



Communication Committee

MINUTES of the Communication Committee meeting held on 10th February 2020 at 7.00pm in Edgmond Village Hall.

PRESENT: Councillor R Higginson Cllr G Jones Cllr G Williams
Councillor A Wilson Cllr I Pryce

In Attendance: K Baker (Clerk) Cllr C Edwards Cllr K Arbuthnot
2 Members of the public

C2020/136 WELCOME & PUBLIC SESSION

Councillor Higginson welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Residents attended to enquire if progress had been made regarding a suitable sign to advise that the Lane is not suitable for HGVs. TWC had confirmed that it would be possible to have a sign and that information can also be shared with SAT NAV so that unsuitable vehicles are not directed to use the Lane which is too narrow.

C2020/137 APOLOGIES

None

C2020/138 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

C2020/139 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29TH JULY 2019

It was proposed by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Pryce that the Minutes of the meeting held in July be accepted as a true record. All were in favour and thus it was

RESOLVED that the Minutes be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

C2020/140 MATTERS ARISING

The grant for £200 towards the Edgmond Magazine had been paid to the PCC.

C2020/141 STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE

Telford & Wrekin Council had forwarded a link to the presentation, on Youtube, which had been provided to Members of TWC by the Monitoring Officer. Standards in Public Life has become an important topic linked to the Code of Conduct which all Parish & Town Councillors must sign up to when elected or co-opted and the Monitoring Officer had requested that all PTCs take time to watch the presentation as the information is important to Parish & Town Councillors, too. Members of Edgmond Parish Council had previously adopted the Communication Protocol and the use of Social Media Policy, which had been provided as model documents for adoption by all Local Councils.

C2020/142

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chairman had extended the invitation to this meeting to all Members of Edgmond Parish Council as the use of Social Media had caused concerns for the Parish Council and the community in recent months. Councillor Stephen Bentley had sent his apologies. Members resolved to exclude any press and public from this part of the meeting due to the sensitive nature of the discussions which could take place as they are linked to the reputation of the Parish Council.

C2020/142

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Communication Committee Chairman read a statement which brought to the attention of the Committee concerns regarding use of Social Media by third parties and the interaction with Members of Edgmond Parish Council.

This external influence was detrimental to the good work of this Parish Council and was affecting the professional reputation and work that has been done over many years.

Members discussed in length, the posts and reflected on the inappropriate use of unacceptable language. A heated exchange took place between Members.

Members were reminded that the Nextdoor Edgmond and Facebook social media posts are public and once posted it is too late, someone will have seen it, read it, shared it and it cannot be recalled. Members were reminded that the Code of Conduct confirms that they are in elected into Public Life and this is 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. When posting on social media, people will believe (whether it is written or not) that the views and statements included are written as a Parish Councillor. Some recent posts have not been acceptable and have had a detrimental effect on the integrity and reputation of this Parish Council.

Edgmond Parish Council had previously agreed to use its Facebook Page to keep residents informed. Any news items can be added, and should be copied to the Clerk for clarification. Members can include any decisions previously made by the Parish Council. The Parish Council cannot make a statement unless members have had the opportunity to discuss a topic and form its view. A statement will be drafted that can be used to respond to questions or comments raised on social media.

It is important that the Parish Council manages its facebook page and the admin status will be changed, the name will also be changed to include the parish council.

Edgmond Chit Chat and Nextdoor Edgmond are good for sharing information and getting local messages out but not acceptable for Parish Council correspondence.

C2020/143

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

The parish Council website contains all the information, taking into consideration The Transparency Code. Anyone asking for details about the Parish Council and its work can be directed to the website. There is also a 'Contact Us' link to send emails direct.

C2020/144

MAGAZINE ARTICLES

Members agreed that the magazine articles can be included on social media following publication as it is accepted that many people do not read the newsletter and they may prefer to read it on social media. If an article gets a response, this must be forwarded to the Clerk for response / action.

C2020/145 **OTHER MATTERS**
None

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.00pm.

SignedDate