

HOOE PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO RECENT EVENTS

In the year there has been a sustained and directed campaign to smear the Clerk to this parish council, Jane Warrener, with misleading and false information. In the past month of August alone, there has been heightened activity which is completely unacceptable, resulting in a small minority committing a criminal offence under the Data Protection Act 2018 by using the email address list that was inadvertently released.

Once again, the council apologises if you have been the recipient of unwanted emails and can only suggest you block unwanted accounts. Please be assured we are taking this very seriously and as well as reporting the original mistake to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) and apologising and asking recipients to delete the breached information, we have also reported the illegal use of the breached information and provided all the evidence we have to ICO. They will conduct an investigation, which is now out of our hands.

In response to the defamatory comments and clear hatred directed at the Clerk, we have met as a council and ratified the Vexatious Policy which you can find a copy on the website under "Policies and Procedures" and enacted certain measures at individuals who we believe have met the criteria laid out in that policy for further action. We also are resolved as a council to forward all relevant material to the police or other bodies should matters not be contained by the limits of our own measures. The parish council are in full support of Jane Warrener's professional approach and dedication to the role she has held for nearly 2 years - it is our view she has no case to answer on any count. We are resolute in our approach not to let bullies, hate and intimidation affect the lawful running of the council any further.

At the last election council members were unopposed with recent vacancies not taken up by those who suggest they can run this parish council differently. We are committed to operating within the law and some decisions may be unpopular as previous councils were not prepared to address them. If we are unable to run the parish council effectively, legally and without audit approval then Wealden District Council would ultimately take over the role and villagers would lose any say.

We thank those residents who have sent in their support recently for both Jane and council members.

Chairman, on behalf of Hooe Parish Council