

## QUESTIONNAIRE

<p>1. Were you present at the meeting of the Property, Services, Personnel and Finance Committee Meeting of Saffron Walden Town Council on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015?</p>	<p><b>Yes I chaired this meeting and was present throughout.</b></p>
<p>2. Unfortunately the agenda for that meeting is no longer available on line but the minutes show that there was an item considered in the absence of the press and public. I am informed that this item was the consideration of a confidential report recommending the replacement of the external auditor. Please would you;-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Inform me if you were present for this item</li><li>b. Confirm that this was the item considered or, if it was not, inform me what was discussed</li></ul>	<p><b>This was a part two item that I was present throughout.</b></p> <p><b>This item was considered and a resolution agreed.</b></p>

3. I am informed that during the discussion the locum town clerk said that the former Finance Officer had been agreeing "mates rates" for the hire of the Town Hall and that the Internal Auditor should have picked this up. Do you recall this being said? If not please would you tell me so far as you are able what you recall the locum town clerk saying about the rates charged for Town Hall Hire

**Yes this was stated along with the fact that the Auditor agreed That this was happening and was asked by the then Town Clerk not to comment as it would get the RFO in trouble.**

**I took the view that along with the majority of my colleagues**

**That the Auditors first responsibility was to the Town and the Councillors and her actions put in doubt her reliability and honesty as to what else had been hidden from us.**

**Also her credibility being put in doubt the only reliable outcome was to dispenche with her services.**

**Also I have been asking for a long time that the bookings must be updated and computerised but was refused by the then Town Clerk and the RFO. The RFO was allowed complete control over bookings**

4. I am further informed that in response to the locum town clerks comments on the hire rates for the Town Hall Cllr Watson, accused him of making statements that were downright untrue, and of making things up. Do you recall Cllr Watson saying words to this effect? So far as you can remember please would you let me know what Cllr Watson did say on this subject at the time.

**Cllr WATSON did state as you suggested and was asked if her could prove to the contrary and I put to him that why would the RFO have complete control over booking when I had a complaint that a cancellation had taken place and as the RFO was not available nobody knew and a lot of man hours wasted.**

**David unfortunately was not prepared to listern and instead**

**Took it personal and tried to question everything from this point and had to be warned as to his conduct as he chose to attack everything the Interim Town Clerk said and was not prepared to listern .**

**David unfortunately took a stance that he was correct but not prepared to expand on anything what he was saying.**

**He brought other matters in as to his support of the RFO and Then Town Clerk.**

5. Do you consider that Cllr Watson's behaviour towards the Town Clerk was all or any of the following:-

- a. Threatening
- b. Overbearing
- c. Rude
- d. Intimidating
- e. Disrespectful

If the answer to any of the above is "yes" please explain why you consider this to be the case.

**David is used to clicking his fingers and people jump he is not used to challenge and he took it badly.I spoke to the Town Clerk before hand and he said that he had long experience dealing WITH Councillors and leave it to him.**

**David in my opinion was bording on the following:- threatening,rude and intimidating.**

**If David didn't like the answer he had to resort to " You do this or else ,you wait and see".**

**I believe as Chair that I attempted to controlled David into sticking to facts and not prefabricating.**

**I challenged him as to his behaviour and made him allow all sides of the debate to take place ,with everybody taking part who wished.**

**I am satisfied that both David the Town Clerk and others had**

**a fair say and although David did not like it I believe that the Town Clerk ( interim ) gave a good account of himself.**

**I firmly believe that David did himself no favours and alienated himself from the Committee.**

**It was a difficult meeting to Chair but everybody had there say.**

**It should be noted that at the next full Council meeting that the Mayor chaired Davids behaviour was similar and he was voted down on a number of issues to which he was in the main the only objector.**

**Although David is not standing for re election his behaviour was poor and he appears to have lost his way, I therefore would not seek to see him pillered, as he has done some exceptional things for the Town and its people**

