

ANSLOW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Anslow Parish Council

(APC)

on 21st August 2020 held remotely at 6.30pm

<u>Parish Council Attendance</u>	<u>Members of the Public & Organisations</u>
Cllr Frank Thompstone (Chair)	1 Member of the public, Mr Matt Howson
Cllr David Page (Vice Chair)	
Cllr Anne Greer	
Cllr Russell Jeans	
Judy Tjon Soei Len (Clerk)	

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all council members and Mr Matt Howson who was in attendance, owner of the Old Mission Room.

2020/8/1 Public Question Time

No questions raised.

2020/8/2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from APC Cllrs Paul Sullivan, Paul Joyce, Laura Hall and County Councillor Philip White

2020/8/3 Declarations of Interest

No formal Declaration of Interest raised, however Cllr Thompstone informed the meeting that he is currently the Chair of the Sophia Anne Mosley Bequest and was on the committee when The Old Mission Room was originally sold with a change of use to a residential dwelling.

2020/8/4 Re-siting of Village Bench outside The Old Mission Room, Bushton Lane

Full discussion and explanations took place as to the proposal by the owner of The Old Mission Room to remove and re-site (with the help of the parish council), the existing village bench, as he understands it is within his property boundary, set directly in-front of the property's railings. The proposed start date for associated works including the removal of the bench was early September. The offer was made by Mr Howson to cover costs arising from this proposal.

References were made to the Land Registry documents (circulated prior to the meeting), showing the boundary to the property. A query was raised by Cllr Thompstone, as to whether the property boundary extended up to the footpath which would include the grassed strip in-front of the railings and the village bench. It was further added that the strip of land was so narrow that it would be difficult to clearly identify the property's boundary on the Land Registry plan.

The Chair stated the parish council's desire to help with the re-siting of the bench if it was found to be on Mr Howson's property and not on Staffordshire County Council land. He reiterated the willingness of the parish council to assist where possible once the land boundary had been confirmed, but it would be the responsibility for Staffordshire County Council to address directly with Mr Howson.

Mr Howson confirmed his willingness to investigate further with his solicitors to get confirmation of the boundary line including his driveway. He confirmed that no work will be carried out to remove the bench until this has been fully resolved with Staffordshire County Council. He will keep APC informed.

Resolved: Clerk to write to South Staffordshire County Council informing them of the meeting and matters arising. SCC to be advised that the boundary and location of the bench needs clarification by them and the need for SCC to investigate further and liaise with Mr Howson. Proposed Cllr Page and seconded Cllr Jeans.

The Chair advised the meeting that The Burton Mail had published a news article that day entitled "Zoom in for debate on bench" which showed a picture of the Memorial Bench situated opposite from the village bench in question. Discussion took place about the upset and concern that has been caused by publishing this photograph of the Memorial Bench and article, which is in no way connected to the agenda item. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to The Burton Mail asking for a published apology at the earliest convenient. Proposed Cllr Greer and seconded Cllr Jeans.

2020/8/5 Close of Meeting

The Chair advised that the next meeting will be on Wednesday 23rd September at 6.30pm. With that the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.05 pm.

(Frank Thompstone, Chair)

Date