

Dear Councillor Braha (Chair),

Thank you for your email.

May I begin by offering my congratulations on your appointment as Chair of the Full Council for the 2025/2026 fiscal year? I wish you every success in guiding the Council through the significant challenges that lie ahead.

Your intuition is indeed correct; it has been a particularly demanding period for me recently, which has unfortunately meant prioritising Full Council meetings.

I hope I am not reading too much into your correspondence, but I did sense an impression that you might be encouraging me to step down. If this is the case, I would respectfully enquire whether such a suggestion is appropriate. My understanding is that a Parish Council operates differently from District or County Councils, with all members acting as independent representatives for the residents of our parish.

It is my understanding that it's not uncommon for councillors, in this and other parish councils, to face occasional difficulties in attending all meetings. I believe there was even one councillor in the last Chigwell Parish Council who only attended one meeting, but that could very well be an urban myth.

My reading of The Local Government Act 1972 is that it permits a statutory attendance provision of at least one meeting every six months, which I am confident I am meeting. Nevertheless, I would be grateful if the Clerk could confirm the exact number of days remaining before this might become an issue.

I do, however, appreciate that it can be frustrating if my attendance at Committee meetings falls short of expectations. To help alleviate this in the short term, I have a solution that should prove beneficial.

I was honoured that the Council, despite concerns about my attendance, appointed me to committees at the Annual Council Meeting on 13th May 2025. However, your email has now

convinced me that it would be best for all concerned if I formally requested to withdraw from the following committees to which I was assigned:

- Finance & Governance Committee
- Planning Committee

Once I am able to overcome the current challenges preventing more regular attendance in this volunteer capacity, I will certainly inform the Council, and it can then decide whether it wishes to reappoint me to any committees.

Until then, I wish to assure the Council of my steadfast commitment to my duties as an elected member. I intend to continue serving diligently at Full Council meetings and remain fully engaged in matters concerning the welfare of our parish, as per my statutory obligations.

Thank you for your understanding and assistance in this matter. I trust this request can be processed promptly and would appreciate written confirmation once it has been actioned.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor A. Aradeon

From: Cllr. Jamie Braha <CllrJBraha@chigwellparishcouncil.gov.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 5:27 PM
To: Cllr. Alana Aradeon <CllrAAradeon@chigwellparishcouncil.gov.uk>
Cc: Cllr. Debby Rye <CllrDRye@chigwellparishcouncil.gov.uk>; Clerk - Chigwell Parish Council <clerk@chigwellparishcouncil.gov.uk>
Subject: Parish Council Attendance and Future Intention

Dear Cllr Aradeon

Parish Council Attendance and Future Intention

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of Chigwell Parish Council to raise a matter of concern regarding your attendance over the past year.

As you are aware, parish councillors are elected by the community to represent their interests and play an active role in local governance. Over the last 12 months, the Council has held in excess of 40 meetings, yet our records indicate that you have only attended three or four of these.

While we understand that personal or professional circumstances can affect availability from time to time, the pattern of non-attendance raises legitimate questions about your capacity to continue fulfilling the role effectively. You were elected by local residents with the expectation that you would represent them and participate in council business accordingly.

In light of this, I would be grateful if you could confirm your intentions moving forward. Do you wish to continue as a member of Chigwell Parish Council and actively engage with its responsibilities? Or, if your circumstances no longer permit this level of involvement, would you consider stepping down to allow another member of the community to serve?

Please be assured this letter is sent with respect and with the best interests of the Council and community in mind. I would appreciate a response by 21st May, so that we can make any necessary arrangements in good time.

Kind Regards

Cllr Braha
Chairman