

Since the elections of May 2019 APC has believed that it is important to have its own email network to distribute PC matters and to seek the views of the parish on key subjects such as those identified in the NP drop in sessions.

To that end a Committee was formed, charged with setting up such a network as well as taking the website in hand. This Committee was given terms of reference and freedom to take decisions within those terms. It was never intended that the Committee should be permanent.

The Committee consisted of Cllrs Lawson, Holder and Hall. Cllr Lawson was initially Chairman, but stood down due to personal commitments and Cllr Hall was invited to become Chair.

The first stage was to collect email addresses from the residents and so a tendering process was initiated and 5 companies previously used by the NPWP were approached. None responded except ORS who provided a very low price due to Cllr Halls links with that company.

The assessment and acceptance of the tender from ORS was dealt with correctly by the Clerk, Cllrs Lawson and Holder without Cllr Halls involvement. He quite rightly withdrew during this process.

Concerns from a few residents and one Councillor regarding a potential conflict of interest, caused the Council to seek advice from NALC although this subsequently resulted in the response coming from DALC, that the Committee was inquorate due to Councillor Halls' withdrawing from the tender process. This had not been foreseen by the Committee, the clerk or the Council at large.

The Monitoring Officer was also approached by residents in March and his advice was taken to disband the Committee at the next meeting that was held in July.

Subsequently further approaches were made to the MO in July and the advice was given for the data collected by ORS to be handed over to APC.

At the end of this account I will read to the meeting the statement received on the 21<sup>st</sup> August from the Monitoring officer which explains his view of this matter.

APC is grateful for the MOs guidance and is happy to follow his advice. The Council apologises to the village for the errors in protocol that occurred in this scheme to make the PC more open, reactive and transparent to residents.

The Council is quite satisfied that nothing truly improper took place during the life of the Communications Committee and it is equally satisfied that Cllr Hall always declared his interests and his links to ORS

clearly,these links are of course common knowledge in the village.  
However we understand that APC could have been more aware of the sensitivities of some residents.

Dependant on a decision taken tonight and once the Council has in place the necessary privacy and security policies the data can be received from ORS. In the mean time APC is satisfied that the data is secure with all proper procedures in place to ensure that both parties have fulfilled their duty of care to those who have provided their email addresses. The council will in due course review the data and decide how to proceed with the network.