

## **Chair's Statement**

Parish Councils may only function effectively when all members of the Parish conduct themselves with respect, professionalism and courtesy, even when there are differences in opinions. Healthy debate is a vital part of local democracy but personal attacks, hostile correspondence and the circulation of potentially defamatory comments be they by email, social media or any other online platform have no place in the work of this council.

I wish to remind all that statements made in emails or online communications can have serious consequences. Unsubstantiated allegations, personal criticism or comments that may damage the reputation on another individual can not only undermine trust but may also expose those involved to legal and reputational risks.

Where concerns exist about the actions or conduct of a councillor, the appropriate course of action is to raise these concerns through the Council's established procedures and relevant Codes of Conduct, rather than through informal email exchanges or public commentary.

All are asked to reflect carefully before sending communications to ensure that all correspondence is factual, respectful and constructive. Councillors are elected to serve our community and the public rightly expect us to demonstrate the highest standards of integrity, accountability and mutual respect.

**Etton Parish Council**