

WHPC Meeting: Extraordinary Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Agenda Item: 26/175

Title: Request for Voluntary Pre-Action Disclosure

**Purpose:**

1. For the Council to decide a response to a letter from a firm of solicitors requesting voluntary pre-action disclosure of certain information in a matter concerning third party persons and decide on a response to the request.
2. For the Council to decide whether further legal advice should be sought and if so to agree a budget for legal costs.
3. For the Council to decide whether to agree to delegated authority for a designated group of councillors and the Parish Clerk to respond to any further urgent requests or matters arising from this letter and to define the limits of that delegated authority.

**Background:**

A letter dated 28th May 2026 was received on 6th June 2026 from a firm of solicitors Berensens requesting the Council to disclose voluntarily certain information to a third party. The Council is under no legal obligation to agree to such a request.

A copy of the solicitors letter has been sent in strictest confidence to the members of the Council.

The Clerk and Chairman contacted the Parish Council's legal adviser to seek guidance and a copy of their advice has also been sent to members.

Berensens were advised in writing that a decision on the matter could only be made by the Council and that an extraordinary meeting of the Council would be arranged as soon as practical. They were further advised that the 14 day timescale stated in their letter could not be achieved due to the need to arrange an extraordinary meeting of the Council.

**For Consideration and Decision:**

1. The Council is requested to consider the request and decide on a response to Berensens.
2. The Council is further requested to decide whether further legal advice should be sought and if so to agree a budget for legal costs.
3. To decide a scheme of delegation if considered appropriate.

Cllr Francis Pullman, Chairman  
Anne Oliver, Parish Clerk

18th June 2026