

STALMINE-WITH-STAYNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 5 March 2019 at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, Stalmine

Present: Cllr Forshaw (Chairman), T Williams, K Jenkinson, S Pelham, A Haydock.

In attendance: Alison May, Clerk to the Council.

161(1) Apologies for absence

Cllr Booth.

162(2) Declaration of interests and dispensations

None.

163(3) Public participation

No members of the public were present.

164(4) Exclusion of the press and public

Pursuant to section 1(2) and 1(3) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the council resolved to exclude the press and public to discuss:

- a) An employment matter.

Resolved: that guidance from the council's insurer, the insurer's solicitor and Wyre Council prevented the council from employing a woodsman who had not undergone refresher training in line with the Health and Safety Executive's advice. The clerk was asked to write to the applicant explaining the need for refresher training and compliance with HSE advice on safe woodland working before it could engage anyone to work in the wood, (whether this be on an employed or self-employed basis).

165(5) Woodland management finances

Councillors were updated by the clerk regarding the need for any loan request to be submitted via the County Association - NALC and the requirement for formal written approval from the Secretary of State. They were also informed that advice received was for the council to try to secure a grant for work to be done before looking to take out a loan.

Councillors also discussed the requests from neighbours adjacent to Stalmine Wood for trees to be chopped down or 'pruned' and acknowledged that other than those adjacent to the property on Hall Gate Lane, they had not been identified as needing action in this 12 - month period.

Resolved: that in the first instance, the council would investigate possible grants and whether further surveys in the wood would be helpful in securing these. The council further resolved that its limited budget only allowed for works to be carried out on the trees in line with the annual survey (unless trees became damaged/dangerous between reports). The clerk was asked to write to those residents who had requested trees be taken down/cut back and explain why this couldn't be done at this point in time.

There being no further business, the chairman closed the meeting at 8.10pm.