

## WHPC Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023

### Agenda Item 23/044 Urgent Matters: Clerk's Resignation

Extracts from the Clerk's resignation letter include:

*".... When I became Parish Clerk in January 2019 I wanted to use my skills and experience for the benefit of the community I live in. However, since Jan 2019 a disproportionate and ever-increasing amount of my time has been taken up processing and responding to the communications from one member of the community. Over four years [REDACTED]'s correspondence has included*

- 200+ emails
- many, many letters
- 12 complaints
- 10 Subject Access Requests
- 6 Freedom of Information Requests, the latest in January 2023

*This activity has provided no benefit to the community. Indeed, partly, as a result of the volume and frequency of these communications my working hours were increased leading to an increase in Council costs.*

*As a consequence of his election to the Council in November 2021 I now also process an additional volume of correspondence from Cllr [REDACTED]. He has continually challenged my advice despite his correspondence demonstrating a lack of understanding of Council processes, history, Powers and Duties.*

*The content and tone of much of the resident/Cllr's correspondence is totally unacceptable. It is often factually inaccurate, contradictory and frequently insulting.*

*I value my integrity and professionalism. The Clerk's role, as Proper Officer, Responsible Financial Officer and Data Protection Officer is onerous. To receive regular, sometimes daily, challenges to my integrity is intolerable. To be accused of "hacking into (his) computer" in a public meeting is beyond the pale. The frequent allegations made against myself, the Chairman and Cllrs are unfounded and untenable. External authorities, such as the ICO, have found no fault in the actions taken by the Parish Council, even those receiving complaints (against the Council) from [REDACTED]*

*I sincerely thank the Chairman, Cllrs past and present for their support and for taking the limited actions available to them to "resolve matters" and to protect me, their employee. Regretfully, [REDACTED] has not complied with their requests. The Council has further sought to resolve "his dispute" through the appointment of independent professionals at considerable cost. Regretfully, this also proved unsuccessful with seemingly no progress in unravelling his" dispute with the Council". The situation persists and seems wholly intractable.*

*I hope my resignation will help to bring an end to [REDACTED] correspondence and will allow the new Council, to be elected in May, to start with a "clean slate.*

*..... I am disappointed that I am unable to continue this work, however as explained above I am no longer prepared to spend my time responding to the correspondence of one individual .....*