

HICKLING PLAYING FIELD OR RECREATION GROUND CHARITY
RCN 270199

Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting

Held on 26th September 2014

Venue: Hickling Barn

Time: 7pm

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Chairman Richard Cook, Vice Chair Harry Purnell, Nick Baker, Harvey Gibbons, Brian Butcher, Chris Watkins, Maggie Prettyman, Lorraine West, Shirley Sainsbury, Vivien Tallowin, Pam Barnard

INVITED GUEST:

Nick Butcher, charity's solicitor from Hansell's

INDEPENDENT INVIGILATORS:

Tony Irwin, Paul Williams, David Thomson

APOLOGIES:

None

MEMBERS PRESENT:

237

6pm – 7pm – Registration conducted by independent invigilators

237 Members signed in and, if necessary, their documentation was checked to verify their eligibility to vote.

Once signed in members were issued with a raffle ticket to be exchanged for a voting slip later in the meeting. The raffle tickets were brought by the independent invigilators.

Sandra Clarke, the Parish Council chair, caused some disruption to the initial part of the registration process, confronting the independent invigilators and claiming that members were entitled to enter the building and vote without attending the meeting. The Charity's solicitor who was present informed Trustees that Mrs Clarke was wrong and that the meeting arrangements and agenda being followed by the Trustees must be adhered to.

7.13pm – Meeting Commenced

Chairman Richard Cook welcomed everyone, introduced the Trustees, the independent invigilators and the Charity's solicitor.

Mr Cook asked members to confirm that notice of the meeting had been properly served. A show of hands was taken and all approved. The Chairman also asked if anyone felt that the meeting had NOT been properly served, no response was received.

Mr Cook then explained the running order of the evening, how the secret ballot would take place and how the result would be announced.

Mr Cook asked the Charity's members to respect the speakers and not to interrupt them.

Mr Cook asked if anyone wished to challenge the decision to admit any person to the meeting whose eligibility to be a member of the charity might be in question.

He explained the categories of people entitled to be members ie. Hickling Residents aged 16yrs or over, second home owners, Hickling business owners and their employees and the 5 people who have applied to the Trustees and been granted membership

Sandra Clarke, Hickling Parish Council chairman, challenged people from Hickling Hunnies, Mr S & Mrs T Purnell, but it was confirmed they were, in fact, registered members of the charity.

7.18pm – The motion was then proposed:

“That Hickling Playing Field or Recreation Ground charity adopts the new constitution agreed with Hickling Parish Council”

Mr Cook then invited Tony Irwin, independent invigilator to introduce the speakers and to keep time.

7.19pm – The Speakers

Speakers who had previously registered to speak for 2 minutes for or against, the motion, were given the opportunity to address the meeting.

The speakers were:

Mr Terry Barker, Mr Clive Ward, Mr David Belsten, Mrs J Belsten, Mr Peter Berrie, Mrs Sandra Clarke, Mrs Liz Pinkham, Mrs Angela Lambard, Mr Mike Hodgson, Mrs Deborah Mayhew, Mr Adam Mayhew, Mrs Jan Dedman, Mr Robin Slatter, Mrs Dinah Slatter.

2 speakers who had registered to speak did not do so; Prof Ann Louise Kinmonth had another engagement and Mr David Prettyman declined for personal reasons.

7.47pm – The Secret Ballot

The independent invigilators supervised the voting process to ensure verification was safe. The vote took place in the Laurel Edgell room, with the raffle ticket being exchanged for a voting slip. Voting was done in private and completed slips were placed in sealed ballot boxes.

8.37pm – The Count

The Count was conducted by the independent invigilators.

A member of the parish council, Mrs Angela Lambard, observed the counting of the votes. Those members who wished to remain returned to the building via the main doors to have refreshments to await the result.

9.00pm – The Result

Mr Tony Irwin announced the result and Chairman Richard Cook confirmed said result:

143 against (no), 91 for (yes), and 3 non votes.

The 2/3rds majority required for adopting the new constitution was therefore not achieved.

Mr Cook informed the members that the Trustees would be consulting with their solicitor and for advice on the way forward and would keep the village informed of further developments in the matter.

Mr Tony Irwin confirmed to the Trustees that there had been no discrepancies in the voting process.

9.20pm Meeting closed

The results were then posted on the Charity's website and put up in hard copy at the Barn, The Staithe and the Chapel pit.

Signed: Richard Cook.....

Dated.....