

Notices of Motion – Council Procedure Rule 15

1. Racist Email.
 - a. Council congratulates the Conservative Party for suspending Councillor Mrs Ellenor Bland from its list of approved candidates pending an investigation.
 - b. Council believes that such actions by councillors undermine the credibility of all councils and their efforts to implement equalities policies.
 - c. Council notes Mrs Bland's reported defence is that the email was not racist but that her husband David, also a councillor, sent it anyway.
 - d. Council notes the reported opinion of Dominic Grieve MP, Shadow Solicitor General: "Members of the *Conservative* party shouldn't be sending racist emails of any kind. *It was* suggested that it's lightheated, but it seems to me it has an underlying unpleasantness. I consider it offensive."
 - e. Council urges the Conservative Party to move swiftly to hold an inquiry in public and if it agrees with Dominic Grieve and finds that David Bland did send the email then both he and Mrs Bland should be expelled from the Conservative Party.
 - f. Council also urges Calne Town Council to take whatever legal steps open to it to censor councillors E and D Bland including reference to the Standards Board process.

- 2 Local Government White Paper.
 - a. Council welcomes the recent Local Government White Paper, particularly those parts which promise real local autonomy, the virtual abolition of nationally imposed targets, greater financial freedom, genuine local responsibility for bylaws and that more "unitary authorities" will assume greater powers.
 - b. Council regrets the continued emphasis on executive Mayors, especially the proposal to deny local people the right to a referendum on having a mayoral system.

3. VAT and Healthy Living.
 - a. Council notes the current difficulty vis a vis VAT exemption and preparation for the London Olympics.
 - b. While noting that for the Olympics the outcome will be cost neutral for the British tax payer Council urges the government to change the law in order that Council run sports centres, particularly those heavily subsidising school aged children, should be VAT exempt in all respects.

4. If passed the above motions be communicated (1) to David Cameron MP (2) to Ruth Kelly MP (3) Gordon Brown MP and all three to Michael Ancram MP and James Gray MP.