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The Parish Clerk
Botus Fleming Parish Council

Dear Christopher

It was never my ambition to become a Parish Councillor. But my contact with the PC in the early days of the NDP process convinced me that change was needed so I put myself forward for election. Having been successful my first task was to ensure that I was aware of the standards of governance and conduct that were expected of me. I attended training sessions and studied and absorbed the relevant publications and contributed to the adoption of new Standing Orders and Code of Conduct. The regulations set out in the Local Government Act 1972 and the Localism Act 2011 are summarised in the "Good Councillors Guide" and I made myself familiar with this document. Aside from that, the PC decided that all dealings would be transparent, that all information would be shared and that there would be no "inner sanctum" or "side bar meetings". Time limits were also agreed when there were resolutions for actions. Community engagement was seen as key to the success of the PC and Engagement Strategy was adopted.

Unfortunately it became clear to me that, whether through over-enthusiasm or misunderstanding, not all councillors were adhering to the rules and agreed standards. I found myself taking an active role in highlighting these issues and some have been resolved. Sadly, in doing so, I have become unpopular with a section of the PC. Over time I feel that, what started as irritation, has escalated to intimidation. More recently a message was circulated to all councillors with the intention of trying to undermine their confidence in me and I feel that this escalated the issue to frank abuse. What I have had to endure is beyond acceptable and it has begun to have an impact on my health and wellbeing. It has also generated a toxic atmosphere within the PC that will impede its ability to function. So, in the interests of self preservation and the future of the PC I am, through this letter, tendering my resignation with immediate effect.

While I will feel relieved by this action I will also take with me a sense of remorse and guilt for not completing the term for which I was elected. I will attempt to atone by engaging in other activities that support our communities.

Yours sincerely