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## **MINUTES of an Extraordinary Meeting held on Thursday 26 November 2020 at 7.30 pm by VIDEO / AUDIO CONFERENCE**

**Present:** Cllr Weston (Chair), Cllrs Bremner, Collins, Cooper, Fausset, Forster, Prendergast, Shirley-Smith and Sneddon.

**Also in attendance:** District Cllr Burn. County Cllr Fleming, 1 member of the public for some or most of the meeting, and the clerk, Mrs C Emeny.

**11.26.01 Opening** – The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed it was not being recorded.

**11.26.02 Apologies** – There were no apologies as all present.

**11.26.03 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations** –

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests or dispensations. Councillors were reminded of their obligations under the Suffolk Code of Conduct.

**11.26.04 Minutes of the Previous Meetings** –

As this is an extraordinary meeting, the approval of the minutes of the last meeting and any matters arising will be left until the monthly December meeting.

**11.26.05 Public Forum**

- Members of the public – There were no questions from the member of the public present.
- Members of the public not present – There were no questions received from those not present.

**11.26.06 Receipt and debate of Motion no. 002 from Cllr Fausset received as follows;**

“I would like to submit a special motion for Palgrave Parish Council to revisit the recent motion in the September meeting, as a result of which the Council voted to leave the DDNP. The vote has resulted in significant concern and opposition to the move in the village, and I therefore think it is appropriate for the Council to review this vote, and have the opportunity to reverse it.”

The Chair invited Cllr Fausset to introduce the motion and his reasoning behind it. He explained there had been a great deal of discussion, deliberation and debate amongst many members of the community in light of the recent motion and he felt that, in light of this, the PC should revisit that decision. Cllr Bremner seconded the motion having researched the matter in more detail. The Chair asked each Councillor present for their views. The Chair apologised for the hastiness of Motion no. 001 and in retrospect there should have been more discussion prior to that meeting. He summarised that residents will be able to vote on the DDNP when it is ready to go to consultation with the public. There will be a referendum on the final plan. He reviewed the amount of recent activity undertaken by the DDNP. He also confirmed he cannot give the project the time it deserves and would welcome someone else stepping forward to take his place as a representative for Palgrave. Councillors agreed that the general feeling was that we are stronger with our neighbouring villages, than alone without them, and are part of that community grouping. We should also put in some extra impetus to help get the DDNP over the line and complete.

The Chair asked District Councillor Burn, as chairman of the DDNP Steering Group, to update everyone on the plan, which he briefly summarised. The statutory entity is the Neighbourhood Area that includes seven parishes, of which Palgrave is one. There is no precedent for the process that would have to be followed to modify as complex a plan as this. There are many aspects to consider. For example, Stuston’s governance is by parish meeting; it does not have a parish council and therefore cannot itself initiate a neighbourhood plan. It can, however piggyback on a neighbouring parish council, which in this case is Palgrave. But it was never consulted about Palgrave’s move to withdraw from the DDNP, which would effectively leave Stuston high and dry. Because of this and other difficulties, the DDNP has up to now regarded Palgrave’s decision more as a Statement of Intent than one that could be readily implemented at short notice. Thus Palgrave can still participate in the current survey, paper copies of which are available if need be. The link is on the website [www.ddnp.info](http://www.ddnp.info) which also contains much

more information and documentation. Once this survey has ended, the writing of the plan itself will be completed, and released for further public consultation as a presubmission draft in Spring 2021. After further modification and another public consultation, the final version will be submitted for independent examination by a qualified planning inspector. Any amendments are then made before the plan is put to a public referendum and if 51% vote for it, it will be adopted.

The Chair then asked each Councillor to vote for Motion 002. The result was 7/2 in favour of the motion, so the motion was carried. District Cllr Burn thanked everyone for their input and said it was a wise decision. He reminded everyone that it is a Community led plan which enables get-togethers to discuss it in more detail, COVID-19 rules permitting.

**11.26.07 BMSDC Joint local Plan:** To discuss whether the Parish Council wish to make any representations regarding the legal compliance and soundness of the document. District Councillor Burn was asked to explain, after which it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council will not make any further formal comments on the Joint Local Plan.

**11.26.08 Date of next meeting** – The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place at 7.30pm on Thursday 10 December at 7.30pm via video / audio conferencing as previous.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 08.20 pm.