

## **Media Liaison Councillor – Discussion Paper**

### **Aim**

To encourage greater public awareness of and participation in parish council affairs. The need to engage with a younger demographic is pressing.

### **Limitations**

We need to minimise the resource implications on the Clerk's office.

We also need to avoid the coarseness of the public debate we sometimes saw on Spotted in recent weeks.

### **Suggestion**

We appoint Georgia as media liaison councillor.

### **Terms of Reference**

- 1 To post authorised materials on Spotted Steyning on behalf of the Council. Standing authority to post agendas and minutes only. No authority to respond to any postings.
- 2 To keep a watching brief on Spotted and to report back to F and GP on any significant trends of concern or interest which fall within SPC's remit.

### **Method**

Facebook page for "Georgia Saunders – Steyning Parish Council's Media Liaison Councillor". It accepts no postings from anyone. Ideally it would be a hidden page, but I don't think that is possible. This profile is established merely to enable Georgia to post to Spotted in an official capacity.

All postings to Spotted by the Media Liaison Officer to carry the words:-

*"I am authorised to post information notices on behalf of Steyning Parish Council but regret that I cannot enter into discussions in my official capacity on this platform. Please raise any issues either by coming to a meeting of the Council when there is nearly always a public engagement session. Or contact the Council's Clerk whose details are on the SPC website"*

Of course Georgia is still free to post in her personal capacity using her personal account (if any) on Spotted or anywhere else provided the Council's media policy is complied with. This requires councillors to make plain they are posting in their private capacity and that their views are not those of the parish council.

Paul Campbell. 20th May 2019