

PARISH COUNCIL CENSURE

Brian Seage OBE

(former parish councillor St Cleer Parish)

Resigned as parish councillor 21 October 2022 confirmed by
John Simmons Senior Electoral Officer, Cornwall Council

This public censure notice is in accordance with Assessment
Decision Notice CCN078/22/23 dated 18 October 2022 under
signature of Simon JR Mansell MBE Monitoring Officer of
Cornwall Council

In relation to CCN078/22/23 it has been found that Seage
breached the Code of Conduct for councillors in regard to:

(Para 2.1) failed to treat others with respect

(Para 2.5) failed to uphold the high standards of conduct which are required

(Para 2.10) brought his office into disrepute

Extract from the Decision Notice ‘Summary and Actions’:

“...This is not acceptable conduct for an elected member... in considering the sanction... there seems little to be gained from asking the Subject Member to apologise. As a result, it is recommended that the Subject Member be Censured by the [parish] Council at the first meeting of the Council after the period for a review has expired. The [parish] Council is free to decide how the Censure should be worded. However, it is recommended that a copy of the Censure be placed on the Parish Council’s web site...”

Previous Code of Conduct Decision Notice(s) in relation to Seage:

July 2020 - CCN005/20/21 - complainant Webb (Chair of HR committee) + Jones (Clerk)

(Para 2.1) failed to treat others with respect

(Para 2.3) you must not bully any person

(Para 2.5) failed to uphold the high standards of conduct

October 2020 - The Chair of the PC resigned citing Seage as a “...petulant and pedantic individual that has no regard for procedure and is unwilling to accept democratically made decisions of the Council if they are contrary to their view...”

February 2021 - CCN024/20/21 - complainant Prinn

(Para 2.1) failed to treat others with respect

(Para 2.4) intimidating others

(Para 2.5) failed to uphold the high standards of conduct

(Para 2.10) brought his office into disrepute

(Para 3.5) failed to act in accordance with the Code when having an interest

July 2022 - CCN047/22/23 - complainant Johnson

(Para 2.1) failed to treat others with respect x2

August 2022 - CCN062/22/23 - complainant Johnson

(Para 2.1) failed to treat others with respect (in relation to the entire PC)

(Para 2.10) brought his office into disrepute

October 2022 - CCN078/22/23 - complainant Price

(Para 2.1) failed to treat others with respect

(Para 2.5) failed to uphold the high standards of conduct

(Para 2.10) brought his office into disrepute

Statement from the Chair of St Cleer PC

Having resigned as Vice Chair and as a parish councillor prior to hearing the PC decision in relation to his written apology (complaint CCN 062/22/23) and prior to being issued his censure (complaint CCN078/22/23) Seage has reinforced the assessment that, in his mind, he has done no wrong and that resignation may avoid public censure. Seage's arrogant refusal to acknowledge and redress his inappropriate behaviour over a sustained period of time is evidenced both in his empty and meaningless repeat written apologies and in his obvious unwillingness to remedy repeatedly highlighted behavioural shortcomings. Such sustained unacceptable behaviour casts shame upon himself and his previous office. It is assessed that Seage still refuses to acknowledge his behavioural failings despite the broad range and number of people adversely impacted by his insidious behaviour. The ignominy of public censure will not be avoided by premature resignation since the instruction of the Monitoring officer is unambiguous - it is to be publicly recorded and consigned to parish records. There is no place in St Cleer PC for a duplicitous, 2 faced liar and hypocrite - Seage's resignation is an entirely satisfactory conclusion.