

## **DFHC (SC042692)**

### **10/2/25 Business Meeting**

**Present:** L Ferguson (Chair), D Rollo (Vice Chair), L Baines (Sec), W Roberts (Treasurer), D Crew, L Telford, J Wilson, J Currie, I Cranston.

#### **Item 1:**

Resignation - J Millar resigned from his position on the council and returned his proxy voting slips. He did not attend this meeting (arranged at his request to discuss his concerns). He submitted a written statement (unsigned/un dated) setting out his views on the forthcoming SGM which the council acknowledged unanimously as comment received with no further action required.

Vote for - 9, Against - 0.

#### **Item 2:**

SGM - Chair received an email (via Dean Sub Committee Chair) leading to a meeting which raised some questions regarding the content and focus of the SGM which she answered to his satisfaction.

Dean Sub Committee suggested an information leaflet on the night would be beneficial to attendees and that it could be made available on village website.

Vote for - 9, Against - 0

with unanimous agreement that the presentation which will be delivered on the night would be suitable for this purpose.

Discussion re Transfer of Title to affected householders: L Baines and I Cranston abstained from this part of the fuller discussion and vote to allay any perceived conflict of interest.

Remaining council members proposed that a “peppercorn” payment of £1.00 is appropriate for the transfer of title as constitutionally DFHC do not “gain” from this process, householders may make a goodwill donation\* if they choose and that legal costs would “lie where they are and that no application for expenses will be made by either party”. This reflects the advice given in court to the previous council.

Vote for - 7, Against - 0, Abstentions - 2.

(\*goodwill donation - boundaries of the areas under discussion are not clear and cannot be accurately measured and are open to legal challenge (by the householder) so the suggestion of a “formula” for any donation (in relation to this issue only) was rejected in favour of the goodwill of the householder)

Affected households - L Ferguson and I Cranston will arrange to meet with the households prior to SGM to discuss.

M Wilson has kindly agreed to take minutes at the SGM.

S Marshall has agreed to attend and will be responsible for the vote count.

It is envisaged that the meeting/presentation will take place in the main hall with voting in the lesser hall. Results will be announced on the night, a two thirds (2/3) majority is required (as per constitution). Should the lesser hall be unavailable, then voting will take place in the main hall. Tea/coffee will be available - G Crew (Comm Council) will be asked to provide.

Votes- discussion around proxy votes - this is permitted constitutionally and the council feel it is important that it is available to ensure inclusion.

Concerns have been raised (externally) that individuals may feel they have had insufficient information to make a proxy vote.

The counter to that was that individuals have and can exercise individual choice. The individual can choose to be informed or not, that is their democratic right. Any who feel uninformed should be encouraged to attend the SGM and that the presentation should provide information for those individuals.

Should an individual who has already cast a proxy vote wish to change that as a result of the presentation, this will be available similar to a general election re spoiled ballot.

It was highlighted that some council member have already received proxy votes along with positive feedback about what is proposed and in some instances dismay that the issue is still ongoing and not yet resolved.

**Item 3:**

Common Riding - toilets are booked and an application for funding to support this is underway. Suggestion that stickers for car parking are used for ease of managing the event, unanimously agreed.

C McCrerie celebrates the 50th anniversary of being Cornet this year - a commemorative gift will be arranged to recognise this and all the hard work he contributes to this event every year. He will be asked to undertake the welcome to the common riding party on the day.