

Clerks Report – February 2024

Dear All,

The Council has collected information from residents regarding the impact on them caused by the extremely poor state of repair of Jasmine Cottage, 14 Batts Lane. Fifteen residents submitted their views and this information has been shared with EDDC who will use this information to work towards securing a positive outcome for the property.

I would like to remind all Councillors to consider what capacity they are acting in, and how their actions could appear to the public. This includes the location of meetings – all Committee and Council meetings take place at the Council Offices have a published agenda and are open to the public. If Councillors are meeting informally to discuss a project, what happens next etc are you discussing confidential information or information that is not in the public domain? If so those meetings should be taking place online or in the Council Offices, not in a public place where information could be overheard. Equally you should consider how are other Councillors being updated that the meeting has taken place and the outcome?

When posting on social media or in publications Councillors need to ensure that they are being clear about the capacity in which they are writing. No individual Councillor can speak on behalf of the Council, and therefore unless the communication has come from the Office, Council website or the Town Council Facebook page, I would suggest that any information you publish should make it clear that it is in your individual capacity, and not as a Town Councillor. Sharing posts that are published by the Town Council Facebook page is the easiest way to ensure a consistent message. Any social media posts or publications relating to the work of the Council should be checked with me prior to publication. This is to avoid confusion and ensure that the entire parish receives the same information from the Council.

Kerry Kennell
Clerk to Ottery St Mary Town Council