

## **Shotley Parish Council – Public Statement - October 2017**

For almost two years, a number of misleading statements, falsehoods and unwarranted attacks have been spread on social media about Shotley Parish Council and its members. Many of these have been drafted in a way to involve the Clerk to the Council, Mrs Dina Bedwell. It would seem these have been designed to cause the maximum offence and hurt - few, if any, could be described as constructive. The latest of these have been placed on a website open to the public. Broadly there are three contentious statements.

Firstly, that the Clerk had signed the terms of an agreement without the approval of the Council. The Council did approve the terms of this agreement and, as the Proper Officer, the Clerk would, on behalf of the Council, sign any such agreements.

Secondly, it is alleged that she was being obstructive. Far from this, she was acting on behalf of the Council to ensure it is compliant with the law. This can, without intention, appear to be obstructive. However, as a tier of Local Government, the Council must comply with all regulations and the requirements of 'due diligence'; the Clerk is responsible for such guidance.

Thirdly, it is alleged that she had not complied with warnings given to her by solicitors and that disciplinary proceedings had been taken against the Clerk. The Parish Council emphatically denies that our Clerk has ever received warnings from any solicitors, nor have any disciplinary proceedings taken place against her in her nearly twelve years of service.

Shotley Parish Council wishes to bring to the attention of the public that none of these allegations is true.

Shotley Parish Council is indebted to their Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer for her guidance and professional support on procedural advice, financial and legal matters and she enjoys their full support and confidence.

Prepared and approved by: Shotley Parish Council Councillors