

## CAN YOU BELIEVE IT??

I sent an email to the parish clerk last May enquiring about what I thought were irregularities in the minutes of the Open Parish Meetings of 2016 and 2017.

I thought the clerk was responsible for keeping accurate records of all parish council meetings and if a parishioner raised a question at an Open meeting, as is his or her right according to Parliament, that and the council's reply should be recorded.

Apparently not!

This is what I wrote:

Dear Mrs Howard,

1. I note in the minutes of this year's Open Parish meeting that the minutes of the 2016 Open meeting were "*proposed by councillor Phil Boulton, carried unanimously by the council and duly signed by the chairman*", presumably as a true record of the meeting. I cannot understand how the vote could have been unanimous as councillors Gawler and Banwell were neither at the 2016 meeting nor councillors then, so could not have attested to the accuracy of the 2016 minutes.

2. In the minutes of the 2016 Open Meeting, there is no record of my questions about the parish council not having a proper complaints procedure nor my having been banned from contacting a particular councillor. Neither is there a record of the responses of two of the councillors and of the chairperson. The questions were posed before the meeting was closed and should therefore have been in the minutes. As well, my intervention was the subject of a complaint to the Police by one of the responding councillors, so surely something un-minuted did happen. Councillor Boulton was definitely at the 2016 meeting because he replied to my questions too. Surely he must have known the minutes were incomplete when he proposed them? I suggest the correct minutes for 2016 be published. I look forward to receiving a copy.

And this is the reply I was sent:

Subject: FW: OPEN PARISH QUESTION

Date: 26 May 2017 at 18:52:28 BST

Good afternoon Mr Walsh,

As requested a bought the e mail forward under " items from the Parish Meeting" at last night's meeting..

It was again agreed that as it was not a matter for the Parish Council and after confirmation again from our Ward Councillor (*Steve Reade - ed*) that the comments should not be put in the minutes the matter was duly closed.

Christine Howard

Parish Clerk

**So, what happens in a parish council meeting is not a matter for the parish council!!! And apparently a ward councillor agrees. We are paying £75 pa per household for this nonsense.**

**£5 reward if anyone can provide me with a logical support for the clerk's reply.**