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8th February 2016

Sean Arble,
Clerk CPPC,
CC Councillor Adams/Andy Ford/Jed Griffiths/Tom Carr

Dear Sean,

RE: Councillor Brown (Vice-chair) Resignation

I would appreciate you confirming receipt of my letter of resignation from CPPC, which I would like to effect from today. I politely request that you read the letter at the meeting scheduled for tonight (Monday 8th February) and minute the contents for the benefit of local residents. Sadly, I am unable to attend this evening and present my resignation in person, as I was not predicting a date change for the monthly meeting and I am not available this evening.

Letter of Resignation

Dear fellow CPPC councillors,

After considerable deliberation, I regret to inform you that I will be standing down from the Parish Council and Neighbourhood Development Plan Team with immediate effect. Out of courtesy to the team and the local community, I have briefly outlined the reasons for my decision below. Please accept my sincere apologies for being unable to continue to the end of my term as I had would have hoped. My reasons for standing down are as follows:

1. I have served as a Parish Councillor and NDP member in Cleeve Prior since July 2013, during which time I have predominantly experienced the CPPC discussions and the public question time as polite and respectful. As the NDP process has advanced and personal interests start to surface, some members of the CPPC team and certain local residents have become increasingly aggressive and unpleasant to work with. I do not believe it is necessary for me or my colleagues to tolerate abuse or aggressive personal attacks, whilst volunteering on the CPPC team.
2. I am concerned about how little respect is extended towards the Chairman, who is handling a tremendously challenging task this year with the continued evolution of the NDP and the proposed development of the 11-acre traveller site. For myself, I have started to dread CPPC meetings and feel anxious about attending, despite usually having high levels of personal dedication to my work. For some time, the CPPC has felt divided and oppositional to me, rather than cooperative and unified, which clearly impacts morale and progress.
3. My faith in the NDP process has been considerably eroded these last two months. Since May 2013, I have seen how the NDP team volunteers have confidently handled this complex task. The work we achieved, with the support of our consultant Jed Griffiths, was of a high standard and democratically reflected the views of the community as expressed through the various consultation processes. Despite our best efforts, of late, we have seen systematic attacks upon the integrity of the NDP by CPPC councillors, as well as criticism from certain members of the public, including undermining the perceived capabilities of the Chair and the consultant Mr. Griffiths. This is a grave development, which in my view is detrimental to the eventual outcome of the NDP, a document intended to communicate a broad and lasting policy for the long-term preservation of Cleeve Prior village, not simply a 'back-door' for land-agents seeking to gain access to prospective development sites.
4. Regarding the traveller site, I am concerned that the pro-build personal agendas of certain councillors are starting to unfairly influence the NDP. Like most of us, I believe that there is an argument for some *appropriate and proportionate* development of the traveller site. However, in my view, there has been inadequate time or focus spent upon the long-term implications of the substantial developments suggested

by Tetlow King. Until a more in depth examination of these proposals takes place, I personally feel we are ill advised to vote upon them or include them in the NDP for referendum.

5. My initial motivation for standing on the CPPC was to support our village to go from strength-to-strength in whatever way was needed. There have been many achievements during my term, which I feel proud of, but I can no longer remain in personal integrity with the direction we are taking, or the manner in which we are working.

As a result of the reasons outlined above, despite the encouragement of my colleagues, regrettably I no longer feel in a position to contribute to the Parish Council or the NDP at this time. I do however wish all involved in the process well, and sincerely hope that we arrive at a result that improves our village long-term and ultimately reflects well upon us all.

Thank you, to my colleagues on the team, Peter Howe, Paul Turner, Tom Carr and Sean Arble who I have greatly enjoyed working with these last years. I would also like to express my gratitude to Councillor Alastair Adams, who has served our village loyally during his term. Finally, special thanks to Teresa Woodbine, who has tirelessly supported me as a Councillor and friend and offered me many lifts to the meetings on dark nights.

With kindness and goodwill,

Councillor N Brown