

PIRBRIGHT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held in the Green Hut Meeting Room on Monday 6 June 2016 at 7.00 pm.

Members present: Cllr Nevins (Chairman), Cllr Eason, Cllr Hallam, Cllr Hobbs, Cllr Newman & Cllr Richmond.

In attendance: L. Graham (Clerk), Cllr Witham & Cllr Gordon Jackson (from 7.30pm).

Also in attendance: Tim & Nicola Barker, Sara Dennis, Helen Whitworth, Philip & Julia Doučtil, Ben Hallam
Tim Barker explained that he wished to understand PPC's views about banners and its policy for advertising events.

1.	<p><u>FORMALITIES</u></p> <p>To Receive Members' Apologies for Absence Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Fidgett.</p>
2.	<p>To Receive Members' Declarations of Interest on Any Agenda Item below Cllr Eason made a personal declaration of interest in item 3.</p>
3.	<p><u>BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED</u></p> <p>To Discuss the Erection of Banners on the Green at White Hart Corner to Advertise Parish Events</p> <p>3:1 The Chairman opened the discussion, explaining that the intention of the meeting was to form a policy with a set of guidelines that could be applied to all future requests for placement of banners on the Green to advertise Parish events. The Parish Council had been warned that it could be liable if such banners led to passing motorists being distracted or created some kind of problem that caused an accident.</p> <p>3:2 The Parish Council had sought advice from its professional association's solicitor, Surrey County Council Highways and PPC's insurance company:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The solicitor stated that "<i>as a general principle of land management, the Parish Council would, in common law, be required to ensure that it does nothing on its premises that could cause or could be likely to cause injury to another person or the person's property. Negligence would have to be proved i.e. that injury/damage was foreseeable although of course primary responsibility would be with any vehicle driver to exercise due care and attention.</i>"• The highways engineer stated that "<i>If there was an accident, as a result of the banners at the junction, then PPC could be liable. I do not support the proposal to have the banners or a large scarecrow at that location.</i>"• The insurance company added that "<i>In the event of an accident, the county council would be able to confirm that they advise against this and therefore it would be the parish council at fault for ignoring the advice given.</i>" <p>3:3 Last year SCC removed one of the Scarecrow Festival's banners from a fence alongside Gole Road and contacted the Parish Clerk to explain how the committee could retrieve it. The Local Highways Officer also mentioned information about advertising and banners on the roadside that can be found on the SCC website. However, members had mixed views about whether this advice should also be applied to the Green, which is registered to PPC, with the exception of a 1m margin that is under the jurisdiction of SCC Highways. There was also a difference of opinion about whether the corner of the Green, at the junction of the A324 & Cemetery Pales, is the best site for a banner, where it is partially obscured by the White Hart Corner sign, or whether a safer, more visible position would be on the Little Green.</p> <p>3:4 Following a general discussion, three proposals were considered and put to a vote: Proposal 1: To require the banner currently erected for the Scarecrow Festival to be taken down and no further signs to be erected around the Green. DECISION: <i>the proposal was defeated unanimously.</i></p> <p>Proposal 2: To permit the current banner to stay in place, because of an evaluation of minimum risk DECISION: <i>the proposal received a tied vote but was defeated 4/3 with the Chairman's casting vote.</i></p> <p>Proposal 3. To conduct an appropriate risk assessment, which would approve the position and content of banners to be erected on the Green to advertise Parish Events. DECISION: <i>this proposal was carried unanimously.</i></p> <p>3:5 From this risk assessment, it will be possible to develop strategies to reduce risks to a minimum, create a transparent safety policy for all banners and advertising for parish events on the Village Green, and thus address PPC's concerns about liability.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 8.17pm.</p>