

September 6th 2018

To: Ginny Sherman, chair of Keevil Parish Council

Dear Ginny

Both Bob and I were deeply upset by the comments made by Councillor George Goodwin at Monday's parish council meeting. The picture he presented of the village website as an out of date resource was inaccurate and misrepresentative.

Before we address some of the points raised, we would like to question why he did not discuss matters with us if he felt something was wrong or could be improved upon. As you and other councillors both past and present, as well as many villagers, can attest, we have always responded in a timely, respectful and positive way to any feedback regarding website content, and we are dismayed that a councillor would raise any concern in the way he did, formally at council, without contacting us.

Furthermore, hearsay from two friends was presented publicly as endorsement of his assertions and as if they were representative of the village. Both these neighbours have always been kind, helpful and supportive of the work we do on the website.

To the other points raised as we recall them, we comment as follows:

- **Transparency:** documents here and on 'About Keevil Parish Council' are supplied by the clerk to the parish council, we add or replace them as directed. If you would like things structured differently, talk to us.
- **Agendas and minutes:** these are all added to the page 'Parish Council Meetings, Minutes and Agendas', usually as soon as we get them. There is a year's worth of minutes there, and a back link to the old website for earlier documents. If you would like this page cross-referenced with Transparency, just ask. We don't keep old agendas once the minutes are published but again, if you'd like us to, ask.
- **Councillor responsibilities:** The clerk emailed an update (as simple email text) on Sunday evening (2nd) which was added to the Councillors page next morning; (you may remember we had previously added a note there saying an update was coming soon). The clerk did not supply a replacement document for the Transparency section. I'm sure this was a simple oversight, and something Bob or I would have picked up on at our next integrity review.
- **Events:** All annual events and many others are left live as they are part of the fabric of our village life, and often contain happy, memorable images, or feedback from organisers. We think it's clear in the heading or the narrative what year is being referred to.

We hope the above helps correct and clarify any concerns. We'd also like to take the opportunity to remind councillors that content can appear immediately on the website as we have no publication deadlines beyond our own availability - like you, we are volunteers.

On the plus side, we wholeheartedly welcome the collaboration of Councillor Newton vis-à-vis improving council transparency content and the structure of the council section overall; especially given how much the website has grown in the last year.

With kindest regards

Sarah Dow and Bob Ayres
keevilvillage.com

CC: Councillors Newton, Meatyard, Wickham, Goodwin, Juliette, Banfield, & Clerk Richard Mills.