

Chairman, Mr Steve Hartree
c/o Bleadon Parish Council
Coronation Hall
Coronation Road
Bleadon
BS24 0PG

10th December 2017

To Whom It May Concern

It is my humble opinion, that Bleadon Parish Council would do well to take a long, hard look at what they believe they are doing for the villager of Bleadon. In a spirit of goodwill, I offer the following observations in the hope that action will be taken sooner, rather than later.

There is a creeping dictatorship developing at Bleadon Parish Council. During meetings there has often been embarrassing and unpleasant bullying in front of the public. Often, personal agendas and one-sided arguments take precedence over the matters at hand. Suggestions and ideas put forward never reach voting stage.

Being summoned to secret meetings in between formal council meetings, has made me feel very uncomfortable and not just because of the concerns of villagers who believe it makes us look like a secret society.

Decisions made at these secret meetings often affect the village people - surely, they have a right to know what we decide on their behalf. Some of these decisions were not brought to a full council vote and often only in an outline summary, after the decision had already been made.

Given that that no one councillor on their own has any more power than any other councillor, a democratic vote at full council is the only fair test of decisions, processes and expenditures.

Yet, decisions are often made which may or may not come to a full council meeting. Where is the transparency our last Chairman spoke of so passionately?

Sadly, after long and careful consideration and due to recent events, I feel completely unable to serve the people of Bleadon with integrity, transparency and the professionalism I am used to.

Also, despite persevering in the hope that more people would join the council, this has not happened, and now we have lost yet another Clerk. Instead of following proven processes, we keep re-inventing the wheel, causing unnecessary and costly work for the limited number of councillors we do have and causing Clerks extra work.

Unfortunately, the situation is unlikely to change while the blame for the lack of interest in joining the Parish Council, the constant criticism and lack of confidence from village people and the many resignations by Clerks and Councillors is laid at the door of outside influences.

With no immediate solution in sight, it is therefore with great sadness, that I am forced to offer my resignation with immediate effect.

I hope that the day will come when we in Bleadon have a Parish Council that believes in full transparency and a spirit of cooperation, with councillors that truly focus on serving the good people of Bleadon Village.

Yours sincerely,

Kathy Strong