

Minutes of the Black Torrington Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting held on Tuesday, 27th June 2019, at the Chapel School Room

Present: Cllrs S White, M Hall, E Barnes M Down, S Floyer & D Haywood

In Attendance: Parish Clerk, 2 members of the public District Cllr P Hackett, County Councilor B Parsons

2706/1 Election of chair for the civic year to end May 2020

There were no candidates for chair, E Barnes agreed to chair the meeting

2706/2 To receive and accept apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllrs P Mills and C Lock

2706/3 Declarations of interest – None

2706/4 To consider a proposal that current “dog control” arrangements for the playing field have served the community well for many years and do not need changing.

Background.

The playing fields are covered by the default dog control measures. Dogs are to be kept under control, dog mess must be picked up and dogs should be put on a lead when instructed by an authorised officer of the council. Dogs are not currently banned from the playing fields and the parish council has no power to impose a ban. The recent referendum showed 80% of those that responded were against dogs on the playing fields.

Cllr Down thought the council should not ignore the wishes of the majority of those who responded to the referendum and the PC should ask Torridge to impose a PSPO (Public Spaces Protection Order) to ban dogs.

Cllr Floyer thought the playing fields were for all and people should not be subject to bullying on social media.

Cllr White pointed out that 20% of those who responded to the referendum were not opposed to dogs on the playing field. He questioned whether there were any other sites in the village suitable for older dog walkers to exercise their dogs, the path through the farm field is steep and overgrown. He questioned why one small group within the parish (children) should have rights over the whole field when there are those who want dog walkers to have no rights to any part of it. Children rarely use the South end of the field. It was **resolved** to amend the tabled motion to:

The current dog control arrangements for the playing fields are acceptable but the possibility of asking TDC to impose a PSPO on the playing fields should be added to the agenda for the next meeting and the signage should be amended to request people do not take dogs onto the playing fields.

The Motion was passed.

2706/5

To appoint a trustee to the Village Hall Committee

Cllr E Barnes was appointed as a trustee to the Hall Committee

2706/6

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