

NEWTON POPPLEFORD AND HARPFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of **Newton Poppleford and Harpford Parish Council** which took place at The Pavilion, Back Lane, Newton Poppleford at 7pm on Monday, 22nd May 2023.

Present: Cllrs. Carpenter, Compton, Dalton, Hughes, Malawana, Tillotson, Tribble and Walker
Jacqui Baldwin, Clerk and RFO
Cllr. Jessica Bailey, DCC (from 7.50pm)
Hon Footpath Warden, Ted Swan
Gill Cameron-Webb, Climate Change Group
10 members of the public.

Cllr Carpenter advised that, as the outgoing Chair of the Parish Council was away, he would chair the first part of the meeting. He welcomed all Councillors, in particular new Councillors Compton and Malawana, and members of the public to the meeting. Fire Regulations and evacuation procedure were outlined.

		Action:
AM23/01	<p>Election of Chair: Cllr. Carpenter invited nominations for the office of Chair. Cllr. Tillotson proposed Cllr. Tribble. Cllr. Tribble accepted the nomination. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Walker. Resolved 6 votes in favour, 2 abstentions.</p>	
AM23/02	<p>Chair to sign Declaration of Acceptance of Office: Signed in the presence of, and witnessed by, the Clerk to the Parish Council.</p> <p>Chair thanked Councillors for their support. Chair congratulated Cllr. Burhop on all he had achieved as chair of the Parish Council over the past 4 years and on his re-election as Ward Councillor. Grateful thanks for service to the community and best wishes were offered to outgoing Councillors Bilenkyj, Chapman and Morgan.</p>	
AM23/03	<p>Election of Vice Chair: Cllr. Walker proposed Cllr. Carpenter to be Vice Chair of Council. Cllr. Carpenter accepted the nomination. Seconded by Cllr. Dalton and resolved 6 in favour with 2 abstentions. Cllr. Compton requested that it be recorded that he had abstained from the vote as it was a “carefully orchestrated fait accompli”.</p>	
AM23/04	<p>Vice Chair to sign Declaration of Acceptance of Office Signed in the presence of, and witnessed by, the Clerk.</p>	
AM23/05	<p>Members to sign Declarations of Acceptance of Office and consent to receive email communications: Declarations of Acceptance, having already been signed by members of the Finance Committee, were signed by Cllrs. Compton, Hughes and Malawana.</p>	
AM23/06	<p>To consider apologies for absence and approve if accepted: (LGA 1972 S.85(1)) Apologies for absence received from Cllr. Lipczynski were approved.</p>	
AM23/07	<p>Declarations of interest from members of the Parish Council/Dispensation Requests:</p>	

	<p>Chair advised that, this being a new Council term, all previously granted Dispensations were now void.</p> <p>A Dispensation Request had been submitted prior to the meeting by Cllr. Tillotson to enable her to discuss and vote upon matters pertaining to the parish allotments. This is a renewal of a Dispensation Request originally granted in March 2021 which was afforded in respect of her personal and disclosable pecuniary interests as an allotment tenant.</p> <p>Chair proposed that this Dispensation Request be granted for the period of this Council unless previously rescinded or withdrawn. Seconded by Cllr. Dalton and unanimously approved.</p> <p>Cllr. Hughes submitted a Dispensation Request for review at the next meeting of Council.</p> <p>Clerk to note and place on the Agenda for the June Council meeting.</p> <p>Chair then asked whether any other member of Council wished to declare an interest in any of the matters to be discussed on the agenda. There were no such declarations. Chair reminded members that they could declare an interest at the relevant point on the agenda if necessary.</p>	Clerk
AM23/08	<p>To consider the co-option of members to the Council to fill post-election vacancies: (Representation of the People Act 1985 s.21)</p> <p>Chair explained that Newton Poppleford and Harpford Parish Council comprises 11 seats – 1 in Venn Ottery Ward, 4 in Harpford Ward and 6 in Newton Poppleford. There were 9 nominations for the 11 seats by the deadline for nominations and an uncontested election had been declared. Council therefore had two vacant seats – both in Newton Poppleford Ward.</p> <p>Applications had been invited from eligible candidates to fill those seats through the post-election co-option process. Four statements of interest had been received and all Councillors had been given the opportunity to review the submissions made by each candidate. Chair then advised Councillors that they had the opportunity to vote for two of the four candidates and that, in the event of a tie, those who had cast their votes for the candidate with the least votes would be asked to cast their vote for a different candidate. In the event of a stalemate the Chair would have a casting vote.</p> <p>Chair then asked Councillors to vote for candidates in alphabetical order and the following votes were recorded: Joan Bisseker 6, Joshua Harrison 5, Teresa Loynd 1, Anthony Tribble 1.</p> <p>Chair announced that Joan Bisseker and Joshua Harrison were duly co-opted to the Parish Council. Chair thanked all candidates for their interest in standing for co-option and hoped that those who had been unsuccessful on this occasion would put themselves forward again should there be an opportunity.</p>	
AM23/09	<p>Co-opted members to sign Declarations of Acceptance of Office:</p> <p>Declarations of Acceptance of Office were signed by both co-opted members in the presence of the Clerk at the end of the meeting.</p>	
AM23/10	<p>To receive and, if thought fit, approve Minutes of the previous Ordinary Meeting held on 24th April as previously circulated:</p> <p>Approval of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr. Walker and seconded by Cllr. Carpenter. Resolved with 7 votes in favour, one abstention.</p> <p>To consider any matters arising from those Minutes</p> <p>Chair confirmed that:</p>	

	<p>a) Bonfire remains have been removed from Webbers Meadow.</p> <p>b) Venn Ottery parish noticeboard has been reinstated.</p> <p>c) MUGA spoil remains to be removed – plans postponed due to flooding.</p> <p>d) All rubbish has now been removed from the allotment gardens.</p> <p>e) Quotations for repairs to play equipment have been received and a contractor approved by the Finance Committee.</p>	
AM23/11	<p>To note arrangements for the payment of Chair and Members Allowances for 2023/24:</p> <p>Chair advised that members of the Parish Council are entitled to receive an annual payment - known as the Parish Basic Allowance - which is a figure calculated to cover the expenses associated with the basic duties of a councillor. The sum payable is based on a percentage of the allowances paid to EDDC Councillors.</p> <p>Having made the decision to pay the Parish Basic Allowance the Council is obliged to make a payment to each member <u>unless</u> that member communicates to the Clerk that he or she does not wish to receive payment. Payments will be made in two tranches – end June and end December - and are subject to PAYE.</p> <p>Councillors to communicate with the Clerk accordingly.</p>	ALL
AM23/12	<p>To consider Committee Terms of Reference and memberships for 2023/24:</p> <p>a) Finance</p> <p>b) Policy & Personnel</p> <p>c) Planning</p> <p>Chair proposed that, as Council has four new members, the subject of committee membership be dealt with at the June meeting.</p> <p>In the meantime, the Clerk was requested to circulate the Terms of Reference for each committee to members. Members with a specific interest in serving on a particular committee to communicate this to the Clerk before the June meeting.</p>	Clerk ALL
AM23/13	<p>To consider nominations for Voluntary Footpath (P3) Warden:</p> <p>Cllr. Tillotson proposed that Ted Swan be appointed Footpath Warden for the coming year. Mr. Swan confirmed his willingness to continue in this role. Seconded by Cllr. Hughes and unanimously resolved.</p> <p>Chair thanked Mr Swan for his continued service particularly in the light of his current circumstances.</p>	
AM23/14	<p>Chair proposed the suspension of Standing Orders to allow public participation in the meeting. Seconded by Cllr. Hughes and resolved with one abstention.</p>	
	<p>Public Forum</p> <p>Some reports were circulated beforehand and published on-line</p> <p>a) Neighbourhood Policing report: As P C Titherington was not present Clerk confirmed that investigations into who may have been responsible for the graffiti in the culvert under the A3052 had not produced any leads. The graffiti will be removed by Streetscene. Traffic police are carrying out increased patrols and speed monitoring on the A3052 between Half Way Inn and Sidford as this stretch of road has been designated a 'high harm' route.</p> <p>b) County Councillor report: Cllr. Jessica Bailey: Cllr. Bailey arrived at the meeting at 7.50pm. With regard to the flooding incident, Cllr. Bailey confirmed her attendance at the 'drop-in' event in Newton Poppleford on 23rd May and advised that an additional event will take place in Colaton Raleigh on Friday, 26th May for those not able to attend in Newton Poppleford. Residents who have suffered uninsured losses e.g. for damage to gardens, should be able to apply for</p>	

support via EDDC's hardship fund. Funding will also be available to enable Parish Councils to review flood plans and purchase additional defensive resources if required. Cllr Bailey advised that David Whelan, EDDC's Emergency Planning officer had stated his intention to work with all affected parishes to review existing parish Emergency Plans and create an Emergency Network in the local area. Cllr. Bailey noted that there was confusion regarding the responsibility of various organisations for drains, culverts, brooks and rivers. The Environment Agency has produced an interactive map of the area showing which watercourses are their responsibility and Cllr. Bailey will ensure that the parish has a copy. Watercourses not the responsibility of the EA come under the remit of Devon County Council and it is their responsibility to keep those watercourses clear. Cllrs. Hughes and Compton requested that Cllr. Bailey urgently contact Highways regarding the deteriorating and dangerous state of the lanes between Venn Ottery and Aylesbeare (photographs of which were provided by Cllr. Compton) and Venn Ottery and Tipton St. John. Finally, Cllr. Bailey thanked everyone who had been involved in the clean-up operation and encouraged any residents who needed help or advice to contact her.

c) District Councillor report: Cllr. Chris Burhop:

Cllr. Burhop sent his apologies but a report had been circulated and published on-line in advance of the meeting. The Chair read out the following update received from Cllr. Burhop by email: "My apologies for not being there. Since I submitted my report the multi-agency flood recovery group have set up a drop-in session at the Pavilion on Tuesday from 3pm to 7pm. Representatives from the County Council, Environment Agency and District Council will all be in attendance. It is hoped that this will be an opportunity for residents to share information about the flooding so that we can learn about the causes and future prevention as well as for residents to question the current and future planned response to the flooding of 9th May. Residents whose properties were flooded are encouraged to report their addresses to the multi-agency group, either via the PC or myself. This is to build as complete a picture as possible and to ensure we maximise the available resources for the response. In addition the multi-agency group, of which there are in excess of 25 members, met on the evening of Monday 22nd May to monitor progress and actions to date. I have been contacted by many residents who have been affected by the flood. They have so far been particularly complimentary about the initial response from the "blue light" responders and the community response. I will now be focussing on the recovery team to ensure we get as much resource as we can to assist with this stage. One issue that has been repeatedly reported to me is the delay in clearing blocked drains and gullies since the flood. At the agency meeting on Monday I asked for a detailed update of the progress on drain and gully clearance and the future plans for this. Cllr Jess Bailey and I have especially emphasised the need for urgent action in the Burrow Lane area where dangerous levels of silt have built up in fields adjacent to already flooded properties whose natural and man-made barriers were washed away, leaving them particularly exposed. The EA and DCC are working with the local farmer to put in place short term mitigation to avoid this problem. Defensive trenches have been dug in the field behind numbers 39 and 41 but more needs to be done urgently".

d) Report from Ted Swan, Parish Footpath Warden:

Mr Swan advised that his priority is currently clearing up after the flood at his home. He will speak to his 'deputy' Ian Kimber who will assist with keeping footpaths clear during this period of exponential hedgerow growth. Mr Swan reported that DCC will commence repairs on Footpath 3 alongside the playing field on 23rd May and the footpath may be closed for a few days. Mr Swan confirmed that staff from the Environment Agency have walked the length of Back Brook and have noted the areas that require attention. It is hoped that where rock armour has fallen into the brook, EA will reinstate the banks to prevent further erosion.

e) Allotment Managers report, Cllr. Tillotson:

Cllr. Tillotson reported that the allotment garden clear up is almost complete and a magnetic roller has been purchased to clear the car park of metal and nails. The new email communication system set up by Anthony Tribble is proving effective with tenants being kept up to date with events, activities and any help required.

Questions and representations from residents/parishioners:

	<p>A resident requested that, when Streetscene attend to remove graffiti from the culvert, it could also be removed from the bridge over the A3052.</p> <p>Clerk to note and contact Streetscene.</p>	Clerk
AM23/15	<p>Chair proposed resumption of standing orders to close Public Forum at 7.45pm. Seconded by Cllr. Hughes and carried by 7 votes in favour, one abstention. (following Cllr. Bailey's arrival at 7.50pm standing orders were again suspended to allow her to address the meeting.)</p>	
AM23/16	<p>To consider any matters listed on this Agenda that Councillors believe should be dealt with as confidential business as per the provisions of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (see Agenda item AM23/32)</p>	
AM23/17	<p>a) To appoint the Responsible Financial Officer for 2023/24: Chair proposed that Jacqui Baldwin be appointed RFO for 2023/24. Seconded by Cllr. Tillotson and resolved with 7 votes in favour, one abstention.</p> <p>b) To confirm bank mandate signatories for 2023/24: Chair confirmed that current bank signatories are herself as Chair, Cllr. Walker as Chair of the Finance Committee and Cllr. Dalton. The Finance Committee will consider proposing additional signatories if deemed necessary for the proper functioning of Council.</p> <p>c) To consider arrangements for the renewal of the Council's insurance 2023/24: Council's insurance is due for renewal on 10th June. Chair advised that a pre-renewal meeting had taken place with Council's brokers and a quotation is due shortly. This will be circulated on receipt.</p>	
AM23/18	<p>a) Acceptance and Approval of Internal Auditors Report for End of Financial Year Accounts 2022-23: The Clerk advised that the relevant reports and statements had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting with the exception of Councillors Compton and Malawana who had not been members of Council during the financial year. Cllr. Walker proposed that the auditors report be accepted and the Chair and RFO be authorised to sign the Annual Governance (b) and Accounting Statements (c). Seconded by Cllr. Carpenter and resolved with 6 votes in favour (Cllrs. Compton and Malawana not required to vote). The documents were duly signed and dated.</p> <p>b) To consider the Annual Governance Statement and, if approved, to authorise Chair to sign on behalf of Council (AGAR 3 pt 1)</p> <p>c) To consider Accounting Statements and, if approved, to authorise Chair and RFO to sign on behalf of Council (AGAR3 pt2)</p> <p>d) To confirm the dates for publication of the Notice Period for the Exercise of Public Rights: Clerk confirmed that the period for the Exercise of Public Rights to enable members of the public to view copies of 2022-23 financial documents would take place from Monday 12th June to Friday 21st July 2023.</p>	
AM23/19	<p>To review and, if thought fit, approve Council's Standing Orders: As there had been no legislative changes or recommendations from the National Association of Local Councils, Chair asked for a proposer to re-adopt Council's existing Standing Orders. Proposed by Cllr. Hughes. Seconded by Cllr. Walker and resolved 7 votes in favour, one abstention.</p>	

AM23/20	<p>To review and, if thought fit, approve Council’s Financial Regulations and Delegation policy: Chair stated that the Finance Committee had reviewed Council’s Financial Regulations and recommended that the document be amended to remove reference to a 3-year forecast as Council does not produce such a document. A revised version of the policy had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr. Walker proposed that the amended document be approved and adopted. Seconded by Cllr. Dalton and resolved 7 votes in favour, one abstention. Clerk to upload revised policy to the website.</p>	Clerk
AM23/21	<p>To review and, if thought fit, approve Council’s Code of Conduct policy and to note requirement for Members to complete Register of Interests forms: As there had been no legislative changes or recommendations from the National Association of Local Councils, Chair asked for a proposer to re-adopt Council’s existing Code of Conduct. Proposed by Cllr. Hughes and seconded by Cllr. Carpenter. Resolved with 7 votes in favour, one abstention. Chair reminded Councillors that, in signing the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, they agree to abide by Council’s Code of Conduct. Councillors were asked to ensure that completed, signed, Register of Interest Forms should be returned to Clerk as soon as possible. Chair then read out the Seven Principles of Public Life (also known as the Nolan Principles).</p>	
AM23/22	<p>To consider Council’s membership of external bodies: Not dealt with.</p>	
AM23/23	<p>Chair’s announcements/matters of urgency for report only: No announcements made.</p>	
AM23/24	<p>Financial Matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To consider and review Financial Reports for May 2023 as per documents previously circulated to members and published on-line Noted. b) To note payments for approval for May as approved by the Finance Committee on 16th May 2023 and published on-line. Noted. c) Questions to RFO from members of Council relating to the financial reports. Cllr. Compton requested confirmation of the Auditors fee for 2022-23. Clerk confirmed this as £100. 	
AM23/25	<p>Correspondence received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Venn Ottery – ‘Music on the Green’ event 24th June 2023 Chair thanked the Venn Ottery and Southerton Residents Association for notification of this event. 	
AM23/26	<p>Planning Matters:</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To consider planning applications received prior to publication: 23/0785/FUL – Garden Cottage, Venn Ottery Chair confirmed that Council had agreed by consensus to leave this matter to EDDC’s Listed Building and Conservation Officer. 23/0943/FUL – 2 Brook Meadow, Newton Poppleford Clerk noted that this was the second application received for this property. This application differs from the original (23/0565/FUL) in that the design of the roof is now proposed as fully pitched as opposed to 	

	part pitched and part flat. As this is an improvement on the original design and in keeping with Neighbourhood Plan policies Council will support this application.	
	b) To consider planning applications received after agenda publication: None received.	
	c) Tree matters (Planning): Confirmation of Tree Preservation Order 22/0023/TPO. Clerk advised that this TPO relates to four oak trees in Hacker Close.	
	d) Planning determinations/decisions advised: None received since the last meeting.	
	e) To consider Council's Neighbourhood Plan 'Monitoring Report': Report circulated to members of Council prior to the meeting. Chair explained that this report enables members of Council to monitor planning matters to ensure that EDDC decisions do not differ from Council's responses to applications and that Neighbourhood Plan policies are upheld.	
AM23/27	<p>To review response to flooding event in the parish:</p> <p>a) Recovery Coordination Group actions: Chair reported that two virtual meetings of this group had taken place since 9th May. Meetings are attended by the Chair, Vice Chair, Clerk, Ward Councillor and County Councillor. This group is focussing on recovery and not on the causes of the flooding. The causes will be dealt with separately by DCC in their Section 19 report which will be published in approximately 3 months.</p> <p>b) Parish response and Emergency Plan review: Chair advised that the Parish Emergency Plan would be reviewed by the Policy & Personnel Committee at their next meeting in June. Cllr. Carpenter advised that, as the member responsible for the maintenance of the Emergency Plan, he had been contacted by Dave Whelan of EDDC who had offered his support in carrying out a review. This may result in the PPC meeting being re-scheduled to a later date. Cllr. Walker suggested that the coordination of volunteers dealing with the aftermath of an emergency event should be better organised. Cllr. Hughes reported that much of his stock of flood defence equipment had been utilised and requires replenishment. Clerk to contact EDDC to request further supplies. Cllr. Compton asked when a skip would be delivered to Venn Ottery for waste collection as previously promised. The Clerk advised that EDDC had decided not to deliver skips but to collect waste from the roadside as it was easier to sort. Soil/silt should also be left in piles at the kerbside for collection. It was noted that further collections are required from Barton Mews in Venn Ottery, Harpford and Northmostown. Cllr. Hughes suggested, as some residents are without internet, updates of this nature could be posted on the Venn Ottery parish noticeboard.</p> <p>c) Resident 'Surgery' event: Discussed elsewhere on the agenda. Chair confirmed that the Community Café would provide refreshments.</p> <p>d) Report on damage to Parish Council assets:</p>	Clerk

	<p>Clerk confirmed that quotations are being sought for repairs to the MUGA and the fencing surrounding the playing field and children's play area. No other parish assets were damaged.</p>	
AM23/28	<p>To consider matters pertaining to St. Luke's Church and Cemetery:</p> <p>a) CCG proposals to improve biodiversity in the churchyard: Chair suspended Standing Orders to enable Gill Cameron-Webb to respond to any questions from Councillors relating to the proposal circulated prior to the meeting. There being no questions Chair reinstated Standing Orders and Cllr. Carpenter proposed that the Climate Change Group's proposals be approved. Seconded by Cllr. Walker and resolved with 6 votes in favour, two abstentions.</p> <p>b) Access gates to cemetery/Commonwealth War Graves signage: Chair invited Cllr. Compton to speak on this agenda item. Cllr. Compton pointed out that the double gates in the cemetery wall were no longer padlocked and this, together with the erection of Commonwealth War Graves signage on the gates, could be construed as encouraging members of the public to access the cemetery through these gates. Cllr. Compton advised that the gates are accessed via a private road along which there is no public right of way. The Clerk advised that the contractors who had repaired the cemetery wall had to cut off the old padlock and chain to refurbish the gates. This could easily be reinstated. Chair suspended Standing Orders to enable the parish footpath warden to address the meeting. Mr Swan advised that the road leading to these gates had never been designated as a public right of way but records show that the route had been used as a footpath for many years by those wishing to access the cemetery. The Clerk confirmed that she understood this to have been the route used by members of the Plymouth Brethren to access the part of the cemetery that was allocated to this community. Cllr. Dalton suggested that either the Church or the Diocese of Exeter may be able to provide some information on this subject. It was agreed that further investigation and discussion was required. Chair reinstated Standing Orders. Clerk to place on the Agenda for the June Council meeting.</p> <p>c) To consider a request from the church to install defibrillator signage on Council property. Cllr. Tillotson proposed that a request from St. Luke's to place signage on Council property signposting the location of their new defibrillator be approved. Seconded by Cllr. Hughes and resolved unanimously. Clerk to note and advise the churchwarden accordingly.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
AM23/29	<p>To receive an update on the installation of the new footbridge on Venn Ottery Village Green:</p> <p>Cllr. Hughes advised that the concrete plinths for the new footbridge had now been laid and members of VOSRA (the residents association) had agreed to treat and paint the footbridge. However, at 2.5 tonnes and 6m in length, the bridge is too large and heavy to install without specialist equipment and manpower. Cllr. Hughes advised that he had submitted a quotation to carry out the work based on 3 men taking 3 days to install the bridge but that Council would obviously need to obtain additional quotations for comparison.</p>	

	<p>Chair pointed out that there is currently £2,060 remaining in the reserve fund for this project. The contractor who carried out the plinth installation quoted £980 to do the work and has not yet raised an invoice. Once this invoice has been paid there will be £1,000 left to spend on bridge installation with no further funds available.</p> <p>Chair asked whether VOSRA would be able to carry out any fundraising to raise the extra £1,000 required. Cllr. Hughes responded that he could not speak on behalf of VOSRA but, in the light of the impact of the recent flooding on Venn Ottery, it was highly unlikely.</p> <p>Cllr. Hughes reported that the two plinths that have been installed do not appear to be level and this may also cause a problem with the bridge installation. However, it is unclear whether the contractor had been given instructions and/or a specification to work to. Clerk to investigate the background to this and report back. Cllr. Compton suggested that the contractor should not be paid until this matter has been fully investigated.</p> <p>Clerk to place on the Agenda for the June Council meeting.</p>	Clerk
AM23/30	<p>Date of next Annual Meeting – Monday, 20th May 2024</p> <p>Date of next Ordinary Meeting – provisionally Monday, 26th June 2023, 7.00pm at The Pavilion, Back Lane, Newton Poppleford. Chair requested that this meeting be re-scheduled to Tuesday, 27th June when she will have returned from holiday. Cllr. Hughes proposed that the meeting be re-scheduled, seconded by Cllr Carpenter and unanimously resolved.</p> <p>Cllr. Hughes requested that, where future meetings take place on a Monday, the start time be pushed back to 7.15pm to enable him to arrive at the meeting on time. This was agreed.</p> <p>Clerk to note and update calendar and website accordingly.</p>	Clerk
AM23/31	<p>Chair proposed that, under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.</p> <p>Chair thanked members of the public for their attendance.</p>	
AM23/32	<p>Matters to be considered in committee session:</p> <p>a) To receive an update on matters pertaining to the Surgery Building in Newton Poppleford:</p> <p>As Cllr. Compton did not declare an interest at this point, the Chair asked him to absent himself from the meeting by reason of his publicly declared interest in this matter. Cllr. Compton suggested that, as Council did not accept that he had an interest in the property, it was disingenuous for him to be asked to leave and that his stance on this matter was supported by EDDC's Monitoring Officer.</p> <p>Cllr. Hughes suggested that, in the circumstances, it would be appropriate to close the meeting without further discussion.</p>	

With no further business to consider, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.30pm.