St Cleer Parish Council
Motion Template

Date of document	19 Feb 24
Committee / Sub Committee The motion is intended for:	PC 28 Feb 24
Proposer:	K Johnson
Seconder:	

Situation:

During the extra ordinary PC meeting 31 Jan 24 at approximately minute 0:50:00, Prinn, PC chair, made the pubic statement (in relation to his performance of the office of PC chair):

"…*We're getting there …Just Bear with me…. Ummm, also, if you want me to step down, bring a note, vote, of no confidence to the next agenda and I'll table it, I'll leave the room and you guys can decide. So, if anybody has got an issue with me sitting in this chair, I'll put it on the table, bring the motion, next meeting, vote of no confidence, if the vote of no confidence is not in my favour I will immediately resign. You have my solemn word on that matter…"*

Background:

Harbord resigned [mid-term] as PC chair at an extra ordinary meeting of the PC dated 21 October 2020.

There being no other candidates proposed to assume the vacant role, Prinn assumed the office of PC chair [and relinquished the office of vice chair] after a vote of the PC.

Prinn remained in the role of PC chair from October 2020 until 23 June 2022 when he resigned immediately after the public disclosure of the so-called "confidential" severance agreement with the former clerk which had been validated during Prinn's term of office as PC chair.

Prinn resigned as PC chair and as a parish Cllr 23 June 2022.

Prinn has previously occupied the role of PC vice chair, latterly PC chair, over a sustained period of years where an externally validated record of notably sub-optimal PC compliance exists.

It is an unarguable statement of observable, externally validated, fact that St Cleer PC has sustained a woefully sub-optimal management performance throughout Prinn's previous terms as PC vice chair AND as chair and that the same poor practices as were evident previously are being re-adopted as we move into the 7th month of Prinn's current role as PC chair and circumstances continue to decline.

The full impact of observably poor decisions made within the previous term as PC chair are still creating the most challenging circumstances for the PC of today whilst the latest poor decision processes are heaping even greater public discontent upon the PC.

Assessment:

For as far back as online records allow examination, the Annual Governance and Accountability Return(s) for St Cleer PC show a 'fingerprint' of non-compliance - this is a matter of signed RECORD of PC governance validated by government appointed external auditor.

The benefit of recorded historical data and the application of an analytical examination provides unequivocal EVIDENCE of long term non-compliance. The axiomatic conclusion being a long term and abject lack of understanding within the PC, the absence of managerial supervision and apathy / ignorance within the Cllr cohort.

Annual Governance and Accountability Returns:

2017-18 Harbord / Jones (assertions 1-8 were shown as 'compliant')
2018-19 Harbord / Jones (assertions 1-3 & 5-8 were shown as compliant assertion 4 **non-compliant**)
2019/20 Harbord / Jones (assertions 1-3 & 5-8 were shown as compliant assertion 4 **was left blank**)
2020/21 Prinn / Theobold (assertions 1,3 & 5-8 were shown as compliant assertion 2 & 4 **non-compliant**)
2021/22 Prinn / Luther (assertions 1-3 & 5-7 were shown as **non-compliant** and assertion 4 compliant)
2022/23 Prinn / Luther (assertions 1-8 were shown as **non-compliant**)

Analysis:

- AGAR for the years 18/19, 19/20, 20/21 and 22/23 were ALL shown as NON-COMPLIANT for public examination of the PC accounts. It is likely that 21/22 is shown as compliant simply because nobody actually ASKED to examine the accounts.

- 20/21 AGAR was subjected to public challenge in relation to the PC resolution (Nov 20 for a 0% precept which manifest in a 1.3% precept increase without resolution of the PC. Note the additional 'finger print' associated with the PC response to the external auditor.)

- There is a glaring step change in the 21/22 AGAR when measured against previous years which is directly attributable to a significantly improved critical analysis which arrived in the PC after mid term Cllr election in Jan 22.

- The PC accounts HAVE NOT been declared as properly presented for public examination since pre-2017 and this non-compliance STILL remains to date with 22/23 accounts not having been presented for examination.

- 100% compliance recorded for 17/18 (and likely previous years) is NOT indicative of a compliant PC - it is indicative of an PC which is IGNORANT of the requirement and blissfully signing off that which should have been questioned.

- Internal audit (a service paid for by the tax payer) was SHOWN and AGREED by PC to have been historically wholly inadequate resulting in the 100% rejection, by the PC, of IA findings for 21/22.

- 21/22 & 22/23, although signed off by Prinn / Luther as a function of timing, mark the commencement of proper audit process which became prevalent from Jan 22 election of Johnson to the PC.

Proposed Motion: The PC cannot recover audit compliance nor community credibility by repeating and entrenching the poor management practices of the past. A return to frequent misuse of the ‘closed’ PC meetings, internal cabals, disregard for committee process, autonomous behaviour and restricted / privileged distribution of information within the PC are all unacceptable indicators of incapable and incompetent behaviour which have made an unwelcome return to PC business since September 23. On this basis the PC returns a vote of no confidence in Cllr Prinn to remain in the role of PC chair.
Date received:
Action taken or motion rejected:
Signature of clerk:
Disposal: Parish meeting Date of meeting: