

EARL SOHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Friday 21st August 2020

At 5.30pm Virtual extraordinary meeting

Draft Minutes

Attending David Grose, Lucy Murrell, John Starke, Mark Rutherford, Neil Warden, Andrew Patterson, Candida Cook

1 Apologies for absence GH Anna Goymer

2 Declaration of interest None

3 Discussion on the spending of donations held by Earl Soham Parish Council on behalf of Earl Soham Community Corona Response Group.

The Parish Council congratulated volunteers of the ESCCRG for the positive community work carried out during a very challenging time which had improved confidence and community spirit.

An application for the release of funds to cover the cost of 15 Chromebooks already purchased and distributed required full consideration of the Council as it was clearly not the original purpose for the grants and donations being made. Legal advice had been obtained from NALC to assist it's decision-making.

It was resolved that the public be excluded as their presence would be prejudicial to the public interest to enable the Council to consider legal advice and other confidential information.

The members of the public were invited back into the meeting at various times during the confidential session to assist the Council with points of detail.

Having considered all the issues, it was agreed that:-

- The Council has a duty to safeguard grant funds received and to ensure as far as practicable it is used for the purposes for which the money has been granted
- Funding had been applied for and granted for the purposes of the Foodbank, Food store, vulnerable families and general hardship
- Due diligence was seen as not adequate by the ESCCRG regarding the purchase of Chromebooks
- The business interest of an ESCCRG member was a potential conflict of interest
- Consideration to enquiries should be made about individual donors to establish if donations can be put towards the Chromebooks, further discussion to be held with ESCCRG regarding methodology.

It was resolved that further funds would not be released to ESCCRG at this time and until individual donors have been contacted

4 Next meeting 3rd September 2020 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 19.05