



Ottery St Mary Town Council

Minutes of the **ANNUAL MEETING OF OTTERY ST MARY TOWN COUNCIL** held on **MONDAY, 1ST JUNE 2020** at **7.00pm**. The meeting was conducted virtually in accordance with Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) Regulations 2020

PRESENT:-Cllrs Giles, Faithfull, Copus, Lucas, Stewart, Dobson, Grainger, Johns, Pang and Harding, County Cllr Claire Wright, Christine McIntyre CEO and Liz Graveney DCEO

INTRODUCTION:-

Cllr Giles announced the resignation of Cllr Pratt with immediate effect. He expressed his thanks to Cllr Pratt for his six years service as a councillor and his support as the Deputy Mayor. He concluded that he would be much missed by the Council.

20/06/1

ELECTION OF THE MAYOR OF OTTERY ST MARY FOR 2020/21 - TO RECEIVE NOMINATIONS AND TO CARRY OUT A VOTE ACCORDINGLY

Cllr Giles carried out this part of the meeting in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders and asked for nominations for Mayor as he would not be seeking a second term.

Cllr Johns was proposed by Cllr Pang and seconded by Cllr Lucas

A vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED** unanimously that Cllr Johns be elected as Mayor

Cllr Johns was declared elected as the Mayor of Ottery St Mary Town Council

Cllr Giles thanked everyone for the support he had received during his term as Mayor, particularly from the CEO and the DCEO. He acknowledged that it had been difficult for both of them to deal with council matters during the latter part of his term, due to the Coronavirus

20/06/2

DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY THE MAYOR – FOLLOWING THE ELECTION OF THE MAYOR AND PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF S83 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, THE PERSON ELECTED TO BE MAYOR OF OTTERY ST MARY SHALL MAKE A DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE IN THE PRESCRIBED FORM BEFORE THE CEO

The Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Mayor was made by the Mayor and duly signed. The CEO would countersign the Declaration when she was in receipt of the same. The Mayor made it clear that she together with the councillors would be working together collectively for the good of the community. The Mayor thanked Cllr Giles and Cllr Pratt for all their work during the preceding year

20/06/3

ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR OF OTTERY ST MARY FOR 2020/21 – TO RECEIVE NOMINATIONS AND TO CARRY OUT A VOTE ACCORDINGLY

Cllr Lucas was proposed by Cllr Stewart and seconded by Cllr Grainger. Cllr Dobson was proposed by Cllr Pang but he declined the proposal.

There were no other nominations.

A vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED** unanimously that Cllr Lucas be elected as Deputy Mayor

Cllr Lucas was declared elected as the Deputy Mayor of Ottery St Mary Town Council

20/06/4

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none

20/06/5

ELECTION OF COUNCILLOR WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCE (“TREASURER/CHAIRMAN”)

Cllr Stewart was proposed by Cllr Cllr Dobson and seconded by Cllr Grainger. A vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Stewart be elected as the Councillor with Special Responsibility for Finance

Cllr Stewart was declared elected as the Councillor with Special Responsibility for Finance of Ottery St Mary Town Council

20/06/6

TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND RECEIPT OF REQUESTS FOR NEW DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (DPIS) DISPENSATIONS FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

The Mayor	Items 31 and 32 (Ottery Community Volunteers) Personal Interest as a Director of Ottery Community Volunteers
The Deputy Mayor	Items 31 and 32 (Ottery Community Volunteers) Personal Interest as a Director of Ottery Community Volunteers
Cllr Stewart	Items 31 and 32 (Ottery Community Volunteers) Personal Interest as a Director of Ottery Community Volunteers
Cllr Pang	Item 26 Personal Interest as Chair of the OSM & District Health & Care Forum Item 33C (Griffin Accounts) Personal Interest as a director re OSM Skatepark & BMX Trust
Cllr Faithfull	Item 26 (Ottery Hospital) Personal Interest as a member of the OSM & District Hospital League of Friends

20/06/7

IN CONSIDERATION OF THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 (PUBLICITY WOULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST BY REASON OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED): TO AGREE ANY ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH AFTER THE PUBLIC AND PRESS HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED

There were no items to be excluded

20/06/8

TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES

There were no members of the public participating

20/06/9

TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF 2ND MARCH (MINUTE REFS 20/03/01 – 20/03/33), AND THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF 23RD MARCH 2020 (MINUTE REFS 20/03/34 – 20/03/36) AND TO APPROVE THE SIGNING OF THE MINUTES BY THE MAYOR AS A CORRECT RECORD

The Minutes of the **Meeting of 2nd March 2020** (Minute refs 20/03/01 – 20/03/33) and the Minutes of the **Meeting of 23rd March 2020** (Minute refs 20/03/34 – 20/03/36) were presented, approved and were agreed to be signed by the Mayor as a correct record at a later date

20/06/10

TO NOTE AND CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING OF 19th MAY 2020 (MINUTE REFS P20/05/01 – P20/05/09))

The Minutes of the of the **Meeting of 19th May 2020** (minute refs P20/05/01 – P20/05/09), were noted and confirmed

20/06/11

TO NOTE THE PREVIOUS DECISIONS MADE UNDER THE BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLAN/SCHEME OF DELEGATION

The previous decisions were noted (attached to these Minutes). The CEO advised about the business continuity plan and why it needed to remain in place for the present time

20/06/12

TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM EDDC AND DCC COUNCILLORS

Cllr Claire Wright

Cllr Wright had e-mailed councillors her report. She also mentioned the matter of Sidmouth introducing one way walking systems around the town as a safety measure in light of the Coronavirus. A lengthy debate then followed with a proposal that there should be one way walking systems in Ottery. However both Cllrs Copus and Pang considered that this would be bureaucratic and it was questioned as to how it could be policed. Cllr Stewart advised that the government expects local authorities to promote walking and cycling and suggested more cycleways and accessways were required and should be progressed asap. There was then a proposal to consider looking at revised pedestrian accessways but it failed, due to lack of support.

After more discussion it was **RESOLVED** that this matter be considered by the Regeneration Cttee at its next meeting and that Cllr Wright be invited to attend when it was arranged.

Cllr Faithfull

Cllr Faithfull advised that there were changes in progress with the Administration of EDDC.. He confirmed that he was no longer Deputy Portfolio Holder for the Environment

The Mayor

The Mayor confirmed the changes which were occurring at EDDC

20/06/13

TO REVIEW THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COMMITTEES AND DELEGATION ARRANGEMENTS AND APPROVE ACCORDINGLY

These had been e-mailed to all councillors for consideration. Cllr Giles proposed that with regards to the Terms of Reference for the Planning Cttee that reference should be made to having a regular monthly meeting ie on the second Monday of every month. However after some debate it was agreed that the present set up ie calling meetings `as and when` required should remain. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Terms of Reference with the provision that the Terms be considered in the future to ensure that the objects remained fit for purpose for each committee

20/06/14

TO APPOINT MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES AND TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN FOR EACH

1. Planning Committee

The following membership was agreed: **all councillors apart from Cllr Pang**

Chairman: Cllr Copus was proposed by Cllr Grainger and seconded by Cllr Giles .

Cllr Copus was declared elected as Chairman of the Planning Committee

Vice Chairman: Cllr Grainger proposed himself and was seconded by Cllr Dobson. There being no further nominations, **Cllr Grainger was declared elected as Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee**

Appendix 1 attached, shows the Committee membership as agreed

2. Finance Committee

The following membership was agreed: Cllrs Johns (**Ex Officio**) Giles, Stewart, Grainger, Lucas (**Ex Officio**) and Dobson

The Chairman had been elected earlier in the meeting

Vice Chairman: Cllr Grainger was proposed by Cllr Stewart and seconded by Cllr Lucas
There being no further nominations, **Cllr Grainger was declared elected as the Vice Chairman of the Finance Committee**

Appendix 1 attached, shows the Committee membership as agreed

3. Human Resource Management Committee

The following membership was agreed: Cllrs Johns (**Ex Officio**) Giles, Lucas (**Ex Officio**), Stewart, Faithfull and Harding

Chairman and Vice Chairman: It was proposed that both the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor should be Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee in view of them having regular contact with the CEO and her assistant. There being no further proposals **the Mayor and Deputy Mayor were declared elected as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Human Resource Management Committee respectively**

Appendix 1 attached, shows the Committee membership as agreed

4. Property and Land Committee

The following membership was agreed: : Cllrs Johns (**Ex Officio**), Grainger, Lucas (**Ex Officio**), Stewart, Dobson and Faithfull

Chairman: Cllr Dobson was proposed by Cllr Harding and seconded by Cllr Pang. There was a further nomination of Cllr Grainger who was proposed by Cllr Stewart and seconded by Cllr Lucas. Cllr Grainger received the majority vote. **Cllr Grainger was declared elected as the Chairman of the Property and Land Committee**

Vice Chairman: It was suggested to Cllr Dobson that he may wish to taking on the Vice-Chairman role. However he declined. Cllr Lucas nominated himself and was seconded by Cllr Stewart. There being no further nominations, **Cllr Lucas was declared elected as the Vice Chairman**

Appendix 1 attached, shows the Committee membership as agreed

5. Climate Change Committee

The following membership was agreed: : Cllrs Johns (**Ex Officio**), Grainger, Lucas (**Ex Officio**), Stewart, and Giles

Chairman: Cllr Stewart was proposed by Cllr Lucas and seconded by Cllr Johns. There were no other nominees. **Cllr Stewart was declared elected as the Chairman of the Climate Change Committee**

Vice Chairman: Cllr Grainger was proposed by Cllr Stewart and seconded by Cllr Lucas
There being no further nominations, **Cllr Grainger was declared elected as the Vice Chairman**

Appendix 1 attached, shows the Committee membership as agreed

6. Regeneration Committee

The following membership was agreed: : Cllrs Johns (**Ex Officio**), Grainger, Lucas (**Ex Officio**), Stewart, and Copus

Chairman: Cllr Lucas was proposed by Cllr Stewart and seconded by Cllr Johns. There were no other nominees. **Cllr Lucas was declared elected as the Chairman of the Regeneration Committee**

Vice Chairman: Cllr Stewart was proposed by Cllr Johns and seconded by Cllr Lucas
There being no further nominations, **Cllr Stewart was declared elected as the Vice Chairman**

Appendix 1 attached, shows the Committee membership as agreed

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the elected Chairs and Vice Chairs of all the Council's Committees

20/06/15

WORKING GROUPS

To consider Terms of Reference for the Policies and Compliance Working Group

The CEO advised that the Policies and Compliance Working Group had been in existence for some time but had no Terms of Reference, hence the reason she had now drafted them. They had been e-mailed to all members. It was agreed that they be considered at the July Town Council Meeting

20/06/16

To consider amended Terms of Reference for the Christmas Working Group

It was **RESOLVED** that the amendments be accepted

20/06/17

To consider generic Terms of Reference for the Events Working Group

It was **RESOLVED** that they be accepted

20/06/18

To consider extending duration of the following Working Groups:- Communications (expires 30/6/2020); s106/CIL (1/5/2020); Hospital (1/5/2020)

It was **RESOLVED** that the duration of all working groups should be up to the 30th April 2021

20/06/19

TO APPOINT MEMBERSHIP OF WORKING GROUPS

Appendix 1 attached, shows Working Groups as agreed. It was noted that Cllr Pang would consider becoming a member of the Hospital Working Group but at this stage she had not made a firm decision

20/06/20

TO ELECT MEMBERS TO FILL COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS AND TO APPOINT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Appendix 1 attached, shows Council Representatives of various outside bodies as agreed

20/06/21

TO REVIEW AND RE-ADOPT (IF APPROPRIATE) THE COUNCIL'S CURRENT STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

It was **RESOLVED** to re-adopt the Council's current Standing Orders and Financial Regulations with the amendment for 'he' to be deleted and substituted for 'he/she' or 'they' (where it was grammatically correct to use 'they'), in both documents

20/06/22

TO CONSIDER AND REVIEW THE COUNCIL'S ASSETS REGISTER

The Assets Register was noted and accepted as a correct and up to date record of the Council's assets

20/06/23

TO CONSIDER AND CONFIRM (IF APPROPRIATE) THE COUNCIL'S CURRENT INSURANCE POLICY

The Council's insurance policy was confirmed

20/06/24

TO CONSIDER AND REVIEW THE COUNCIL`S ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Council`s Annual Subscriptions namely:-

PAYEE	AMOUNT
The National Allotment Society	£55
DALC	£941
ICCM	£95
South West Councils	£425
NALC	£17
Devon Communities Together	£50
SLCC	£309

were noted. Cllr Grainger questioned why the Council paid an on-line subscription for Ordnance Survey. However the CEO confirmed that the Council did not pay for the service

20/06/25

BANK MANDATE – TO DETERMINE THE COUNCIL`S AUTHORISED SIGNATORIES

It was **RESOLVED** that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, the CEO and the Chair of Finance be the authorised signatories

20/06/26

PASSWORD CHANGES TO OFFICE COMPUTERS

Under the Council`s Financial Regulations, the Mayor was required to be presented with a sealed envelope containing the office computer and chamber computer passwords which had recently been changed. However it was agreed that this could not be effected until occupancy by councillors and employees of the Council Offices was resumed

20/06/27

KEYHOLDER ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL BUILDING AND THE CEO`S OFFICE

It was **RESOLVED** that the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, the Chair of the Property and Land Ctte and office staff, plus the cleaner be key holders to the premises. Cllr Dobson would hand back the keys in his possession. Cllr Stewart requested a front door key which the CEO would provide

20/06/28

TO NOTE COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR 2020/21 AND TO DECIDE WHETHER TO CONTINUE ONE MEETING A YEAR AT ESCOT

The dates of the Council meetings were noted. After some discussion it was **RESOLVED** to hold one meeting a year in Escot Village Hall at Taleford together with one meeting at Tipton St John and Alfrington, with all remaining meetings to be held at Ottery. . It was suggested by Cllr Harding that the Tipton St John meeting be held in the winter months

20/06/29

POLICE MATTERS

The CEO had not received any information from the Police but advised that she would be inviting Neighbourhood Sergeant Richard Stonecliffe to the July meeting as he had promised to participate in two meetings a year

20/06/30

OTTERY HOSPITAL – UPDATE

Cllr Lucas advised that the Working Group`s first important meeting had been due to take place but due to lock down it had had to be postponed

20/06/31

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED REMOVAL OF FENCE NEAR COLERIDGE BRIDGE

Richard Gomm had reported that the fencing near the Coleridge bridge required repairing/replacing. The CEO had referred the matter to Jame Stoneman at Streetscene. James understood that a couple of councillors required the removal of the fence. There was some discussion; however it was **RESOLVED** that the fence should be repaired, as to remove it could present a safety issue

20/06/32

CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR A CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE COST OF A PLANTER

A parishioner had advised that when the new Ottery St Mary place name sign was erected on Exeter Road that she and her neighbours considered that the sign would be enhanced by a planter in front of it, which she and her neighbours would be happy to design, construct, plant and maintain throughout the year. They were seeking a donation from the Town Council, of approx. £150 to cover the cost of the planter. It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council would provide a donation of up to £150 subject to the relevant highway consents being obtained, if appropriate. (The CEO advised she was awaiting the information from Mike Brown-Highways Officer)

20/06/33

CONSIDERATION OF DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL'S NEW INITIATIVE 'DOING WHAT MATTERS'

Devon County Council had a new initiative "Doing What Matters" to improve on its highway maintenance and offer the best service possible to road users. DCC was inviting councillors to attend a virtual meeting to progress this. Cllrs Giles, Grainger, Dobson and Harding would be willing to attend a meeting. The CEO would inform Mike Brown, DCC's Highway Officer of proposed dates for the meeting, from councillors

20/06/34

TO AGREE A DATE FOR A PROPERTY AND LAND COMMITTEE MEETING

The CEO would arrange with Cllr Grainger a virtual meeting in the next couple of weeks

20/06/35

TO CONSIDER ALTERATION TO OFFICE ACCOMMODATION FOR STAFF

It was understood that the Help Scheme was vacating Office 1 and the the CEO and the DCEO would prefer to have this office rather than Office 4 as previously agreed. The Mayor was of the view that the whole property required to be reviewed and allocated according to requirements of the various parties/organisations. Cllr Lucas provided an update about the Ottery Community Volunteers and working with voluntary organisations particularly the Help Scheme. He was keen to bolster the support and charity initiatives and the best way the Volunteers could do that was to have a a hub using some of the council accommodation for charity organisations including the Help Scheme. The various organisations/individuals could use a modern shared working space and could take advantage of this at a heavily subsidised rate. Cllr Lucas was of the view that the building was paid for by the community and should be properly utilised for the benefit of the community £5000 had been earmarked to upgrade the meeting room to provide conference facilities. However it was now agreed that the monies could be applied to upgrade the phone system and the infrastructure for the whole building at no increased costs. Cllr Lucas provided information regarding the Volunteer Co-ordinator in response to Cllr Faithfull's query.

20/06/36

UPDATE ON OTTERY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS AND ANY RELEVANT MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL

Cllr Lucas advised that the volunteers were transitioning from crisis response re the Coronavirus, into long term sustainment for the community and to provide a safety net for a

possible second wave of the Coronavirus. Utilising the potential space in the Council building to progress a hub would be the next logical step. Cllr Lucas was keen to progress the plans as speedily as possible for the building

20/06/37

£10,000 SHOP FRONT IMPROVEMENT SCHEME - RELEVANT MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL

There was much discussion about this. Several councillors were of the view that the business owners needed the money as a matter of urgency and that the Council should not delay with progressing the scheme. Other councillors were concerned that more time should be spent on the scheme with the matter being considered by the Finance Cttee (as the Finance Cttee had responsibility for considering grants/grant schemes) and then the proposed scheme signed off at the July meeting. There was further debate. It was eventually **RESOLVED** that the Rules/Application form which had been e-mailed to councillors be accepted and that it could now be sent out to applicants. Applicants would be required to complete and submit their applications to the Council for funding by 14th June. In addition it was further **RESOLVED** that the Mayor would hold an Extra ordinary Meeting on 15th June in order to go through the applications and to determine which applications were successful and to agree the amount of funding for each. Successful applicants could then be advised, immediately following the meeting.

20/06/38

FINANCIAL MATTERS

To Approve the May 2020 Schedule of Payments

The May 2020 Council Schedule was presented by the Mayor, showing £11,431.29 (incl. VAT) for Council expenditure. It was **RESOLVED** that the schedule be approved (which was duly signed by the Mayor)

20/06/39

To Approve the Quarterly Accounts

It was RESOLVED to approve the accounts

20/06/40

To Approve the Annual Accounts for 2019/20 prepared by Griffin Accountants

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the accounts prepared by Griffin Accountants. Cllr Stewart advised that both he and the CEO had had issues with Griffin Accountants and the CEO had spent several hours in trying to resolve the many issues that she had discovered with the on-line accountancy system. Cllr Stewart advised that the accounts had not been prepared to a satisfactory standard as the headings inserted by the accountants were misleading. He advised that the Council had now contracted new accountants (Otter Accountants) to take on the Council's accounts. Cllr Giles proposed that it be minuted that Cllr Stewart and the CEO be thanked for all their hard work on the accounts. This was endorsed by the Mayor

20/06/41

To Approve the Annual Governance Statement – Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return ('AGAR')

It was **RESOLVED** to approve Section 1 of the AGAR. The Mayor and CEO would sign the same

20/06/42

To Consider and Approve the Accounting Statements – Section 2 of the AGAR

It was **RESOLVED** to approve all the accounting statements in Section 2 of the AGAR. The Mayor would sign the same. (The CEO had previously signed it)

20/06/43

To Receive and Approve the Report of the Internal Auditor

The Internal Auditor's report contained in the AGAR and her supplemental report were noted.

20/06/44

ANY MATTERS OF URGENCY BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE MAYOR (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

There was none

20/06/45

REPORT BY MAYOR

The Mayor had nothing to report

20/06/46

REPORT BY THE CEO

The CEO had taken steps with EDDC to advertise the councillor vacancy for the Tipton St John ward, created by the resignation of Geoff Pratt. Notices would be displayed on noticeboards and on the website on Friday. Cllr Grainger raised a question on election procedure which the CEO would look into and report back

The CEO advised that the two Tenancies at Will in respect of the Museum had still not been completed. It was hoped that Cllr Pratt who had taken on these matters would have managed to progress them to completion but unfortunately this was not the case. In order to avoid further delays the CEO advised that she had worked on the agreements over the weekend, plus had drafted a letter of `comfort` . She did not have the time available to get into any further protracted correspondence with the Heritage Society about these agreements and if they couldn't be agreed then the Council's solicitors would, have to deal with them. The Council was agreeable to her forwarding the documentation to the Heritage Society to progress the transaction. Cllr Lucas advised that he would be happy to meet with the Heritage Society to try and expedite matters if they were still unwilling to sign the documents. Cllr Giles declared an interest as he was a trustee of the Heritage Society

20/06/47

TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION AND ANY LATE CORRESPONDENCE

There was none

20/06/48

TO NOTE ANY REPORTS PREVIOUSLY E-MAILED BY COUNCILLORS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED AS COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

There were none

20/06/49

COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS (COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR ON ANY MATTERS IN RELATION TO WHICH THE COUNCIL HAS POWERS OR DUTIES, OR WHICH AFFECT THE PARISH. THE MAYOR TO PROVIDE A RESPONSE BUT WITH DISCRETION TO RE-DIRECT A QUESTION TO ANOTHER COUNCILLOR(S) WHO MAY BE BETTER PLACED TO ANSWER THE SAME)

a. It was agreed that the agenda item for future meetings be re-named `Councillors Questions on Councillors Business`

b. It was agreed that the CEO and DCEO check out the legalities of hybrid meetings ie combined public meetings/zoom meetings

The meeting ended at 9.37pm

<i>SIGNATURE OF MAYOR</i>	
<i>DATE OF SIGNATURE</i>	
<i>DATE/VENUE OF NEXT MEETING</i>	Monday 7 th July 2020 at 7pm by Zoom or in the Council Offices if public meetings can be resumed

DRAFT