

I am now suspending Standing Orders to deal with a matter not on the Agenda.

I am getting concerned about how we are operating as a Council, and also about the support I'm getting from you in my role as Chairman, especially since a Committee Chairman has told me that I no longer have the support of the majority of Councillors.

I feel like my role as Chairman in 2016-17 has been intentionally marginalised by two or three of you, who appear to be drifting away from upholding our Code of Conduct and the Principles of Public Life.

In recent months there have been instances involving these Councillors of: a Finance meeting (in my absence) being held illegally by not informing the public contra to Act of Parliament; Councillor verbal abuse of the public; false accusation among Councillors of voting bias and discretion fettering; Councillor bullying of the Parish Clerk; and major expenditure of over £2500 not being put out to sealed tender by majority vote.

I find this unacceptable. As Council Chairman, my role is to ensure that, as Councillors, we discharge our collective responsibility and duty to our parishioners in accordance with the Principles of Public Life . I plan to put an item on the May PCM Agenda to agree what actions we need to take individually *and* collectively to adhere better to our Code of Conduct.

It's important for the good governance of the Council that any Chairman has the support of Councillors, so I'd like to hear whether this Committee Chairman is speaking on your behalf.

David Thomas, Chairman Rotherfield Parish Council

27 April 2017