



ATTLEBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall, Queens Square, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 2AF

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Extraordinary Attleborough Town Council Held on Thursday, 27 February 2020 at 6.00 pm in the Town Hall

Present:

Cllr T Crouch - presiding

Cllr B Bulmer

Cllr A Busk

Cllr B Cousins

Cllr W Loades

Cllr K Montague

Cllr D Redmond

Cllr J Roper

In attendance – Nick Hancox, Solicitor (Legal Advisor and Minute Taker)

Miles Hubbard, 'Unite' the Union

NOTE: Our legal advice was that the press and the public can be excluded from the meeting. This exclusion will be implemented in the light of the experience at the 17 February 2020 Meeting in order to make sure that the Town Council can transact its proper business without interruption.

The Town Mayor opened the meeting at 6pm in his capacity as Chairman.

119.19) Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

120.19) Declarations of Interest

a) To receive and consider declarations of interest in items below – None received.

b) To receive and consider dispensations in respect of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – None received.

There were no declared pecuniary interests.

At this point it was proposed and seconded and unanimously **RESOLVED** that all votes on Agenda items 3 to 6 be taken by means of a paper ballot.

121.19) To consider a Report by Nicholas Hancox Solicitors Limited; Grievance raised by Unite the Union

1. The Solicitor reported that a meeting had been held with 'Unite' the Union to discuss the Grievance; that the members present at that meeting had accepted that bullying and harassment did take place and that they fully understood that the Town Council, as the corporate employer, is responsible for providing a safe and pleasant working environment for all of its employees. The Councillors present at the meeting had reluctantly agreed with 'Unite' the Union that urgent action has to be taken now, to stop the bullying and harassment.
2. The Grievance was now referred to the Full Council, to do what it can to put matters right.
3. The Chairman referred members to item 4, which was raised in connection with Item 3.

122.19) Reponses (from Councillors Taylor and Tyrer)

None received.

123.19) To consider a motion signed by eight Councillors proposing the removal of two Councillors from positions held within the Council structure

The Council's solicitor asked the Chairman to allow Miles Hubbard of 'Unite' to speak on behalf of some Council employees. Mr Hubbard spoke of the distress caused to Council employees by bullying and harassment from certain members of the Council.

124.19) Reponses (from Councillors Taylor and Tyrer)

The Solicitor informed Members that Councillors Taylor and Tyrer have been given the opportunity to put their own points of view either in offered meetings with the Solicitor or in two separate items on today's agenda, but neither Councillor had accepted either of those opportunities. The Solicitor said that it is clear from social media that both Councillors deny the bullying and harassment of staff.

The Council accepted the Solicitor's Report and accepted that this is a problem for the Full Council to resolve.

The Motion was put to the Council and there voted in favour of the Motion:

All of the eight members present, voted in favour.

There were no votes against the Motion.

It was therefore RESOLVED:

Because nine 'Code of Conduct' complaints have been sent to the Monitoring Officer at Breckland Council about Councillor Edward Tyrer and Councillor Taila Taylor, being two members of Attleborough Town Council;

And Because those complaints seek to impugn the reputations of Councillor Tyrer and Councillor Taylor,

And Because Unite the Union has complained by way of a formal Grievance to the Council about the behaviour of certain members of Attleborough Town Council towards various employees of the Council;

and Because this Grievance seeks to impugn the reputations of Councillor Tyrer and Councillor Taylor,

THE TOWN COUNCIL NOW RESOLVES:

1. To revoke the appointment of Councillor Edward Tyrer as Vice Chairman and Deputy Mayor of Attleborough for a period of two years;
2. To remove Councillor Taila Taylor and Cllr Edward Tyrer from all Committees and Working Groups of the Council for a period of two years;
3. That Councillor Taila Taylor and Councillor Edward Tyrer cannot become Vice Chairman or Mayor for a period of two years.
4. That a new election of Vice Chairman and Deputy Mayor be held at a later date.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.22 pm.