



Chideock Parish Council

Mr Mair
Legal Services
Dorset Council

3rd February 2025

Dear Mr Mair

RE: COMPLAINT AGAINST COUNCILLOR FOR MARSHWOOD VALE
CLLR CHRISTOPHER

It is with regret that Chideock Parish Council finds itself in the position of lodging a formal complaint regarding the conduct of the Councillor for Marshwood Vale, Cllr S Christopher.

He was invited to provide his Dorset Council briefing during our full parish council meeting on 28th. January and he opened by referring to current financial problems facing Dorset Council.

This quickly descended into unveiled criticism of Chideock Parish Council, involving himself within an ongoing dispute with St. Giles' PCC. Parish councillors present were puzzled to witness Cllr Christopher declare angrily that he intended to make a large personal donation to St Giles. He proceeded to do this by presenting his cheque book to the Church warden, whilst at the same time directing a tirade of angry abuse at parish councillors.

The Chair attempted at this stage to intervene assisted by other councillors present but Cllr Christopher refused to yield to the Chair and continued. Councillors and members of the public attempted to calm the situation by telling him he had been wrongly informed and misled by members of the PCC.

At one point he shouted aggressively at the Chair of the parish council declaring she didn't know what was going on. An allegation all councillors reject. His demeanour did not encourage any further engagement.

We feel that there has been a serious breach in Section 28 Localism Act / Councillor's Code of Conduct, both in his actions to publicly donate during the Dorset Council briefing session, but also with regards the totally unacceptable behaviour towards councillors and in particular, the Chair.

For clarification, the parish council's dispute with the PCC centres on a procedural matter and not a withdrawal of funding.

Yours sincerely
Parish Councillors
Chideock Parish Council