

Part 2 - Confidential

1. **Vacancies** - noted in Part 1

2. **Bequest** Update on bequest from the Late Richard Holmes - noted in Part 1

3. **Staff matters.** Chairman and Clerk reported on ongoing problems with Groundsman Robert Springett, in that he continuously fails to maintain the required level of diligence in the tasks he is set, despite extra training and constant monitoring, and with due allowance for his known disabilities.

Chairman noted that whilst he has known and worked with Rob for 25 years, has a huge admiration for the way he has conquered the effects of his disability, and he is a personal friend, Rob's attitude to his employment falls well short of acceptable.

Chairman met Mr Springett in the office, and advised that he would be asking Council approval for the Clerk to issue a Written Disciplinary Warning, and that failure to respond to that could lead to a Disciplinary Panel and Dismissal. Chairman appealed to Mr Springett that he did not want to be put in the position of sacking a friend, and urged him to improve.

BGPC agreed unanimously to follow that course of action, and the Clerk has now written formally to Mr Springett.

Members moved to the Parish Office to ensure our discussions remained private

4. Village Hall and Office Lease

It has become increasingly apparent that BGVHMC have only one elected Trustee, despite their accounts noting three. They are attempting to breach the Lease that BGPC hold on the office, and are attempting to prevent BGPC's participation in the management of the Hall, despite our position as founder of the Hall and a Part 2 Schedule appointee in the Deeds. Our last and current reps report an increasingly hostile attitude and attempts to exclude them from decision making, the VH What's App Group, and "sensitive" information.

There is strong personal animosity from BGVHMC aimed primarily at the BGPC Chairman, but not reciprocated. Chairman and Clerk outlined their attempts at achieving some sort of détente with the BGVHMC by having discussion of the various issues with Bryan Rawlins and David Pierce. An informal lunch was agreed at the G&D Ightham, but they pulled out at the last minute. They subsequently grudgingly agreed to meet in the Parish Office at 1700 5th April, and what began cordially slowly turned hostile. That hostility began with Mr Rawlings, but was picked up by Mr Pierce demanding why BGPC should be privy to "sensitive and private VVHMC discussions"

Mr Rawlings refused to apologise for his sexist remarks to the BGPC rep at a previous meeting. They accidentally revealed that the VHMC intend to introduce a parking charge for the Public. abandoning the 3 hours free that keeps our High St shops vibrant.

Mr Rawlings subsequently sent a "Letter of Complaint" (below) about the behaviour of both the Clerk & Chair at the meeting, which was immediately forwarded to the Monitoring Officer at TMBC. Chair and Clerk will assemble the multiple letters and emails sent supporting and advising the new VH Committee over the past couple of months. Members agreed that the "Complaint" was a personal rant and contained no facts and little substance.

Chairman advised Members despite his 25 years on the Village Hall matters had seriously deteriorated with the new Committee, and there were 3 options for the Parish Council to consider:

- a. Dig our heels in and carry on, but that carried the risk of being tainted by association when the multiple irregularities came to light. The PC cannot be seen to be supportive of the disregard for due process and public accountability.
- b. Attend the AGM in large numbers and vote out the existing committee. This runs the risk of alienating the bulk of the new Committee who are doing their best. It would also put a huge amount of extra work on BGPC members, in particular the Clerk.
- c Surrender the Lease, move the Parish Office to Potters Mede, hold BGPC meetings at PM, the Library or the Bowls Club, and move the Lunch Club to COGS or PM. The problem with this is the financial damage it could do to a valuable Community Asset, and BGPC might have to subsequently step in anyway.

It was therefore agreed:

1. Chair and Clerk would take no further part in the proceedings whilst the "complaint" was being investigated, and Cllr Butterfill would be the official Point of Contact.
2. A letter would be sent to BGVHMC requesting an apology from Mr Rawlings for his inappropriate remarks.
3. A letter would be sent to the Charity Commission detailing BGPC's concerns, but not an official complaint at this point in time.
4. The outcome of these confidential discussions would have to be reported in Part 1 minutes with an acknowledgement of the complaint.