

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Broxted Parish Council on Monday 1 June 2020 at 8pm via video-conferencing

Present were:

Cllr Andy Cousins, Cllr Adam Hume, Cllr Vere Isham (Chair), Cllr Rachel Kesterton, Cllr Wendy Adams and Cllr Lesley Holt, and Kate Rixson (Clerk).

1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Smith was unable to attend.

2 Public Open Forum

No members of the public were present.

3 Declarations of Interest

No councillor declared any pecuniary interest.

4 Planning

The only item on the agenda was to consider whether the council should incur a fee of £3,500 to engage Geoff Gardner of Gardner Planning to prepare a written response to the planning appeal relating to application UTT/19/1777/FUL. This application had been for a change of use for the stationing of caravans for residential purposes together with hardstanding and dayroom ancillary to that use and the erection of stables. It had been refused on 3 October 2019 and an appeal lodged on 3 April 2020.

It was considered that a written response to the appeal had to be prepared by a professional, given the technical nature and quantity of the material submitted in support. It was noted that Geoff Gardner had advised the council and prepared its written submission in 2019 and at that time the planning authority had refused planning permission.

It was noted that Geoff Gardner already knows the site and the issues which were relevant at that time, and that he has local knowledge, extensive experience and a good track record in relation to local planning applications. The cost was considered in relation to the budget for 2020 -21 which includes a general contingency of £3,000 and reserves of approximately £12,500 at April 2020. The council's income from the precept would be a further £12,000 for 2020-21. Overall, the council's finances would cover Gardner Planning proposed fee and also allow for a substantial contingency for other unexpected expenditure.

It was agreed unanimously to instruct Gardner Planning to produce a written response, for approval by the council in the first instance. **Action: Clerk**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.20pm.