

Dear Ms Severin

Thank you for your decision on para. v), vi) and viii) which you concluded that I was not in breach of.

In respect of para. x) of the Code of Conduct, the reason for my 'no apology' is because your decision does not accord with NALC's, which states clearly;

"The government believes that the personal information of local authority officials can be published compliantly with the Data Protection Act 1998. Parish Clerks as public employees should expect that personal information such as salary information may be made public and there is public interest in the accountability of the spending of public money."

In respect of making comments in the public domain;

In my informed opinion, Sunningdale Parish Council, did not meet 4 out of the 5 criteria to be re-classified from Level 3 to Level 4 and certainly no substantive evidence was provided when requested at Council. Hence I was left with no choice but to seek comments in the public domain. To be instructed by the Clerk to stop arguing with the Vice-Chairman when challenging Council's decision, is in my opinion, disrespectful behaviour by the Clerk to an elected Member of Council asking a legitimate question in the interest of the public, a duty I am expected to fulfil. An apology from the Clerk seems proper in the circumstances. The re-classification of Council, had a direct link to the Clerk's salary and the Clerk in my opinion, should have declared an interest. She had not, as is noted in the approved minutes of Council meeting 11th June 2019, that there were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda.

Any Council wishing not to be seen in 'poor light' as you put it, should seriously consider its actions when legitimately challenged by an elected member. I must remind all interested parties that I am elected to serve my parishioners to the very best of my ability. I must put the best interests of my parishioners before any group or organisation. If I fail so to do then I will be replaced via the ballot box.

Cllr V Pike
13th May 2020