

Open letter to Mr Gower, Chairman of Walberswick Parish Council

Anyone who has sat on a jury or attended a court case will know that after the case has been put by the prosecution one's thoughts are usually that the person is definitely guilty. It is not until the defendant puts forward his side of the case that you get a different perspective and a more balanced view on what actually happened.

Reading the one-sided statement made by the Interim Parish Council in last month's Village News would suggest that they seem to have fallen into this trap.

In this case, the four complainants have had the opportunity, through meetings with interim Councillors, to impose their views on the proceedings whereas, as far as I know, not one of those that have resigned from the Parish Council over the last three years (I resigned last May) have been asked the simple question: 'Why did you resign'. This means that the views, and evidence, of seven or eight good people of this village, who have spent much of their spare time serving this community for many years, have been ignored. At the same time the demands of four individuals, two of whom are holiday home owners, have been met in full, without question.

Speaking personally, I am a director of Walberswick Car Parks Ltd, Vice Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee, have spent several hundred hours over the last two years as vice chairman of the Parish Plan Group helping to produce the recently completed Walberswick Parish Plan. I am also involved in several other village organisations. Many of the others that resigned have similar credentials but our views, it seems, are not even worth listening to.

Justice has not been seen to have been done in this case and I would ask this Council to produce a statement redressing the balance, to be given equal prominence in the next copy of the Village News. Anyone who has been to meetings over the last three years and have seen the mountains of correspondence that has been generated by their actions would surely conclude that 'the four' have escalated what was originally a planning issue into this huge problem resulting in the mass resignations of the elected council. It is a travesty that 'the four' appear to have come out of this affair unblemished.

I am sure that the outgoing Parish Council would have had no problem apologising for the exclusion notices, which were initiated as a result of poor legal advice following six months of vexatious and repetitive requests for information from the complainants, but I fail to see what saddling any future parish council with a whole raft of restrictions dictated by 'the four' will achieve. Indeed any prospective Parish Council candidate will think twice about standing in future elections, knowing that every move they make will be scrutinised by certain individuals who wield lots of power but have no responsibility. The villagers of Walberswick are desperate to get this problem resolved but it must be done with compromises made by both sides and not by caving in to the demands of those that shout the loudest.

Alvin Hunt

Former Parish Councillor