

Statement on the Motion to Censure Cllr Piamonte
August 9th 2011

The motion before council to censure Cllr Piamonte is disturbing for a number of reasons, which I wish to outline:

1. The motion contains statements of generality which do not go to any specific point or circumstance, which makes it impossible for the councillor to provide a response. To this extent it is unfair and denies Cllr Piamonte his right to natural justice.
2. The motion alludes to "*a meeting dated July 20th 2011* [during which he is alleged to have made] *coarse and offensive statements about and to members of council as described in the transcript...* Although I disagree that the transcript is a strictly accurate record of the meeting, it is sufficiently close to the record that I have also made from the audio recording. What is missing from the transcript provided by the Village is the raised voice of the Mayor, which, as well as her general demeanour and tone, I personally found to be offensive. It is my opinion that Mayor Anderson contributed materially to the unpleasantness of the situation. Residents will be able to make their own opinions by listening to the audio of the meeting which is to be posted on the Anmore Alternative News web site.
3. After carefully reviewing the audio and the transcript, I am at a loss as to understand how the Mayor or any councillor can vote in favour of this motion. Cllr Piamonte uses the word "bullying" to describe the conduct of the Mayor, when she shouted him down. In my opinion this is an apt description of her conduct; and if anyone should be censured for this it should be Mayor Anderson. Cllr Piamonte refers to the Mayor's loud laughter, which is clearly audible, as "cackle". Even though I would not have chosen to use this word at a meeting, I want it placed on record that I found Mayor Anderson's loud laughter undignified and improper for the circumstances of the meeting. To refer to the word "cackle" as "coarse" is an astonishing use of hyperbole.
4. It is my opinion that Mayor Anderson will be in a Conflict of Interest if she chooses to vote on this motion. Even if I am wrong (in terms of correct parliamentary procedure) in that opinion, it is also my opinion that for the Mayor to vote is self serving and therefore amounts to an abuse of her authority.

In conclusion, This will be my only comment on the motion before council on this date. I will of course be voting against the motion. I request that this written statement become a part of the official minutes of the council meeting.

Cllr Sedergreen.