

**CHARLWOOD PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE 29<sup>th</sup>  
FEBRUARY 2024 HELD AT THE HOOKWOOD MEMORIAL HALL,  
HOOKWOOD AT 7:45PM**

**PRESENT**

Cllr L Scott – Chair

Councillors: S Bloom, D McCorquodale, A Rawlinson, T Stacey, A Tyson-Davies

In attendance: Janette Coulthard (Clerk), 40 x Residents

62/24	<b>1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	
	Apologies received from Cllr Evans and Cllr Hill.	
63/24	<b>2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	
	Cllr Scott declared a non-pecuniary interest, the nature of the interest being that she is a Hookwood resident.	
64/24	<b>3. LAND WEST OF REIGATE ROAD – UPDATE</b>	
	<p>Cllr Scott opened by the meeting by giving a briefing on the current status of the Appeal against Mole Valley District Council’s (MVDC) decision to refuse planning permission for the housing development on land west of Reigate Road in Hookwood. She also explained MVDCs position and what was known of their strategy for defending their decision.</p> <p>Cllr Scott explained that the Parish Council (PC) had gained Rule 6 status which meant it had a right to speak or be represented at the Appeal hearings and present evidence which would help in defending the refusal of planning permission.</p> <p>Cllr Scott then introduced Colin Smith (CS), the Planning Specialist engaged by the PC to help the PC draft its representations for the Appeal Hearings. CS gave details of his experience and explained how he was helping the PC. Cllr Scott with the agreement of the PC then brought forward item 6 on the agenda to allow a question &amp; answer session to take place for residents and to gain the views on what the residents in attendance would like the PC to do. CS explained the difference between being represented by a Barrister and a Planning Specialist at the Appeal Hearings and answered the attending residents’ questions as well as questions from Cllrs. There were many questions from residents and Cllrs regarding the cost of a Barrister versus the cost of a Planning Specialist. Cllr Scott advised it was not possible to put an exact figure on the costs as that would be dependent on how the Appeal Hearing went and whether additional experts would be required to help present evidence on behalf of the PC. Cllr Scott advised that the expected cost of a Barrister was somewhere between £15,000 and £20,000. However, Cllr Scott advised that outline costs of a Barrister and the Planning Specialist had been provided at the previous Extraordinary Meeting and where available in the minutes.</p> <p>Cllr Scott then conducted a straw poll of the attending residents as follows: <b>Question 1: Do residents want the PC to choose a Barrister or the</b></p>	

65/24	<p><b>Panning Specialist to represent the PC at the Appeal Hearings?</b> 88% of the residents attending voted for the PC to choose to be represented by CS, the Planning Specialist. 12% voted for the PC to choose a Barrister.</p> <p><b>Question 2: Would residents be prepared to set up a group to carrying out fund raise to help cover the cost of the PC defending the Appeal?</b> 95% of the residents attending agreed they would be happy to set up a group 5% of the residents attending did not vote for setting up a group to carry out fund raising activities. One resident agreed to lead on the fund raising efforts.</p> <p><b>4. To consider and agree if the Parish Council want the representation of</b> A) Barrister B) Planning specialist</p>	
66/24	<p><b>IT WAS AGREED</b> that the PC would be represented by CS, the Planning Specialist.</p> <p><b>5. If the decision is A) to consider and agree if the Parish Council want to conduct a fund-raising effort</b></p>	
	<p><b>IT WAS AGREED</b> that the PC would fund costs up to £8.200, this being the remainder of the Professional Fees budget for 2023/24. This cap is in place to allow time for residents to provide evidence of their commitment to raising additional funds to contribute to further costs to cover Professional fees and for the PC to obtain a clear understanding of the total expected costs for fighting the appeal. The PC agreed they were willing to consider topping up the £8.2K when more concrete figures could be provided regarding maximum financial exposure and evidence was available of the residents' commitment to fundraising.</p>	
67/24	<p><b>6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b> Moved to item 3 above.</p>	
68/24	<p><b>7. DATES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE</b></p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Services &amp; Amenities Meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – Pavilion 6:30pm Full Planning Committee Meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – Pavilion 7:30pm</li> <li>• Parish Council Meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – Hookwood Memorial Hall, Hookwood 7:30pm</li> </ul>	

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 10:30pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting, and approved at the Full Parish Council Meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

Signed.....

Chair