

BOLTON-BY-BOWLAND, GISBURNB FOREST AND SAWLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of September 7th, 2021, at Tosside Community Hall

1. Councillors present: Derek Glover (chair), Hayden Fortune (Acting clerk/proper officer), Paul Wilson, Susan Whitaker, Arnold Foster, Nigel Bunyan.
2. Declarations of pecuniary interest: None.
3. Notices: Chair said the notices re vacancies would be left up for 14 days. If 10 residents contacted RVBC to request an election that would take place at a future date. If not, we could tell electors who to contact if interested.

4. Public session:

David Lumb, from Tosside, asked about the reasons for the resignations, and Coun Glover said he had no idea; we only got notifications that they'd resigned. Hayden: "We've got proper notification".

Elizabeth Twist, from Sawley, asked for the minutes of the previous meeting to be read out, given that they'd not been posted on the notice boards. Coun Fortune said he would put the minutes out when he had time to do so.

Grace Gridley, from Tosside, queried Coun Fortune's failure to respond to emails. He said he'd only just set up a new account after being without home internet access for nearly six months.

5. Approval of the minutes of August 2nd and Extraordinary meetings:

Coun Foster pointed out that there was no list of attendees, and it was agreed to amend the minutes to record the fact that Councillors Fortune, Glover, Park, Whitwell, Holt, Bunyan and Whitaker were present.

Coun Foster also raised the issue of when the meeting actually ended. He maintained that this was when the chair called it to an end of 9.15pm, and that the discussion held thereafter should not be minuted. Coun Glover agreed that he had ended the meeting, and that this was due to “Lynda Holt’s disruptive behaviour”. He had then left the room. Others argued that they were unaware the meeting had ended and so carried on with what was listed on the agenda as a private session. The councillors who carried on with this were Councillors Fortune, Whitaker, Whitwell and Wilson. Coun Fortune ended these proceedings at 9.50pm.

Coun Foster requested a vote on the issue, arguing that the later discussion had not formed part of the meeting. This was defeated.

Coun Bunyan said he wanted two amendments to the minutes of the August 2nd meeting.

He said that he felt it important to acknowledge that there had been a wide-ranging debate about pecuniary interest relating to Lynda Holt’s planning application; in part involving her neighbour, Keith White, but also David Lumb, himself, the chair, and others. Mrs Holt herself had strongly defended her position, maintaining that there was no need for her to declare a pecuniary interest because there had been no actual meeting. Mr White said he planned to lodge a complaint with the monitoring officer of Ribble Valley Borough Council.

The second amendment was to note Angela Lumb’s complaint that she and others in Tosside had been ignored by Coun Fortune over the issue of land at Church Acre. She suggested there was a potential conflict of interest due to his role as a church trustee. As a parish councillor, it was his duty under the Nolan principles to reflect the views of Tosside residents. Coun Fortune insisted there was no conflict of interest.

6. Planning applications: None.

7. Ice creams: Coun Bunyan reported that he was having trouble contacting the person he thought ideal to deliver the ice creams to care home staff and residents in Sawley. He look at asking Hudson’s for a quote. Re the equivalent funding for seniors’ clubs in B-by-B, Tosside and Sawley,

there was some doubt that Sawley actually had a seniors' club. The council would find out.

8. Village hall grants: It was agreed to give £1,000 to Tosside Community Hall for a new fridge. Coun Glover said he'd raise the issue of grant money with the B-by-B village hall committee. Coun Foster said he'd often mentioned the grants to those running Sawley village hall, but no application was ever forthcoming.
9. Notice boards: Coun Glover said he knew the requirements for each board and would get quotes together. Coun Bunyan offered to help re the local joiner he'd previously mentioned. Coun Glover to report back to the October meeting.
10. Little Green Bus: It was agreed to give a grant of £200. The project will be discussed at the October meeting.
11. Matters brought forward.
 - a. Coun Whitaker raised the issue of two stiles being broken in fields close to the centre of B-by-B./ One is broken, the other hanging off. Agreed to identify the owner.
 - b. Coun Bunyan said a resident had asked for the lengthsman to be asked to clip some of the branches. After a discussion it was agreed to leave the trees alone. (Coun Whitaker has since alerted the council to one of the trees suffering ash die-back).
 - c. Coun Wilson raised the issue of longstanding wall damage at the Copy Nook Corner. Agreed Coun Bunyan would contact Davis and Bowring to enquire about progress.
12. Clerk vacancy. Coun Glover said we needed an advert to go into the Advertiser, plus an application pack for residents. It was agreed that in addition to the Advertiser the advert would be posted on Facebook and put on noticeboards. At Coun Whitaker's suggestion the job description will specify that the successful applicant will work from home.
13. Next meeting to be Monday, October 4th, at Tosside Community Hall.

14. Coun Foster verbally resigned and then walked out of the meeting after thanking members of the public for their support during his time as a councillor. Coun Glover said the resignation could only be accepted once it had been put in writing. As he left Coun Foster was asked if he'd sign the cheques. He refused.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm.