

## Open letter to Mr Alvin Hunt

I refer to your recent letter that concludes that I have only heard one side of the story in the long running dispute that has caused so many problems in the village in recent years.

I have along with Councillors Tytler and Burroughes met the four individuals who have been corresponding with the parish council and who received “exclusion notices” from the council in order to get a better understanding of the issues.

These meetings need to be set in context. I have attended nearly all of the parish meetings over the past 18 months and have listened carefully to a great many hours of debate with contributions been made by yourself and indeed many other former councillors.

I have read many hundreds of pages of documentation both from and to the parish council. I interviewed the former Chairman David Webb with Councillors Tytler and Burroughes. I held an open morning in the village hut to give people a chance to talk to me. My contact details are on the village website.

When councillors resigned last year one of my early actions was to insist that the resignation letters were placed on the website for all to see. I listened to your resignation speech. The letters speak for themselves.

You suggest that I have caved in to the four individuals. This is not the case and I have been criticised for accepting the views of the previous parish council.

In a recent letter to one of the correspondents I wrote: “I realise you think we have a distorted view of village issues ... I am afraid I can’t win in this situation but will continue to do what I think is right in the circumstances.”

I think Walberswick has suffered from too much letter writing in recent years. We have to reflect on what has happened in the past but we also have to move forward.

Apologising for the erroneous exclusion notices and laying down some principles that I intend to follow in the months ahead seems to me and the Council to be a step in the right direction. Carrying on as before is not an option. I am confident that most of the people in Walberswick will see this as an important first step.

None of this is going to be easy and it will take a great deal of time and effort to get matters resolved. I am grateful for the support of fellow Councillors who have made such huge efforts, on a voluntary basis, to try and move things in the direction we all want.

There have to be compromises made by all parties so that village life can return to some sort of normality.

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