

To whom it may concern

Statement by Arthuret Parish Council

Recently, it has been brought to the attention of Arthuret Parish Council that somewhat disturbing comments of a derogatory nature have been circulating on a Social Media network. The inference has been that the Parish Council have received funding from the recently established Turbine projects to the effect that individual councillors have benefitted financially. Whether this has arisen out of misunderstanding or from some other reason unbeknown to us, we are not certain, but we wish to assure members of the community that there is absolutely no truth whatsoever in these allegations. For those who have taken notice, Arthuret Parish Council vehemently opposed the plans to construct the turbines, which is what the majority of people within the community wanted us to do at that time. Both projects were finally given approval following the appeals process. Arthuret Parish Council had no influence over these decisions. Only after the decisions were made did the Parish Council participate in the Wind Farm Community Funds and apply for grants for the benefit of the community. Other non-business related organisations have also received grants by applying direct to the two funds administrators. Any money received by the Parish Council has been used to offset cuts in grants or has been distributed to local organisations. Our Concurrent Services Grant has been reduced by £9,000.00 per year for the past 3 years, and therefore we are continually seeking other sources of funding, this is in order that we can continue to carry out work for the benefit of the community while attempting to keep increases in the Precept to an acceptable level. While the Parish Council does the best it can to enhance the quality of life for local people, it is somewhat disheartening to hear that there are those within the community who appear to believe that we are receiving payment for our services. If this is the perception of some members of our community then it is not surprising that we struggle to encourage new councillors to fill current vacancies, We are not averse to constructive criticism providing that it is fair and accurate and we will do our best to deal with suggestions put forward. Unfair and inaccurate comments of the type described are both degrading and damaging and libellous. It is of course accepted that the majority of community members seem to appreciate that we do the best we can under the circumstances.