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Website <http://www.ninfieldpc.co.uk/community/ninfield-parish-council-15069/home>

Ninfield Full Council Minutes 15th March 2024

Cllrs Present:

Chair K Williamson (KW), J Cheshire (JC), P Holland (PH), S Guard (SG), J Langley (JL), G Pharo (GP)

In attendance: J Scarff Clerk & No members of the public (MOP).

Public Questions:

In accordance with standing orders ten minutes are available for the Public to express a view or ask a question on **relevant matters on the following agenda**.

There were no members of public present.

There were no questions.

The public session was closed.

Chairman's welcome to the meeting.

KW welcomed everyone to the meeting.

To receive and accept apologies and reasons for absence in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 S 85 (1).

Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs Coleshill and Collins for personal reasons.

Business to be transacted.

Disclosure of Interests

To receive any disclosure by Members of personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of the interest and whether the member regards the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Revised Code of Members Conduct.

To consider granting any dispensations.

Any changes to register of interests should be notified to the clerk.

There were no disclosures of interest and no requirements to grant dispensations.

- a) To request for approval that Councillor Sheila Collins is granted permission to be absent from all Council and committee meetings for 7 months due to ill health.

A briefing note was circulated in advance to explain the 6 month rule.

SIX MONTH ATTENDANCE RULE S85 (1) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
Briefing for cllrs.

Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 requires a Member of a Local Authority to attend at least one meeting of that Authority within a six-month

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consecutive period, unless permission for the absence is granted by the Authority in advance, in order to avoid being disqualified as a Councillor. Without advance permission to be absent, loss of office is automatic, unless their absence was due to some reason approved by the council (s,85(1) and (2) and permission cannot be granted retrospectively.

This report requests that Councillor Sheila Collins is granted permission to be absent from Council meetings for 7 months.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that: The absence of Councillor Sheila Collins from all Council and Committee Meetings be authorised and approved for the seven months (to 15th October 2024), pursuant to Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 requires a Member of a Local Authority to attend at least one meeting of that Authority within a six-month consecutive period, unless permission for the absence is granted by the Authority in advance, in order to avoid being disqualified as a Councillor. Councillor Sheila Collins has been unable to attend meetings due to ill health.

The proposal in this report is made to avoid Councillor Sheila Collins being disqualified from office for non-attendance during a period of ill health. Agreeing to the waiver over a different time period is an option that Members may wish to consider.

If the recommendation set out in this report is not approved Councillor Sheila Collins would become disqualified due to the six month non attendance rule as she will be unable to attend a meeting before 21st March 2024. Approval of continuing absence is allowed under Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

RESOLVED: that the absence of Councillor Sheila Collins from all Council and Committee Meetings be authorised and approved for the seven months (to 15th October 2024), pursuant to Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972.