

Dear Mrs McShane

It has recently come to my attention that Councillor Ian Robinson, Northill Parish Council, has received a complaint made against him, regarding an incident that occurred during a meeting of Northill Parish Council, on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

As a resident of Upper Caldecote, part of the parish of Northill, I attended that meeting and as an observer I would appreciate the opportunity to give an account as to how I saw the incident develop.

Cllr Robinson was questioning the Chairman, Mr David Milton, about various matters, during which there was an exchange of questions and answers. Cllr Robinson asked for more detailed clarification on a particular matter, and Chairman then requested the Parish Clerk, Mrs Leanne Bacon, to provide more information.

She did so by answering Cllr Robinson direct. He addressed another question to the Chairman who again asked the Clerk to clarify. She, again, directed her answer to Cllr Robinson, instead of normal protocol which would be to reply to the Chairman, who would clarify a reply to the questioner. (even if the Chair acknowledged the Clerk could reply).

At no time, to my knowledge, did Cllr Robinson address any questions direct to the Clerk, although he did comment.

As far as I remember, at a point where Cllr Robinson requested more detail on the subject he was enquiring about, the Clerk again began to speak, then arose from her seat and left the room. I understand she was tearful. At this point Chairman closed the meeting.

In all of the 50 years or more that I have been attending both Town and Parish Council meetings I have watched and listened to, sometimes, very heated argument, but never seen anyone leave a meeting under those conditions.

In my honest opinion, if the Clerk had kept to protocol, and given her replies directly back to the Chairman, for him to answer Cllr Robinson's queries, the present situation would never have arisen.

Cllr Robinson is very passionate about the representative work he carries out in the Parish, and can be very persistent when enquiring or questioning, but I did not consider he was being offensive in any way.

Subsequent to this event, I did find it unusual that all long standing sub committees of NPC were dissolved, except Planning and P3, and a new single committee elected to encompass all previous committees, Finance and General Purposes Committee. I noted that Cllr Robinson was the only member not elected to this all encompassing committee, even though he was elected democratically by parishioners to help fulfill their needs in the Parish. This, of course, means he is unable to represent between parishioners and Councillors when the F and GP Committee are in session.

More to the point, parishioners have not yet been informed who will represent particular interest for the new Committee, especially the now defunct Highways and Open Spaces which is very relevant to this parish.

Sincerely, Mrs Jill Parker, Upper Caldecote. 18<sup>th</sup> October 2013.