

**Parish Office, Sports Pavilion, Hundred Acre Way, Red Lodge, Suffolk, IP28 8XR**

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Minutes for the Extraordinary meeting of Red Lodge Parish Council held on 24th July 2014 at the Red Lodge Millennium Centre at 7pm.

**Present:**

Benjamin Graveston Chairman

Clare Bloomfield

Andy Younger

Andy Drummond

Roger Dicker

Angie Sewell

Clive MacLeod BEM

9 members of public in attendance

**Apologies:** Cllr Downs, work commitments.

**Declarations of Interest**

None to declare.

This meeting was called by 3 of the Parish Councillors to discuss Cllr Drummond’s conduct at Forest Heath District Council regarding the Planning application relating to Red Lodge.

Cllr Graveston asked if there were any questions from the floor. No members of the public had any questions.

Cllr Graveston then asked if any of the Parish Councillors had any questions or comments for Cllr Drummond.

Cllr Sewell - “I was very unhappy about the article that appeared in the local Journal. Why had a Councillor on our Parish Council favour planning in Red Lodge but appose planning in Newmarket which if went ahead would alleviate some of the housing needs in the local area?”

Cllr Younger – “I was also very shocked to discover that Cllr Drummond knowing all the problems Red Lodge homes already face, why had Cllr Drummond not supported the village?”

Cllr MacLeod – “I have made my position very clear on the point as a resident to Forest Heath District Council & Anglian Water.  I feel that it’s very important to make sure that the residents were represented. When I sat at the planning meeting regarding the new homes to be built in Red Lodge a lot of what would have been said was important & Red Lodge did not have that opportunity to voice the resident’s situation.  Councillor Drummond proposed the acceptance of the Officer’s recommendation. I was surprised that Cllr Drummond did not object & by the way he voted.  I believe that the residents should have been given a chance to have their say before he proposed.”

Cllr Graveston – “I attended the meeting, and a named vote was requested for the Hatchfield Farm planning application but not for the Red Lodge planning application, why was this? Why didn’t Cllr Drummond support the parish councils that he sits on?”

Cllr Drummond – “I will only talk about my conduct regarding the planning application relating to Red Lodge, I achieved exactly what I set out to do on the night – prevent the development from being refused & losing control of it. At the pre-planning meeting I asked the chairman Chris Barker if I could speak first. I proposed the officers recommendation for approval with improvements to specified junctions & said I would accept the amendments on access from members during the debate. This strategy prevented an exact negative of a proposal for refusal being tabled. Such a proposal was made but rejected by officers. I explained that all would become clear when the minutes of the meeting were published.”

Cllr Dicker – “Andy you are not clever enough to have done that! On the evening of the planning meeting I was approached by a legal representative asking if I had an open mind with regards to the planning application for Red Lodge. An email from 24th January 2014 was forwarded by Cllr Drummond to Forest Heath District Councils legal department. The email was regarding the re-consultation on the planning application, the email said the only amendments that had been made were some movement of the roads & had not taken into consideration any of the concerns of the residents of Red Lodge & the surrounding Villages. Why was the email held onto for so long before it was sent to the legal department? I feel that it was underhand to hold on to the email for so long.

Forest Heath District Council is under a lot of pressure to build a lot of housing & because Cllr Drummond opposed the Hatchfield Farm development he knew that the short fall of houses would be put in Red Lodge. I no longer have trust in my District colleague.”

Cllr Drummond – “Cllr Dicker I sent on the email in January to Rachel Almond because I didn’t think that it was right for him to not have an open mind regarding the planning application in Red Lodge.”

Cllr Dicker – “I feel that Cllr Drummond has a lack of basic knowledge on the code of conduct, he could go to the meeting & his email was nothing to be concerned about. Why didn’t he show his concerns to myself or both Red Lodge & Herringswell Parish Council’s that you sit on? “

Cllr Graveston – “As a District Councillor Cllr Drummond can vote the way he sees fit. “

Cllr Graveston then explained the options for the Parish Council, which were:

1) Do nothing

2) The Parish Council can write to the Conservative Party to voice the concerns.

Proposed: Cllr Drummond 2ND: Cllr Dicker 5 Voted for this

3) That Cllr Drummond resigns from the Parish Council forthwith.

Proposed: Cllr Sewell 2ND: Cllr Dicker

Amendment: As well as resigning from the Parish Council he should resign from the District Council.

The Amendment is heard & voted on: 4 to 2 is put through.

4) The Parish Council write to the District Council & ask for him to be removed from Red Lodge Parish Council.

Proposed: Cllr MacLeod 2ND: Cllr Dicker 4 voted yes 1 voted no,

Cllr Bloomfield abstained from voting.

The Red Lodge Ordinary Meeting of the Parish will be held on 9th September 2014 at the Millennium Centre, Red Lodge, commencing at 7pm .

Signed ………………………………… Date…………………………..

Chairman

Meeting closed at 7.40pm