

GOOD EVENING, I'M TONY BIGGS, VICE CHAIR OF NORTHIAM PARISH COUNCIL AND I WISH TO REPLY TO THE INACCURATE COMMENTS MADE ABOUT ME IN CLLR STREATFEILDS OPEN LETTER

UNDER POINTS 1 - 6 AS FOLLOWS:

(1) A meeting was arranged by NPC to hold the CIC to account for the contents of their emails, Vice Chair Biggs and Chair Harding insisted that they alone from Northiam Parish Council should be present at the meeting and would not budge from this decision.

FACT: In a meeting on 11th November with all parish councillors present, a discussion took place in this respect although there were some misgivings there was no formal objections or vote to say we should not attend and all councillors agreed for myself and Mrs Harding to attend.

(2) In spite of repeated enquiries the results of the meeting remained unreported for around 2 weeks.

FACT: Our clerk, Gilly Lowe had only been in post for 2 days when she took the minutes, she only works part-time and had other duties to attend to. I emailed Cllr Streatfeild and informed him Gilly was doing her best to get the minutes out asap.

(3) To our complete dismay Mr Biggs and Mrs Harding had then decided not to pursue this matter.

FACT: We did pursue the matter, we asked our locum clerk at that time, Deborah Upton, to make contact with the CIC Directors to discuss the contents of the emails.

(4) On being challenged Mrs Harding chose to resign from the Council.

FACT: This is totally untrue, I have her resignation letter in front of me and I have her permission to read it out **READ OUT THE RESIGNATION LETTER**

(5) I wrote to Mr Biggs twice officially as councillor asking him to report this issue to the CIC Regulator. He chose not to respond.

FACT: Regarding the issue JS talks about, I took advice from our locum clerk, Deborah Upton.

Deborah is a Formal Local Authority Monitoring Officer, an Examiner for the Law Society and also a Solicitor and has a wealth of experience. I asked her if any fraudulent behaviour or Criminal act had taken place by the CIC and in her view no fraudulent or criminal activities had taken place, therefore I had no reason to report the matter.

(6) Yesterday, Cllr Streatfeild put up another post on social media claiming that because my wife was a former member of the CIC and was present at a meeting that took place, that it therefore seems safe to assume that Mr Biggs, allegedly has been aware of these development ideas since the date of this meeting in 2020.

I would like to make it clear that Cllr Streatfeild has no right to manipulate anyone reading that post into thinking that my wife and I had any discussions regarding meetings that took place between the CIC, this is an assumption and not a fact, and that he needs to remove this section from the post immediately.