

Appendix E

Justin Gentleman
Seaview
Forelands Field Rd
Bembridge
Isle of Wight
PO35 5TP

The Clerk
Bembridge Parish Council

12 February 2018

It is with regret that I feel the need to write this but I wish to make a complaint about the conduct of the Councilors that chose to walk out of the meeting held last week. I am making this complaint because by walking out they achieved nothing, discussed nothing, proposed nothing and answered none of the questions and concerns raised by those who spoke publically at the beginning of the meeting. It also showed a lack of understanding of the process and protocol of how meetings should be conducted.

I have watched this unfolding on social media and weekly read about our parish Councilors in the CP and it presents the people of Bembridge as a childish bunch that cannot agree. In fact I believe several of my friends children behave in a more adult manor.

I did not want to hear a pre-written statement that did nothing to help resolve the issues or answer the questions raised by parishioners who had taken their time to come and speak. It did nothing to help move forward. I was frankly disgusted to learn that the statement finished with all walking out anyway, so the whole thing appears to be precontrived action. What the statement made clear was the reason for the walk out was because they did not have a majority. It is childish in the extreme to say you no longer want to participate because you cannot get people to see your way. The options could and should have been discussed by all. And solutions should be proposed rather than just questions, if you do not like the ideas then propose something else. Perhaps by discussion and proposing alternatives those that felt the need to walk out could have achieved something and maybe brought others around to your ideas and thoughts? Is that not what you are supposed to do as Parish Councilors in order to try and achieve the best outcome from it for the village?

I am not interested in who did what or the mistakes of the past, what is done is done. I simply want to move forward in the most sensible way possible. I personally do not feel it is the best to sell a freehold property asset, but it is clear that keeping them and undertaking the required maintenance has some real challenges. Not least the issues of being a commercially minded landlord, which is what the Parish Council must be if it is to retain them. And of course deal with the natural conflicts that this causes with those providing businesses and services from parish owned property.

To get to this point mistakes have clearly been made in the past, but elected Councilors are just people they are not experts in all subjects and they will not get everything right. I don't want to see a witch hunt, or he said she said style politics that will benefit the village we all love. Lets move forward.

Anyone of the Parish Councilors is a volunteer, giving their time for the good of the village and I do want to make clear that I appreciate the efforts of all the Councilors, past and present. But enough is enough, Open Bembridge Councilors need as a group to discuss the options, and provide alternatives if you do not like what is proposed debate and discuss them, agree/agree to dis-agree and move on and forward.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'JH' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.