



ARDLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting Ardleigh Parish Council held on Wednesday 6 March at 6.00pm at Ardleigh Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs Jonathan Waters (chair), Helen Fontaine, Carolyn Mason, Richard Talbot
Officer Rachel Fletcher (Clerk) (Minutes).

24.032a	Election of Chair of the meeting and Chair's welcome In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council, Jonathan Waters was elected to chair the meeting.
24.032b	Apologies and reasons for absence Apologies were received from Cllrs Tim Barrott, James Blyth, Jayne Marshall, Emma Thrower, and Martin Whiteley. Apologies also received from Tendring District Cllr Zoe Fairley and Essex County Cllr Carlo Guglielmi.
24.033	Declaration and Register of Interests It was confirmed that dispensations were in place for all Councillors in relation to item 24.035. In the case of Councillor Blyth this was limited to participating in any discussion but not voting due to a pecuniary interest as tenant of part of the land.
24.034	Public participation relating to items on the agenda There were no members of the public present.
24.035	Judicial Review
24.035.1	<i>Items in confidence. Under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public may be excluded during all or part of the discussion of this agenda item as the Council will be considering legal issues.</i> There were no members of the Public or Press in attendance.
24.035.2	A verbal update was given on developments including the oral Judicial Review (JR) permissions hearing (to challenge Planning permission 20/00594/FUL) held on 29 February 2024. The order had been circulated and was noted including a costs order of £4706 which would be funded from Council funds. It was noted that the Council's own legal costs to date had been covered by public donations.
24.035.3	The Clerk had taken a delegated decision to instruct Simon Bell, Counsel to prepare grounds of appeal following consultation with Councillors on Monday 4 March. Draft grounds and a skeleton argument had been circulated together with details of potential cost exposure. These were noted. Two pledges of further financial support, totalling £2500, had been received. It was unanimously resolved to file an Appeal against The Order of Lang J of 29 February 2024 to refuse the Parish Council's application for permission to apply for Judicial Review on its first ground of claim. The associated costs including court and transcription fees plus Counsel fees of £3500 plus VAT were noted and approved. It was resolved to continue to seek public donations towards the costs of the case.
23.138	Meeting closure and date of Next Meeting The meeting closed at 6.15pm. Next scheduled; Monday 11 March, 7.30pm

Signed by Meeting Chair **on**