

Public Notice

25th April 2017 – amended.

Following recent press and social media reports, Arlesey Town Council (ATC) wishes to provide residents with a factual account of the events leading to the disqualification of Cllr Helen Frost.

In early March the Town Clerk became aware that Cllr Frost was at risk of breaching the 6 month threshold for non-attendance. Upon being asked, Cllr Frost confirmed that she would attend the meeting of ATC on 21st March 2017. It subsequently came to light that a member of Cllr Frost's family fell ill on the same day, and Cllr Frost was unable to attend. No request for the Council to approve her absence was received at the time of the meeting.

The last meeting attended by Cllr Frost was 18th October 2016. Advice was sought from the CBC Returning Officer who advised that unless exempted for medical reasons a councillor must have attended a meeting within the last 6 months, this rule is taken from Section 85 of The Local Government Act 1972. The returning officer confirmed that the period of the 6 month rule would expire on 17th April 2017.

Further details of the appropriate legislation can be found here:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1972/70/section/85>

It is the responsibility of Council members to be aware of their attendance, to issue apologies for non-attendance and to submit to the Council any request for special dispensation. The absence of this in the case of Cllr Frost meant that ATC was compelled to follow legislation and the advice of the CBC returning officer which automatically meant that Mrs Frost ceased to hold council office as at 17th April.

The Council would like to thank Mrs Frost for her many years of dedicated service to the Council and its staff and wish Mrs Frost every success in all of her community activities now and in the future.

It should be noted that where a person ceases to be a member of the Council due to non-attendance, this does not disqualify them from standing for election again in the future.

Arlesey Town Council

Please direct any queries regarding this or any other Town Council matter to our Town Clerk, Susan Foulkes, either by email: townclerk@arleseytc.co.uk by telephone 01462 733722 or in writing to the Town Council Office, Arlesey Community Centre, High Street, Arlesey SG15 6SN