

## **Parwich Parish Council**

### **Unapproved Minutes**

A confidential meeting was scheduled to take place at 6.30 pm at Parwich Memorial Hall to consider two eligible candidates for the co-option of a councillor to fill one vacancy on Parwich Parish Council.

**Present:** Ms C Healy, Mr M Harrison, Mrs J Bennett, Mrs N Linnell, Mr E Yeomans, the clerk, Mrs S Hampson, Ms S Presland from the Derbyshire Association of Local Councils (DALC) and Mr R Tresidder.

**Apologies:** Mr R Bunting

The commencement of the meeting, at the advertised start time, was delayed by the presence of Mr R Tresidder who refused to recognise the confidentiality aspect of the proceedings and also refused to leave. Ms Presland from DALC, who was in attendance as an independent witness of the proceedings, confirmed to Mr Tresidder that the parish council members were quite in order to hold confidential co-option interviews, without the presence of the public, as the meeting had been appropriately advertised as a confidential meeting. Members of the parish council temporarily left the Memorial Hall for a short period. Members returned, after the departure of Mr Tresidder and commenced proceedings in Parwich Memorial Hall with the two applicants for the council vacancy.

Ms Healy declared an interest in the proceedings at the outset in connection with one of the applicants. She remained in the meeting but took no part in the proceedings or voting. The meeting was chaired by Mr M Harrison.

#### **1. To consider applications received for the casual vacancy on Parwich Parish Council**

Two applications had been received from eligible people for the one advertised vacancy. Both candidates were very strong candidates and most suitable for the vacancy.

#### **2. To meet prospective candidates for the vacancy**

Mr Harrison explained the procedure to the candidates which would be duplicated for each candidate.

#### **3. To interview prospective candidates for the one vacancy**

A series of questions had been prepared in advance of the meeting. Each candidate was separately asked the same interview questions by Mr Harrison, before the same panel of members of the parish council.

#### **4. Selection of new councillor**

Following responses received from each candidate during their interviews, members of the panel considered each candidate very carefully. A secret paper vote took place, excluding Ms Healy, with ballot papers being given to Ms Presland from DALC. A majority vote needed to be achieved. Ms Presland revealed the outcome of the voting procedure and reported that Mr M Gerard-Pearse had received a majority. Mr Gerard-Pearse had, therefore, been selected by Parwich Parish Council members as the candidate to fill the one vacancy. Mr Gerard-Pearse accepted the position.

It was explained to Mr Gerard-Pearse that to confirm his acceptance of the office of a parish councillor he would be expected to complete a Declaration of Acceptance of Office document before the Proper Officer of Parwich Parish Council, Mrs Hampson and this process would take place at the beginning of the full and public parish council scheduled to follow at 7.30 pm. In addition, Mr Gerard-Pearse was also advised of the necessity to complete a Register of Pecuniary Interest document to forward to Derbyshire Dales District Council.

The meeting was declared closed at 7.10 pm

Mrs S Hampson  
Clerk to Parwich Parish Council  
22 March 2014