



LITTLE WOLFORD PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Extraordinary Assembly

31 March 2022, Wolfords Village Hall

Present: Helen Bostock (HB), Chairman; Simon Lewis-Beeching (SL), RFO; Adam Bewsey (AB); David Farman (DF); Jane Revere (JR); Gillian Ablewhite (GA); Colin Ablewhite (CA); Henry Warriner (HW); Emily Mazjub (EM)

Apologies for absence received from Roz Warriner, Michael Revere, Charles & Jane Hobbs

1. **The Minutes** of the General Assembly on 14 October 2021 were accepted by the meeting and signed by HB.

2. **Update on amalgamation and response from SDC**

Since the last meeting HB and SL had met with GWPC to discuss the future of LWPM and received a favourable response to the idea of amalgamation. To this end letters and questionnaires were delivered to all residents in Great and Little Wolford. HB said the results of the questionnaires had shown a strong preference by both parishes to becoming a joint parish council and the majority vote on a name for the new joint council was The Wolfords Parish Council.

HB had emailed Phil Grafton, Head of Law & Governance at SDC informing him of the situation and requesting attendance at the Extraordinary Assembly and the Parish Annual Assembly of the 'parish trustee' (David Buckland, Chief Exec) or a representative. This was declined by a member of SDC legal team on behalf of Phil Grafton. The advice from the legal team failed to take into account the possibility that LWPM would not be able to re-elect a Chairperson in the future. It is the opinion therefore of HB that as many matters as possible be dealt with while she and the RFO are still in office. HB explained and DF confirmed it is possible to elect a Chair from the floor for the duration of a meeting but without an elected Chair only the District Councillor would be able to convene such meetings. District Councillor Sarah Whalley-Hoggins was also invited to the meeting but did not attend or give apologies.

3. **Resolution to pursue Community Governance Review**

HB had been advised by SDC that she would need to request the CGR while still in office and pass a resolution agreeing this at tonight's meeting. To this end DF proposed, JR seconded and approved unanimously. Dependent on GWPC also passing the same resolution, HB to finalise wording of the request for a CGR with GWPC and submit it to SDC. **[Action HB]**

4. **Financial matters to resolve**

a. Non-budgeted expenditure. SL brought the attention of the meeting to several unbudgeted items; from financial year 2020-21 VETS (Village Emergency Telephone System) set up cost £80, and from financial year 2022-23 VETS ongoing cost £100, website support inflation cost £18 and LW Queen's Platinum jubilee celebration event in June 2022. The latter falls under Section 137 spending. It was agreed this should be up to the value of £800 and all other non-budgeted expenditure was also

approved by the PM.

- b. Standing orders on the account. HB explained the necessity to set up standing orders to ensure a continuity of payments after resigning from chair in the upcoming April meeting. All approved this action. **[Action SL]**

5. **Date of next meeting:** 26 Apr 2022

The meeting was immediately followed by the public meeting with residents of the Wolfords to discuss the possible amalgamation of LWPM and GWPC. At the end of the public meeting GWPC passed a resolution in support of the request for a Community Governance Review.