

BRILL VILLAGE COMMUNITY HERD Ltd.

A Society for the Benefit of the Community

THE OLD LIBRARY, 19 CHURCH STREET, BRILL, BUCKS. HP18 9RT

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Brill Parish Council
19 Church Street
Brill
Bucks
HP18 9RT

20 March 2021

Dear Chairman,

The BVCH board wish to lodge a formal complaint regarding the outrageous behaviour of Cllr. Derek Turner at the Brill Parish council meeting on Tuesday 16th March. Our complaint covers the following four items:

- Attacking the character of a member of the BVCH board
- Attempting through false allegations to influence funding discussions at the meeting
- Implying there is a lack of integrity in the BVCH board
- Implying there is no transparency within the BVCH board

Having now had access to a recording of the meeting we hear Mr Turner making the following statement, which we quote here verbatim - **" I understand in 2016 the village herd paid £5400 lease for grazing rights to one of its board members"**. For the avoidance of doubt, the grazing rights were licensed to the community herd in 2011 by board member Mrs Pat Stone who generously donated these for no cost whatsoever at the inception of the society. To reiterate, she received no payment, no gift, NOTHING in return.

Further, the £5400 referred to is actually money that was paid out from the BVCH account in 2016 to a land management company to pay for entitlements (a necessary requirement before becoming eligible for the Basic Payment Scheme). Obviously Mr Turner is untroubled by the need to understand or validate facts before he spreads his untruths in public.

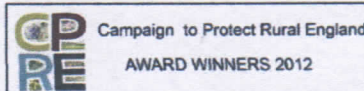
Mr Turner deliberately attempted to influence the meeting by reading out his previously prepared written statement prior to any discussion on BVCH funding. His statement consisted of gross untruths and unsubstantiated allegations. It was clearly designed to cast doubt on the honesty and integrity of the society and its board members and thus influence councillors in their funding discussion.

Mr Turner goes on to say, again quoted word for word **'I spoke to a board member yesterday who said they knew nothing about the £5400 paid. Not very transparent is it?'** Here he attempts to imply for the benefit of other councillors that some members of the board made a payment for grazing rights to Pat Stone, dishonestly keeping this payment secret from a fellow board member. Of course it is hardly surprising that the member Mrs Judy Basford expressed ignorance of the matter; as has already been established, no such payment ever took place.

We can categorically state for the assistance of all councillors that not one member, past or present, has ever received a benefit financially or in kind, from being a member of the BVCH board; this is clearly something that Mr Turner finds utterly incomprehensible.

Christine Bailey-Chair / Vacant -Treasurer / Roger Stone-Secretary / Judy Basford-Volunteer Co-ordinator / Pat Stone-Herd Manager

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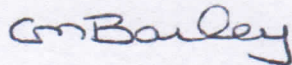
We expect Mr Turner to retract his untruths before the next Parish Council at which the retraction should be minuted.

As it is clear that nothing we can say or do will stop the flow of disgraceful and false allegations of the sort made by Mr Turner, we now request that a truly independent forensic accountant is employed by yourselves to go through every aspect of our finance and accounts for the ten years since our inauguration. We have absolutely nothing to hide and find it incredible that an organisation which is monitored by the Financial Conduct Authority, with an open file held in the Parish Council office, , and set up by the community for the benefit of the community should be subject to this kind of harassment.

Mr Turner's actions contravene the Local Government Association Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020 (relevant extracts are attached to this letter), violate the Nolan principles of conduct in public life and bring into question his suitability to continue as a councillor.

A copy of this letter has been sent to Cllr Rand who attended the meeting.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C M Bailey". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

C M Bailey
BVCH Chair

(1 attachment)

Extract from Local Government Association Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020

1. Respect

As a councillor:

1.1 I treat other councillors and members of the public with respect.

1.2 I treat local authority employees, employees and representatives of partner organisations and those volunteering for the local authority with respect and respect the role they play.

Respect means politeness and courtesy in behaviour, speech, and in the written word. Debate and having different views are all part of a healthy democracy. As councillor, you can express, challenge, criticise and disagree with views, ideas, opinions and policies in a robust but civil manner. You should not, however, subject individuals, groups of people or organisations to personal attack

2. Bullying, harassment and discrimination

As a councillor:

2.1 I do not bully any person.

2.2 I do not harass any person.

2.3 I promote equalities and do not discriminate unlawfully against any person.

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) characterises bullying as offensive, intimidating, **malicious or insulting behaviour**, an abuse or misuse of power through means that undermine, humiliate, denigrate **or injure the recipient**.