

Appendix A

Ickleford Parish Council minutes for the meeting held on 2nd June 2011.

Item 34.4 (page 11 (2011/12))

In response to some of the emails received regarding the APM, Cllr Thurstance read the following statement:-

“Within the democratic society we all live, public examination and scrutiny of groups within the public domain are vitally important and healthy.

Regarding the email (dated 27th May 2011. Subject: Last evening’s APM) from Councillor Gray addressed to Councillor Maxwell and copied to all Parish Councillors.

Such an email criticising a fellow Councillor is extremely unhelpful in promoting a successful working atmosphere for a newly elected Parish Council.

My intention was definitely not to belittle or publicly humiliate anyone of the Campaign Group but only to provide some transparency of their organisation and procedures to the meeting.

I am saddened that my intentions have been misinterpreted and I apologise if my approach at a Public Meeting caused any offence to anyone.

The questions and answers addressed to the persons who identified themselves as part of the Campaign group are available should anyone require reminding of their content.

For the sake of harmony and support for our Chairman, I am prepared to consider this matter now closed. Thank you.”

Cllr Thurstance then read the questions that he asked at the APM and the responses he received.

Addressed to Mr Johnson.

1. “You refer to yourself as a Road Safety Campaign Committee Member – is this correct?” Mr Johnson refused to answer so Cllr Thurstance asked “Yes or No”. Mr Johnson again refused to answer.
2. On your website you quote 3 Committee Members – Adrian Johnson, Suzanne Roynon and Mike Palmer – is that true?” Again Mr Johnson refused to answer. Ms Roynon shouted from the back of the hall that she was a committee member. Cllr Thurstance asked Mr Palmer to confirm if he was a Committee Member which he reluctantly did.

Addressed to Ms Roynon.

1. “How were you appointed?” She indicated self appointed.
2. “Do you hold meetings?” Ms Roynon said “Yes”.
3. “Are there minutes?” Ms Roynon said “Yes”.
4. “Are they published?” Ms Roynon said “No”. Cllr Thurstance commented “Unlike Parish Council minutes”.
5. “Do you have funds?” This question was unanswered as a protest from the floor prompted the Chairman to terminate Cllr Thurstance’s questions.

The meeting accepted the above.