

Copies to:
All parish Councillors
Mrs Jackie Edenbrow - Parish Clerk
Mr Anthony Winship - RDC Solicitor & Monitoring Officer

COLIN & SANDRA CULLEY

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David Stewart
Chairman of Lockton Parish Council
Delivered by hand

12th May 2017

My reference: Lockton Parish Council 12th May 2017

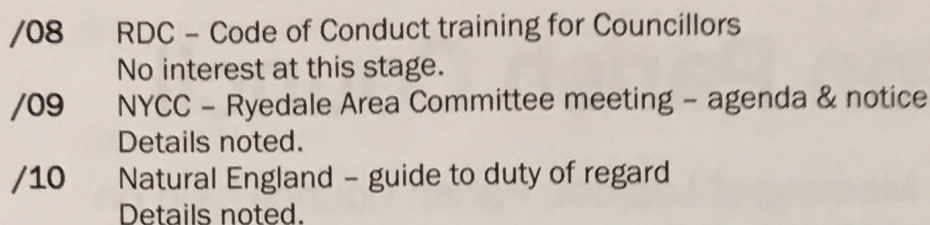
Dear David

Monday 13th May

Please would you thank Jackie for making the documents available for me on Monday and Jennifer for giving up her time to monitor me.

Had Jackie let me know that the documents from 2015 onwards were with the auditor I would have waited. Unfortunately, the whole process will have to be repeated and I look forward to arranging a suitable date to do that. Had Jackie also provided me with the information I initially requested there would have been no need to go through this process. However, the exercise has been beneficial and revealing.

My concern over the conduct of yourself and the Councillors and the manner in which the Council has handled my initial enquiry is vindicated by the following extract. Perhaps if the

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- /08 RDC - Code of Conduct training for Councillors
No interest at this stage.
 - /09 NYCC - Ryedale Area Committee meeting - agenda & notice
Details noted.
 - /10 Natural England - guide to duty of regard
Details noted.

Council had availed themselves of the training that had been offered we would not be in the situation we find ourselves in.

Minutes of the meeting held on 12th April 2010

What happened on 14th October 2016 when the Clerk visited Gretchen has not been dealt with, has not gone away and *will not* go away until the Council face up to their responsibility and reveal the truth. Lies have been told and until the full facts have been made public the Clerk and the Council sit under a cloud of suspicion.

Gretchen and I deserve an explanation and an apology.

In the process of searching for the information I had requested I discovered an interesting fact.

The inappropriate manner in which I have been spoken to appears not to be unprecedented as the extract from the minutes of the meeting held on 21st June 2010 demonstrate. The Council is clearly not capable of handling and resolving a difference of opinion without denying freedom of speech. "She was asked to be quiet."

**1006/03
/01 Matters arising/ ongoing:
Councillor Vacancy**

There had been five residents who had shown an interest in the vacancy this time, with three of them deciding to run for election – David Stewart, Marcus Holmes & Kath Broadbent. A short note from each of them had been requested & circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting. Each candidate was given the opportunity to say a few words. Then all the residents other than Councillors were asked to leave. After a brief discussion, a secret ballot was taken. Everyone was invited back into the room and the clerk opened the ballot papers. David Stewart had the most votes and was welcomed as our new Councillor. Comments were made by Kath Broadbent & she was asked to be quiet. She then left the meeting. Marcus Holmes & Steve Broadbent then also decided to leave the meeting.

It has also become clear that none of the councillors have been put to the test of a vote by the electorate. None of you have a mandate. You have all been co-opted and then 'elected uncontested'. The revelations in your correspondence with me and the information provided in the telephone call from Jennifer has prompted an enquiry into how the Council is run and how positions have been filled.

Jennifer raised the issue of the Clerk's salary. I very much doubt if any salaried position in any walk of life would stand up to the naive and simplistic analysis proposed by Jennifer to ascertain what a committed and dedicated person is paid by the hour. We are going through a major period of financial austerity and there have been swingeing cuts to salaries, working conditions and even job losses. RDC is a classic example.

If the Council is considering another pay rise for the Clerk I would suggest they think again. Perhaps there should be an examination of the clerk's job to reduce her workload and improve her efficiency. Over 20 hours were used in the calculation. It would be interesting to see a breakdown of those 20+ hours explaining what the Council had asked her to do in order that we might help her cope better with her workload.

The issue of the Clerks salary is confusing and needs clarification. If the extract from the minutes below are accurate the Clerk appears to have had a 25% pay rise between February 2014 and February 2015.

17th February 2014

1402/07 Cheques for signing:

/01 J Edenbrow – Clerk's annual salary - £320.00

This is a month earlier than usual so that the Clerk can sort out the new online HMRC system.

23rd February 2015

1502/06 Cheques for signing

/01 J Edenbrow – Clerk's salary - £400.00

There was some discussion on the Clerk's pay rate. It was decided that the Parish Council would increase the payment to the rate paid prior to the Council having to pay the Clerk's income tax.

/02 HMRC – Clerk's tax - £100.00

This payment had to be increased to reflect the higher salary payment.

Please would you also note that Mr Winship has acknowledged receipt of my dossier containing all the correspondence and additional information.

I repeat yet again, that I did not start this problem and I had long since lost faith and interest in the workings of the Parish Council. However, what has happened since the Clerk lied to Gretchen about me is as a direct result of the inappropriate action taken by the Council.

It is time the Council faced up to its responsibilities to its electorate, revealed the the true facts, made any apologies where appropriate and learned from its errors so that we can all move forward and get on with our lives.

Yours sincerely

Colin Culley