

Additional information for Barcombe Parish Council

Support for answers provided in Form 3

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Section 3. The Parish Council Account was used, without notification to the Clerk, for a GoFundMe campaign. Part of the money was used for the fundraising campaign legal advice regarding the Blackcurrant Field Planning application. The balance remains in the account and *will either be returned to the donors on a pro-rata basis or, with written permission from the donors* be transferred to the ongoing Parish Council fundraising campaign. This money has been identified clearly and the balance recorded separately from the proper funds of the Parish Council. The Clerk has made it clear this was not proper financial behaviour and that Councillors must not allow this to be done in future.

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Section G: The Clerk is registered as a sole trader and completes an annual tax return. The Clerk was informed through another external auditing company, not Mr R Peck who has provided the Barcombe Parish Council internal audit, that it is allowable for a Clerk to be self-employed, particularly when employed for low hours or by multiple councils.

The payroll charge is disproportionate at circa £500 for a small parish council and it is more economical for the clerk to be self-employed. I have informed Barcombe Parish Council of my self-employed status, and supplied a written record to this effect.

I ask the external auditors to inform me if this approach is acceptable.

Julia Shelley, Clerk

June 2024