

Jayne Isaac

From: ~~Janice P. Lester~~
Sent: 14 January 2021 16:43
To: strettonparishcouncilclerk@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Mr Brian Lester

Dear Clerk

Re: Mr Brian Lester

I wish to raise a complaint with you regarding the apparent disqualification of Mr Lester as a Parish Councillor. I wish this complaint to be raised and minuted at your upcoming meeting.

I have a number of concerns about the way in which this matter has been handled and have the following questions for yourself and the Parish Councillors namely;

1. Were you and the Parish Council aware of the provisions of s 85 Local Government Act 1972? I can only assume that you were aware as Clerk, as it would seem from Greetham Parish Council's minutes that you undertook training with the LRALC in 2019/20 though I do appreciate that you were only appointed as Clerk to Stretton in June 2020. However, I understand that a number of the Parish Councillors had similarly undergone LRALC training. I'd be grateful for your confirmation please.
2. Were you and the Parish Councillors aware of the risk to Mr Lester's position when you met on 30th July 2020? It is clear from the Minutes that Mr Lester last attended a Parish Council meeting on 4th February 2020.
3. If so, why were no steps taken to definitively remove the risk to Mr Lester's position by granting him a waiver for attendance due to his ongoing illness as other Parish Councils and County Councils (both locally and nationally) did due to the pandemic? There is no reference to the issue being considered in either the agenda or minutes.
4. I am a little perplexed as to why, when Mr Lester was apparently disqualified from office at some point in August, his absences were recorded in the Minutes for the subsequent 6 meetings and yet I understand that only very recently has the issue of his apparent disqualification been raised with him. Please could you explain the reason for this as the recording of his absences seem to be at odds with the subsequent assertion that he had been automatically disqualified?

I'd be grateful for your answers to the above. I may have further questions depending on the responses received.

I have to say that I find the treatment of Mr Lester during a period of serious illness, to be unbecoming of a Parish Council which should uphold high standards of behaviour towards others.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Yours sincerely

~~Janice P. Lester~~