ABERFORD AND DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of an Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 2nd March 2023.
Meeting held in the Oriel Room, St Ricarius church, Aberford Main Street, commencing at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr Mike Oakes (Chair)
Cllr David Howson
Cllr Ruth Reed
Cllr Nancy Griffiths
Cllr Tyler Wilson
Cllr Bob Kitchen

In attendance: Mr Peter Wigglesworth (Clerk/RFO)
Four members of the public

1. **To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence**
   Apologies were accepted and received from Cllr Bradley and Cllr Dunwell.

2. **To receive any disclosures of interest from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting**
   None received.

3. **Land for sale between School Lane and Jubilee Field**
   Cllr Oakes said that this meeting had been arranged to further discuss the above, prior to the auction scheduled to take place on 8th March 2023. He went on to say that, as agreed at the Parish Council meeting held on 21st February, an offer of £5,000 had been made for the purchase of this piece of land, which adjoins the Jubilee Field on one side and the unmade lane which runs parallel to School lane on the other. Cllr Oakes then confirmed that this offer had been rejected by the vendor.

   Councillors then discussed whether the Parish Council should make an increased offer. Cllr Oakes said that a professional valuation has been obtained from Messrs Bartle & Son which valued the land at £10,000 freehold and with vacant possession. However, he added that earlier today the legal pack had been issued and this showed that part of the land which had been anticipated to be included in the sale had in fact been removed from the title and registered under another number which did not form part of the sale. Cllr Oakes said that, in addition to potentially reducing the value of the plot, this development would make access from the Jubilee Field to undertake remedial work more difficult, though not in his view insurmountable.

   Members were concerned at this development. Cllr Kitchen said that in addition to the land cost and associated fees there would be the cost of clearing and preparing the Ground along with the cost of planting trees or however else the area is redeveloped plus annual maintenance costs. Cllr Reed added that there would also be a need for security, probably by fencing around the area which she felt would add considerably to the overall project cost.

   Cllr Kitchen said that he had been against pursuing this matter from the start and remained so. After further discussion a vote was taken and it was thereby **AGREED**, by a majority vote of 5-1 (Cllr Wilson) that given the change in circumstances no further offer should be made and the Parish Council should therefore take no further interest in the purchase of this land.

   Cllr Oakes said that he will advise the auctioneers accordingly. He further requested that the Land Valuation bill be paid today, in order to adhere to the agreed terms of payment. All Members **AGREED** with this course of action.

   There being no further points, Cllr Oakes closed the meeting at 7.55pm.