

**MINUTES OF DUCKLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 September 2018
IN THE LILAC ROOM, VILLAGE HALL, DUCKLINGTON AT 7.30 PM**

128.18 Members Present: Edmund Strange – ES (Chairman)
Matthew Barker – MB
Simon Bradshaw - SB
David Duthie – DD
John Dunsdon – JD
Peter Godwin – PG
Marilyn Morris – MM

In Attendance: Richard Brown – Clerk

129.18 Members' Apologies: Richard Border
Catherine Maddison

130.18 Confidential Item

To discuss the Parish Council response to the letter from 7 villagers dated 25 June 2018

The background to this matter is that the Chairman (ES) had received on 1 September the above letter that was dated 25 June 2018. It made certain comments about the conduct of the Parish Clerk and said that those comments warranted further investigation.

The Clerk had been requested to seek views on the content of the letter. The clerk sought these from the Council's insurers- Came & Company- and the Head of Legal Services at West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC). Came & Co directed the Clerk to their legal consultants RRadar. The Clerk sent RRadar and WODC both the letter and a brief background.

The Clerk reported at the meeting that the views of both parties was that the letter appeared to overlook certain facts of law. The most important being that the Parish Councillors have the legal duty to decide how to spend the Precept and that their decisions are final. In addition, the Clerk works under the direction of the Parish Council at all times.

Councillors discussed the matter and DD drafted a broad outline reply to assist the Clerk in drafting a letter of reply to the 7 villagers. This draft to be discussed at the next usual Monthly meeting of the Parish Council on 3 October 2018.

131.18 Date of Next Meeting

Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council
3 October 2018, 7.30PM at the Village Hall, Lilac Room

Signeddated.....

Chairman