**Letter of resignation from the Alverdiscott and Huntshaw Parish Council**

To whom it may concern,

This is my formal letter of resignation from the Alverdiscott and Huntshaw Parish Council. My main reasons are as follows:

Everyone connected with this Parish Council knows of the conflict and its cause. I’ve indicated several times that since Councillors Goldstone and Bolton joined the Parish Council there has been conflict which did not exist prior. True, mistakes in procedure were evident but in my opinion this did not warrant the disruption by the Councillors mentioned which has effectively caused the Parish Council to now be dysfunctional.

I further believe that certain agendas have been used in this disruption. Notably the ‘hounding’ of Mrs Huxtable to resign as well as the Eddie Staines development. As acting Chairman I tried to positively resolve the debates. In the case of Mrs Huxtable I published an explanation in our Community Local Rag and received no objections by any parishioners in my handling of that situation. Regarding the Eddie Staines development, it was never mentioned in my 4 years on the PC, even under the Chairmanship of Mr Dunard - one of the Huntshaw residents! I truly believe that I and the Parish Council are bearing the backlash from years of mishandling by TDC who should have resolved the use of the site years previously. The trigger for the conflict was a planning consideration for sound attenuation and screening of the site which I must admit I thought would be beneficial. At this point Cllrs Goldstone and Bolton were invited onto the PC and I can date the conflict from those appointments.

So with this background you will appreciate why there has been a high turnover of Chairmen (3) and councillors (3) not to mention a casualty in Mrs Huxtable over the past year. Coupled with this is the online ire promoted by sites purporting to represent the community and councillors stating that one will not talk to the other. Meanwhile community initiatives have taken second place to the bickering.

For me the final straw was my trying to promote a flashing speed sign in Alverdiscott supported by the majority of residents in Alverdiscott and Stony Cross. My petition was signed by residents and members of the PC, all but 2. Meanwhile the preoccupation by one of those, was taking me to task over the wording of minutes from September! I say the last straw, I guess it was joint final straw with Cllr Bolton’s partner during the last zoom meeting leering at me that I was CORRUPT.

I took on the role of acting Chairman by default as Mr Ricard stepped down and believing that I would have the support of ALL of my fellow councillors. I have been overwhelmed by the degree of nastiness and criticism from a certain group of people who seem to prevail these days. I’ve tried to gain an insight into their motives but can’t even get their vision for the PC let alone trying to move forward.

My situation has been made impossible and I can only hope that my successor meets with happier outcomes. The positives have been the support of my fellow councillors Staines, Ley, Easterbrook, Courtenay, Jean Huxtable and County Councillor Linda Hellyer who I wish well in the elections next year – she does great work in our community.

Bruce Millar