

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of Hilperton Parish Council, held in the lounge, Hilperton Village Hall, Whaddon Lane, Hilperton on Monday 8th January 2024 at 7.45pm.

There were no members of the public present.

Councillors present: Clark, Turner, Allan, Hayes, House, Linham, Sawyer, Uncles.

24/1. Acceptance of apologies for absence.

Cllrs. Carbin, Prevett, and Robinson gave their apologies due to work commitments. Their apologies were accepted.

24/2. Dispensations.

None were requested.

24/3. To receive declarations of interests.

No declarations were made.

24/4. Exclusion of the press and public.

Not required as there would be no discussion of confidential matters.

25/5. Chairman's announcements.

None.

24/6. Clerks resignation.

Noted. The chairman was asked to acknowledge the resignation, thank the clerk for the work she had completed, and to note that she did not require an exit interview.

24/7. New clerk advert.

The wording for the adverts for a new clerk was agreed.

The closing date will be 9th February 2024. The clerk was instructed to place the relevant adverts with SLCC, using their 'Gold standard' for two weeks, and also with WALC.

24/8. Interviews and interview questions.

It was agreed that interviews would be held at Hilperton Village Hall. The staffing committee would conduct them and arrange appropriate questions.

24/9. Selection process/feedback to unsuccessful candidates.

It was resolved that the present Clerk will hand over all council equipment and documentation to Cllr. Turner. The clerk will deliver the parish council laptop, documentation, keys, etc. to Cllr. Turner on Wednesday 10th January 2024 at a mutually agreed time.

24/10. Locum clerk.

It was resolved that the chairman should contact the Society of Local Council Clerks with a view to arranging for a 'locum clerk' until the clerk position is filled. The fact that there would be additional costs in employing a 'locum clerk' was noted.

24/11. General Power of Competence.

A discussion took place after which the following resolution was made. Proposed Cllr. E. Clark, seconded Cllr. P. Turner.

As Hilperton Parish Council meets the eligibility criteria in terms of the clerk's qualifications and numbers of elected councillors, the Council resolves to exercise the General Power of Competence with effect from the passing of this resolution. (Local councils in England were given a 'general power of competence' (GPC) in the Localism Act 2011, sections 1 to 8.)

Carried unanimously.

24/12. Date of next meeting.

Tuesday 16th January 2024 starting at 7.45pm at Hilperton Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 7.58pm.