

Statements to introduce items 10.1 and 10.2

10.1

“Last year under our former chairman, Cllr Northam, this Council often departed from proper governance in the opinion of me and two other councillors.

Our concerns were reported to the internal and external auditors in August 2018 and again this week.

All councillors have been copied in to these communications.

Cllr Northam has refused to read them.

The external auditors are still considering our concerns as a “special project” and in the meantime the annual governance certificate for 2017/ 2018 has been withheld.

Exactly the same issues have continued into the current year.

Because they are continuing, these issues should have been addressed in the internal auditor’s interim report for 2018/2019.

I will be voting against the motion that the internal auditor’s interim report be accepted. We need to hear from both auditors about the 2017/2018 governance first.

If anyone wants me to publicly summarise the outstanding issues affecting both years I can read out a list but otherwise I ask the clerk to upload my email as part of the supporting papers or as an appendix to the minutes.”

Read out list at 10.2 if invited to.

10.2

The following is a summary of the issues (or the summary of issues I have just read out) were raised with the external auditor and are still being considered by a partner as a special project.

Because he was copied into the documents sent to the external auditor I do not understand why Mr Fullbrook is reported as having told the internal auditor that he does not know what these issues are.

I believe it is time that this council pro-actively worked with the external auditor to address these issues once and for all.

Outstanding Issues

- Last years precept vote was based on a budget which we did not see but were given assurances about. When produced many months later the budget was significantly different to what we had been told we were voting on.
- The council keeps making decisions on matters involving expenditure which are described in the agenda only as a report or as an update.
- Supporting papers are often produced very late.
- Our street cleaning and bin emptying contracts are consistently not complied with.
- Our grass cutting contract is consistently not complied with.
- We have a Dignity at Work and Bullying and Harassment Policy which is supposed to apply to the conduct of councillors between themselves. This policy has been disappplied and these matters now have to be referred to an HDC Committee. Cllr Willett sits on that committee and yet although he was one of those complained about, he was allowed to second the motion for the new procedure. Four months later Cllr Willett went on to allegedly assault Cllr Gary Sullivan at the end of a meeting.