

25th July 2019

By email

Mrs Cally Morris
Clerk to Monk Sherborne Parish Council

Dear Mrs Morris

PRESENTATION TO MONK SHERBORNE PARISH COUNCIL AND ISSUES ARISING

I am writing formally to the Parish Council further to the presentation last week to respond to certain accusations made regarding Vocalism, David Heron and members of the Parish Council.

The conduct of certain individuals at last week's meeting was disappointing as it precluded a sensible and pragmatic discussion from taking place on what is a matter where residents will have a difference in views, this depending on their own family and personal circumstances.

I understand that much of the criticism comes from a perceived position that Vocalism and/or David Heron had been discussing matters with a specific member of the Parish Council for some time prior to the meeting. I can categorically state that no such discussions have taken place and that the only contact with the Parish Council and its members during the entire process has been that with the Clerk, whether via email or to corroborate arrangements over the phone. To provide further clarification, no discussions have taken place regarding development, only process, this being related to the two meetings held, one in May and the recent one in July.

To provide further detail regarding process, we are at the start of our engagement, which is precisely why no detailed work regarding the proposals has been undertaken. Discussing requirements is central to approach; allowing residents to determine the type of housing that they may wish to see on site, whether for new starters, family housing, downsizing or specialist and accessible needs.

In line with our ethos of openness and accountability, I consider that a sensible way forward which will allow all residents access to the facts of this matter, would be to publish this letter on the Parish Council's website, alongside a copy of the presentation given and the Housing Needs Survey draft document. Providing this detail will allow all residents in Monk Sherborne to consider what we are trying to achieve and subsequently to make their own decisions in terms of their needs, which in turn will allow us to progress with a planning application, if deemed appropriate.

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We are committed to working with the residents of Monk Sherborne and thank the Parish Council for allowing us to present in public session in May and to a wider audience last week.

Yours sincerely,



Jonathan Walton
Director

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