

**UNADOPTED
POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL**

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 8th March 2019, Council Chambers, 49 High Street, Polegate at 9.45 am

Present: Cllrs Ms A Snell, Mrs C Berry, Mrs M Piper, Mrs S Dobson, B Goodwin, M Falkner, D Watts (7)

Not Present: Cllr D Shing, D Dunbar (2)

No Members of the public Cllrs D Murray, S Shing present

Minute No	Subject/Resolution
12641	Opportunity for Public Comment None
12642	Apologies for absence Cllr D Dunbar, D Shing <i>Cllrs B Goodwin, D Murray arrived at 9.48 am</i>
12643	Declarations of interest in any matters on the agenda None
12644	Committee to consider pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 whether the public and press should be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reasons of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. (Staff & Legal matters/details) <u>It was resolved to enter confidential session VOTE All in favour</u> <u>Cllrs Ms A Snell, Mrs C Berry, Mrs M Piper, Mrs S Dobson, M Falkner, D Watts</u>
12645	Staff / Legal matters <i>Cllrs B Goodwin, S Shing arrived at 9.54am</i> It was resolved that the solicitor be contacted to send a letter to the vexatious resident (as per discussion, details to solicitors) banning them from council land, property and meetings, and advising that no emails or phone calls would be allowed, and no letters or correspondence would be entered into. The only point of contact is to be via a councillor, should they chose to correspond further. The committee was prepared to listen to the advice of the solicitors but wanted the ban to be for 5 years with a review after a year, not to lift, but to see if there were reasons to lift it. The committee was prepared to accept the advice of the solicitor and reduce this to a 2 year ban with a review after 6 months or 12 months. The ban was deemed necessary as the resident has wasted too much valuable council, staff and councillor time with vexatious, bullying, harassing and intimidating behaviour over the years. It has set the council back in terms of projects as time had to be spent on those matters. A copy of the letter will be sent to Sussex Police under the

crime report number so that they have a reference and the resident can be reported to the police quickly should they breach the bans.

The clerk was asked to check if the police had been in contact with the resident on this matter (assault).

The ban is for ALL council meetings (regardless of where they were held), all council property. No contact with the staff. [Can still contact councillors if they wish to correspond with him, but this was down to their discretion.] The wording of the letter would be left to the solicitors. No further correspondence would be entered into. The delegation to carry out the reviews of the ban and matters surrounding it including paying for the additional solicitors' fees would remain with the personnel committee.

It was agreed that the telephone ban be lifted on the other vexatious resident as per discussion (details to solicitors), but that there should be no personal visits, however the resident must be instructed that any change in their pattern of behaviour (i.e. no general contact with the office over the years) would be taken into consideration and if this changed the ban may be reinstated with immediate effect. Any behaviour considered to be aggressive, bullying or harassing to staff or councillors would result in an immediate ban being reinstated and also be reported to the police immediately. A letter would be sent to the resident to this effect by the solicitors, once again no further correspondence would be entered into.

VOTE All in favour Cllrs Ms A Snell, Mrs C Berry, Mrs M Piper, Mrs S Dobson, B Goodwin, M Falkner, D Watts

The meeting closed at 10.30 am

Signed Chair of Personnel _____ Date _____