

Appendix to minutes of the meeting of Bishop Wilton Parish Council held on Monday the 24th January, at Bishop Wilton Village Hall.

This Statement was read out by the chair of the meeting prior to the meeting commencing

To reassure Parishioners who have witnessed the discord within the Parish Council, and to endeavour to address and improve the situation, we have held now not one but two meetings which were chaired by experienced representatives to ensure impartiality. The first session held in July generated an action plan, agreed by all members to adhere to and which become part of the standing orders. Unfortunately the situation did not improve and this triggered the second meeting Chaired by the head of democratic services, Matthew Buckley which took place on Wednesday 19 January 2022.

Despite 7 members of the council, who were present, agreeing to let bygones be bygones and move forward, one member refused. Matthew Buckley has therefore advised that we proceed as best we can until the elections in May 2023 and let the public decide then who they would like to represent them going forward.

In addition, we have been informed of some mis-information being spread within the Parish.

Yes, there are 2 push along gritters purchased for community use and yes there is a group of volunteers who do go out, with or without them, periodically as they are able. These gritters are more for serious conditions which thankfully this winter we have not experienced. Anyone wishing to contribute to the group let me have your mobile number and I will add you, always the more the merrier.

Secondly, the clerk gave her reasons in public as to why she was resigning, in the hope she could avoid the reputation of the parish council being tarnished, further. During her exit interview, however, she gave specific reasons which, being her employer, we could not ignore.

Finally, an email between council members, referring to the duress the clerk had been put under, was leaked to the signatories of the Quarry petition and they were informed that Cllr Hammonds comments referred to them. This is not the case and Cllr Hammond will address this in his ward Cllrs report.

If anyone has any concerns of things, they have heard in the parish please could you bring it up in the open forum or speak to me, tonight, after this meeting whilst we are all still here.

Thank you.