

APPENDIX O

From: Cllr. David Kay NPC

9th April 2014

Dear Ms McShane,

Thank you for the opportunity of commenting on your initial assessment of complaints against Cllr Robinson of Northill Parish Council. You will I hope forgive my astonishment that it has taken CBC 12 months to the day to assess a relatively simple situation and produce a brief report. I must now respond within 10 days! However – that is history, you are new to the role and here are my comments:

- 1) Your paragraph show in italics below is entirely incorrect. If the Sam Vernon referred to is the Biggleswade Chronicle reporter, he is normally more professional in ensuring his facts are accurate. Our chairman David Milton was in charge of the meeting. The fact that he struggled to contain Cllr Robinson was no surprise; Robinson was virtually out of control in his playing to the gallery (Chronicle?) and would not yield the floor to anyone. Cllr Milton had tried to answer the questions, but Robinson did not like the answers, so our Clerk was trying to remind Cllr Robinson of the realities of the Planning Process. Our Chair finally adjourned the meeting. My corrections are shown below.

An email from Sam Vernon who attended the meeting and stated that the fact that the Clerk was allegedly harassed was down to the weak handling at the meeting by the Clerk (substitute Chair). The Clerk (substitute Chair) should have answered the questions raised by Councillor Robinson without bringing the Clerk into the debate and should have stopped the harassment by at least two other Councillors who verbally attacked the speaker. This was not a criticism of these Councillors as they were only doing what the Clerk (substitute Chair) should have done in controlling the meeting

- 2) The opinion of J Davis was further expressed in a strongly worded letter criticizing our Chair quite unfairly in the Biggleswade Chronicle later in the week. Mr Davis was in my opinion, backing Cllr Robinson because they were both involved in trying to reverse an Affordable Housing Planning decision taken by NPC. Mr Davis is entitled to his say, but he had only been resident in our parish for a few months and his views should be taken in context with David Milton's 30 years of service to our parishioners.
- 3) Most importantly, I have to record that Cllr Robinson's behaviour has not been moderated in the slightest. I have sent two further emailed complaints as you know – perhaps I should have used the formal complaints process. I know that others have also complained recently to CBC in the same vein.

In conclusion, whilst you have addressed the original complaints, I do not believe that the central issue is being resolved. Cllr Robinson has now taken to writing a weekly column in the Chronicle on behalf of Caldecote Voices – an organisation started by J Davis, in which he gives his own interpretation of NPC meeting outcomes. This is I think in direct conflict with our Code of Conduct. Please submit my letter to the Monitoring Officer.

Yours Sincerely

David Kay

