

T63/22. **Public Participation**

Hester Hands joined the meeting online and read out the questions she had from an email which she had sent to the office:

I note that the last full meeting of the Town Council was on the 3 August. This is the third special meeting since then, with the next full meeting still a month away.

Because of the nature of the business discussed, the published minutes of the special meetings are very sparse. This means that it is very difficult for the public (your electorate) to know what is going on in the council - how delivery of your programme is progressing - and to engage with councillors on matters of interest.

Looking at the minutes of Committee meetings doesn't help much since several of their meetings have also been cancelled in recent months and the minutes of those that do happen are taking a long time to appear.

I appreciate that there have been a lot of changes in the Town Council recently and this is most certainly not intended as a criticism of the work being done by hard-pressed officers. However I have two questions

1 Are you now able to put on public record details of new officer appointments since April, whether interim or permanent? (And if not, when will this information be available)?

2 May we have assurances that, for the remainder of this Council's period in office, best efforts will be made to adhere to the schedule of meetings and to publish meaningful information about decisions taken, in a timely manner.

The Mayor replied that due to the mourning period after the sad death of The Queen, meetings had to be cancelled and rearranged. Special meetings are called when the nature of business is such that it cannot wait until the next scheduled meeting. The Mayor went on to say in response to the future schedule of meetings, that every effort will be made to adhere to the schedule but that this will be subject to circumstances some of which may be out of the Council's control.

A written response will be provided to Hester in due course covering all her points.

T64/22. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from, Cllr Greenaway and Cllr Clifton.
Cllrs Barody, Cllr Coveney, Cllr Crick, Cllr de la Harpe, Cllr Jehanli, Cllr Maddison, Cllr Oats and Cllr Rowbottom did not attend.

T65/22. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

T66/22.

Section 85(1) Local Government Act 1972

Council were requested to consider waiving the requirements of the s85(1) Local Government Act 1972 for Councillor Alex Greenaway for the period to 6 May 2023 as he is unable to attend meetings.

Cllr Bowring spoke in support of Cllr Greenaway and asked members to waive the requirements of this Act to allow Cllr Greenaway to continue as a member of the Council.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Bowring, **seconded** by Cllr Lonergan and **RESOLVED that**, the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972, s85(1) be waived for Cllr Greenaway.

Cllr Birks wished for it to be recorded that he voted against this motion.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7:15pm.