllr Martens thanks both councillors for standing back.

Cllr Martens asks the Councillors if we should withdraw the nomination at this stage.

Cllr Claxton suggests we wait until we receive anything from UDC.

There being no other business to discuss the Vice Chairman closed the meeting at 7.50pm

Vice Chairman.....Date.....