

OLD BOLINGBROKE WITH HAREBY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY 31 MAY 2018

**OPENING STATEMENT BY COUNCILLOR MICHAEL WILBY, VICE CHAIRMAN OF
THE PARISH COUNCIL**

I WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME EVERYONE TO THE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. THE FOLLOWING IS A PERSONAL STATEMENT FROM MYSELF AND WOULD ASK THAT THIS IS PLACED ON RECORD.

THE PURPOSE OF TONIGHTS MEETING IS TO ELECT THE CHAIR OF THE PARISH COUNCIL. FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT AWARE, OUR CURRENT CHAIR, MARC ETCHES IS STANDING DOWN AS CHAIR BUT WILL CONTINUE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE PARISH COUNCIL.

WE NEED TO ACKNOWLEDGE MARCS ACHIEVEMENTS, AND IN PARTICULAR HIS PROFESSIONALISM AND TENACITY OVER THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE HAS BEEN EXTREMELY SUPPORTIVE AND ALWAYS WILLING TO ASSIST.

WE ALSO NEED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE HARD WORK OF OUR PARISH CLERK, CHRISTINE NEWTON AND THANK HER FOR HER GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT.

I WOULD LIKE TO REMIND COLLEAGUES OF THE STANDING ORDERS (SECTION 5) OF THIS COUNCIL, REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR. IN ADDITION, I WOULD LIKE TO REMIND COUNCILLORS THAT IN SIGNING THE ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE FORM, EACH COUNCILLOR IS FULLY ACCEPTING THE STANDING ORDERS OF THIS COUNCIL.

IT IS ALSO AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO REMIND COUNCILLORS OF THE OLD BOLINGBROKE PARISH COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT (WHICH IS PUBLISHED ON THE COUNCILS WEBSITE) AND ITS CONTENTS IN RESPECT OF ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, DUTIES AND TRANSFER OF INFORMATION. THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN RAISED MANY TIMES OVER THE LAST 2 YEARS, BUT ALAS, WITHIN THE LAST WEEK THIS CODE HAS CLEARLY BEEN IGNORED. THOSE COUNCILLORS THAT SEEK TO "PROFIT" FROM EMAILS CIRCULATED RECENTLY MAKING ALLEGATIONS AGAINST COUNCILLORS BOTH FORMER AND PRESENT IS CONTRARY TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT AND MEMBER OBLIGATIONS. THIS BEHAVIOUR IS DISRESPECTFUL AND IS NOT THE WAY IN WHICH WE SHOULD BEHAVE AS IT UNDERMINES PARISHONERS CONFIDENCE IN ITS COUNCIL MEMBERS.

THE INFERENCE THAT INDIVIDUALS ARE NOT FIT FOR OFFICE IS DEFAMATORY AND HAS ALREADY CAUSED ONE OF OUR COUNCILLORS TO RESIGN.

I REMIND ALL COUNCILLORS THAT UNDER THE COUNCILS MEMBER OBLIGATIONS, WHEN A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL ACTS, CLAIMS TO ACT, OR GIVES THE IMPRESSION OF ACTING AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COUNCIL HE/SHE HAS THE FOLLOWING OBLIGATIONS:

- 1 – HE/SHE SHALL BEHAVE IN SUCH A WAY THAT A REASONABLE PERSON WOULD REGARD AS RESPECTFUL
- 2 – HE/SHE SHALL NOT ACT IN ANY WAY WHICH A REASONABLE PERSON WOULD REGARD AS BULLYING OR INTIMIDATORY
- 3 -HE/SHE SHALL NOT SEEK TO IMPROPERLY CONFER AN ADVANTAGE OR DISADVANTAGE ON ANY PERSON
- 4 – HE/SHE SHALL USE THE RESOURCES OF THE COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS REQUIREMENTS
- 5 – HE/SHE SHALL NOT DISCLOSE INFORMATION WHICH IS CONFIDENTIAL OR WHERE DISCLOSURE IS PROHIBITED BY LAW

EMAILS SENT BY A COUNCILLOR TO ANOTHER PERSON, BE THAT A COUNCILLOR OR A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC, DISCUSSING COUNCIL BUSINESS OR INDIVIDUAL COUNCILLORS ARE GOVERNED BY THIS CODE AND ARE PART

OF THE COUNCILS RECORD OF BUSINESS. AS SUCH THEY ARE SUBJECT TO SCRUTINY BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY'S MONITORING OFFICER.

I WOULD ADVISE COLLEAGES THAT I HAVE EMAILED THE CLERK IN RESPECT OF THIS MATTER AND HAVE ALSO DISCUSSED THIS WITH OUR OUTGOING CHAIR WHO HAS OFFERED HIS FULL PERSONAL SUPPORT TO ME.