



**MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF
LOOSE PARISH COUNCIL**

Tuesday 1 March 2022 at 7.30pm
in the Parish Pavilion, KGVPF

Councillors taking part: Vianne Gibbons (Chairman)(VG), Jim Andrew (JA), Peter Rigby (PR), Charlie Hollister (CH) and Darren Carpenter (DC)

Also present:

Susan Grigg (MBC Ward Councillor for Loose) (SG) Nicky Bourne (Deputy Clerk) (NB) and Kim Owen (Clerk)(KO) who took the minutes.

There was one member of the public involved in the meeting.

1. To receive and record any apologies for absence

Apologies have been received from Tony Oliver (TO), Andrew Richards (AKR), Velma Bennett (VB) and Susan Luckhurst (SL).

2. To receive and agree any decision regarding any item to be taken as confidential

None.

3. To receive any declarations of pecuniary interest on items in the agenda

(In accordance with the NALC Model Code of Conduct for Parish Councils (pursuant to section 27 of the Localism Act 2011). In addition, any declaration of personal or prejudicial interest. *(As agreed by LPC 21 Jan 13)*

None.

4. To receive any signed dispensation requests for any item on this agenda

(Councillors to approve/disapprove as appropriate and to agree the reason for the dispensation if approved. (see dispensation form). This follows the agreement made by the LPC at the meeting held on the 17 July 2017- (item 17)).

None.

5. To discuss the review of MBC warding arrangements and make any necessary decisions

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is reviewing the MBC warding arrangements and they want to hear the views of local people and organisations for a new pattern of wards in Maidstone. The deadline is 4 April 2022. The independent electoral reviews recommend new patterns of wards so that each Councillor represents about the same number of electors. They also aim to ensure that the pattern of wards reflect community ties and identities and promotes effective local government. The reviews involve several consultations where they ask local people and organisations to get involved.

SG explained the process and updated the Council about the meetings she has attended on the proposed Warding arrangements. The aim of proposed changes is to ensure equality for local voters so each Councillor should have 3046 voters. The consultation on the Warding Pattern ends on 4 April 2022. It is up to the Parish Council to decide if they wish to make a submission by that date. There is no template for the submission and it can be by email, consultation portal, post, phone or the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) website. The latest proposal is for Boughton Monchelsea and Loose to be together with one Ward Councillor. However, this would mean that the Loose Road area from the Green down to Pickering street would be in Tovil and North Loose Ward including Valley Drive, Waldron Drive and Bray Gardens. These areas still remain under Loose Parish



Council. The current proposals by MBC (Boughton Monchelsea and Loose) will go to Democracy and General Purpose Committee on 9 March 2022 as an urgent update so will not appear on the agenda. The matter will then go to Full Council on 14 April 2022. The optimum time to put in a submission will be 10 March 2022. SG will update if there are any changes from 9 March 2022 meeting.

After discussion the Council **AGREED**

- To keep all of Loose as it is now.
- To look at an option of all of Loose going with Boughton Monchelsea with two Councillors. SG will talk to Boughton Monchelsea about a dual submission for this option.
- To put in an option for all of Loose to stay together and to go in a Ward with Linton (currently the proposal for Linton is to be in a Ward for Marden) with one Councillor.
- Terry McKeown will write the introduction for a submission.
- JA will write part of the submission to include information about the impact on the Loose Neighbourhood Plan.
- Submission to be ready 10 March 2022.
- The Clerk to send out Guidance notes from the LGBCE to all who attended the meeting.

6. Other Items (discussion only)

None.

7. Date of Next Meeting 21 March 2022

The Meeting ended 8.50pm

Dated.....

Signature.....