



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 2020 AT 19:30. THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL DUE TO THE COVID:19.**

**Present:** Cllr S Barker (Chair), Cllr C Bridger, Cllr M Colman, Cllr S Falzon-Thomas, Cllr C Finlay, Cllr K Kassem-Toufic, Cllr S Kirk, Cllr A Petty, Cllr N Redding, Cllr N Sherlaw, Cllr D Waller, Cllr R Zahidi

**Apologies:**

**Absent:**

**Also in attendance:** Ms J Miller (Clerk & Proper Officer), Mrs G Jackson (Deputy Clerk); 38 Members of the Public.

**FC20/298. To receive and accept Apologies for Absence.**  
There were none.

**FC20/299. To receive Declarations of Interest & lobbying.**  
Cllrs Barker, Bridger, Falzon-Thomas, Finlay, Petty, Redding and Waller declared lobbying.

**FC20/300.** The Chairman thanked Officers for putting together the meeting report in a short space of time.

**FC20/301. To discuss and decide on whether to continue with the pest control agreement at the Sports Park.**  
Cllr Petty asked the following two questions:-

- Can the Chairman confirm that the Minute dated October 2014 is the minute that refers to shooting as a form of pest control at the sports park.
- Can the Chairman confirm if the contract dated June 2020 is an annual agreement that was signed yearly, if so, when was the first one signed.

**FC20/302.** Cllr Kirk asked how an Officer can be in such a position as to sign the June 2020 contract.

**FC20/303.** Cllr Falzon-Thomas asked why an independent professional had not been employed by the parish council to investigate the need for rabbit control and could one be undertaken.

**FC20/304.** Cllr Zahidi asked how the June 2020 contract came into existence.

**FC20/305.** Cllr Bridger asked what the role of Pest Tech was with regard to pest control at the sports park.

- FC20/306.** Cllr Petty asked the following two questions:-
- Could councillors please be provided with copies of all risk assessments from the contractor from when the contractor started, up to the current date.
  - Could councillors please be provided with copies of all previous contracts in relation to the shooting agreement at the sports park.
- FC20/307.** Cllr Colman asked if there was original document before June 2020.
- FC20/308.** Cllr Redding asked the following questions:-
- Could the council agree that the contract remain suspended until a further review/ investigation be undertaken.
  - Could the council look for alternative measures with regard to pest control.
  - How did this contract originate, are there any other contracts that have not been signed off, and can councillors look at all the contracts undertaken by the council.
  - Are there any reports from the contractor with regard to the extent of pests at the sports park. Is there still a problem that needs to be solved?
- FC20/309.** Cllr Falzon-Thomas had the following questions:-
- Could councillors please be issued with the following documents
    - Risk assessment.
    - Safety work method statements.
    - Kent Police fire arm inspections.
    - Fire arms licences and night licences.
    - If they are shooting deer the contractor should also produce an A16 licence.
  - Why have the pitches not got rabbit proof fencing.
- FC20/310.** Cllr Kirk asked the following questions:-
- Why was the contract was signed in June 2020. Is this a new contract or was there not a contract beforehand?
  - Could councillors be provided with the risk assessment that covers the use of a 243 rifle.
  - It was reported that a resident made a complaint via the council's website and a response had not been received. It was asked to check if this was received.
- FC20/311.** Cllr Zahidi asked if and why councillors had to copy the Clerk into correspondence.
- FC20/312.** Cllr Petty asked to be provided with the parish council risk assessment with regard to the contractor activities at the sports park.
- FC20/313.** It was **RESOLVED** to terminate the shooting immediately and withdraw the contract followed up by a full investigation.

Also to not destroy the recording of the meeting in line with the retention policy of the council but to keep for at least three months.

The following amendment was **AGREED**.

To add the following elements to the investigation:

- Alternative methods for dealing with pest control.
- The cost of the alternative methods.
- To increase pitch inspections until the investigation has been undertaken and reported.

**FC20/314.** The meeting closed at 20.58

Signed.....

Date.....