

PIRBRIGHT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Emergency Meeting held in the Green Hut Room on Saturday 12 May 2018 at 2.00pm

Members present: Cllr Fidgett (Chairman), Cllr Eason, Cllr Hobbs, Cllr Swinney & Cllr Woollett.

In attendance: L. Graham (Clerk)

1.	<p><u>FORMALITIES</u></p> <p>1:1 To Receive Members' Apologies for Absence <i>Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Hallam (Cllr Richmond was away.)</i></p> <p>1:2 To Receive Members' Declarations of Interest on Any Agenda Item below <i>There were no Declarations of Interest.</i></p>
2.	<p>To Consider Measures to Deal with the Unauthorised Encampment on the Village Green</p> <p>2:1 A group of travellers with six vans arrived in Purbright at around 5pm on Friday 11 May and set up camp on the football ground. Cllr Fidgett approached the leader who assured him they would be gone tomorrow and there was only one more van to come. Within 10 minutes a dozen more arrived and a new leader emerged from one of the vans parked on the middle Green. Cllr Fidgett tried to reinforce the need to stay off the cricket field, which they agreed (though some children were playing on the covers) and the rope around the square disappeared. They then stated that they wanted to stay a week and then would be gone, saying they would keep all their rubbish tidy and not damage the Green or surroundings. Some said they were planning to attend the Derby during the first week in June.</p> <p>2:2 Cllr Fidgett was also liaising with the police and gave them a copy of the Parish Bylaws for the Green to prove that it was a criminal offence and not a civil matter, and that the Parish Council wished the Police to enforce them. They said they needed to take advice, as their first responsibility was to assess the situation and then ensure there was no criminal activity, and they also issued an incident number. They would monitor overnight but they did not intend to move them on that night. The Chairman maintained regular contact with PPC members, Jonathan Lord M.P, Cllr Keith Witham, Cllr Gordon Jackson and other members of GBC.</p> <p>2:3 Following the delay in any positive action from the police on Saturday 12 May, Cllr Fidgett contacted professional bailiffs and obtained a quote for their services to carry out the eviction process, a solution advised by GBC at a workshop attended by the Clerk earlier this year. The emergency meeting of the Parish Council was then convened.</p>
3.	<p>To Approve the Procedures and a Budget for the Bailiff's eviction</p> <p>3:1 Cllr Fidgett reported that he had carried out the welfare checks on the inhabitants of the encampment, as a requirement of the procedure. Members considered any human rights consequences and implications, with reference to the Parish bylaws and the council's duty to protect residents and safeguard the Green. There were no grounds to think there was a special case to permit the travellers to remain and further delay could create a health issue for everyone.</p> <p>Resolution 1: <i>Members agreed unanimously that they wished to proceed with the eviction.</i></p> <p>Resolution 2: <i>Members agreed unanimously to use the emergency budget of £7,000 allocated in the Precept (+ £3000.00 contingency), with authorisation to the Chairman & Clerk to instruct the bailiff to carry out the eviction procedures required.</i></p>

The meeting ended at 2.50pm.

Signed.....

Date.....