

**Minutes**  
of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting  
held on 3 April 2023 at 7:30 pm  
North Dean Village Hall

Present: (Chair) Cllr Gareth Cadwallader, Cllr Jill Armshaw Cllr Marc Byrom, Cllr Chris Janes, Cllr Stan Jones, Cllr Simon Kearey, Cllr Debra Main Cllr Usha Prashar & Cllr Sam Thomas

In attendance: Louise Steele (Locum Clerk)

Members of the public: 3

**CL23.04.1 To consider and approve apologies for absence.**  
Apologies were received from Cllr Linda Derrick.

**CL23.04.2 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations**  
Councillors made no declarations of interest

**CL23.04.3 Code of Conduct Complaints about Councillor Linda Derrick – Recommended Sanctions Following Findings of Breach .**

The Council received

- a written report from the Deputy Monitoring Officer at Buckinghamshire Council; and
- the Decision Notice of the Buckinghamshire Council Hearings Sub-Committee following a hearing held on 19 January and 2 March 2023

Council considered the sanctions recommended by the Buckinghamshire Council Hearings Hearings Sub Committee consequent upon breaches of the Hughenden Parish Council Member Code of Conduct by Cllr Linda Derrick and as an appropriate and proportionate means of addressing the various breaches found.

There was a full debate about the nature, potential consequences and practical implications of the sanctions, and further discussion of the wording of the censure and a press release. Following debate it was proposed and seconded that the sanctions be applied in full. Before the proposal was put to the vote Cllr Main requested a recorded vote.

The votes upon the proposal to impose the sanctions in full were as follows:

In favour: Cllrs Armshaw, Byrom, Cadwallader, Janes, Jones, Kearey and Thomas

Against: Cllrs Main and Prashar

Cllr Prashar asked to clarify that she agreed with Sanctions A-E but did not agree with Sanction F on the grounds that it impaired Cllr Derrick's ability to carry out her duties as a Councillor and hence her vote against the proposal to apply the sanctions in full.

Council RESOLVED, by a majority vote to apply the following sanctions upon Cllr Derrick

- A. Ask Cllr Derrick to issue a written apology to the complainants of PC 32 and PC 52, (to recognise the upset caused to both former employees).
- B. Censure Cllr Derrick for each of the breaches (given the seriousness of the findings and to place on record the Council's collective commitment to high standards of public conduct).
- C. Issue a press release to report the breaches and sanctions to the wider public (to demonstrate the importance of high standards of public conduct and the integrity of the Member Code of Conduct complaints process); and to note where breaches were not found (Press release attached to record minutes.)
- D. Place a statement on the Parish Council's website and public notice boards about the breaches and sanctions; a similar notice to be placed on Buckinghamshire Council's website (for the same reason as in C, with particular emphasis on informing local people of the same); and to note where breaches were not found. (Statement attached to record minutes.)
- E. Require Cllr Derrick to attend arranged training in observing the member code of conduct; councillor-officer relations; and in handling personal data (to ensure proper understanding of these areas of governance and to ensure Cllr Derrick can be more fully effective in future as a councillor)
- F. That from the date of Hughenden PC's resolution until Cllr Derrick attends this training, she be excluded from attending any premises of HPC except to attend meetings of the Council (given that Cllr Derrick's behaviour was directed towards an employee outside of a meeting context)

In censuring Cllr Derrick the Council agreed the following wording:

As a Parish Council, we have a legal duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct (as required by the Localism Act 2011 S.27). We adopted a Member Code of Conduct for this reason. As such, we take seriously the breaches of the Code and censure Councillor Derrick for them.

Councillor Derrick's conduct, in respect of these breaches, fell short of the Standards in Public Life expected of us as councillors. The Parish Council is committed to delivering the best possible service to the people of Hughenden Parish. This can only be done through councillors and staff working together productively and respectfully. The Council values good governance and welcomes the advice and professionalism of our staff.

We trust that Cllr Derrick will learn from this experience and abide by the Code of Conduct in future.

**CL23.04.4**

**Ethical Governance – Best Practice Suggestions from the Buckinghamshire Council’s Hearing Sub-Committee**

The matters contained in this agenda item were deferred to the meetings of Council to be held on 11 April and 16 May.

Chairman..... Date.....

DRAFT