



enter search text here

Advanced Search

Friday 30 September 2011

Burton Mail

Home News Sport Sport Webmags Blogs Entertainment SNL websites Classifieds Motors Jobs Property Announcements Directory Reader Holidays

Business Services Entertainments Homes & Gardens Motors Personals Property Recruitment Health & Beauty Pets & Livestock Public Notices Lost & Found

Published: 29/09/2011 12:00

'Battle weary' councillor quits to focus on his farm

by TIM FLETCHER

AN outspoken councillor has admitted to feeling 'battle weary' after shocking colleagues by quitting his post — to spend more time with his cows.



David Brookes

Conservative David Brookes has resigned as East Staffordshire Borough Council member for Yoxall and chairman of the authority's planning committee.

Mr Brookes, a dairy farmer, said he had stood down to devote all his energies to his farm, after losing the services of a herdsman earlier this year.

He told the Mail: "A lot of farmers are finding it difficult in the present climate trying to manage with less labour and it's been hard work trying to fulfil my role as a councillor.

"I don't believe I'm able any longer to give the full dedication I've been able to give in the past.

"I've had a fantastic time and while I haven't always got everything right I've worked hard for my constituents. I've been a bit outspoken but I say what I believe and am not afraid to stand up and be counted."

Mr Brookes, a member of the council since 1997, was elected in Yoxall in May after being deselected by the party from his Uttoxeter Town ward after a turbulent year as mayor of the town.

He said his failed bid to cut the number of staff employed by Uttoxeter Town Council, a constant source of friction in his year as mayor, was his biggest regret in public office.

In July, he was cleared by the Standards Board For England of accusations of bullying, intimidation and bringing his office as mayor into disrepute, one of a series of complaints sparked by his stormy year in office.

Mr Brookes said: "There's been more than 20 complaints about me and my conduct and I have to admit I'm getting a bit battle-weary. I was trying to slim the council down and reduce the burden on the ratepayer but lots of people did their best to delay that."

Mr Brookes made his last public appearance on Monday at a full meeting of the borough council, where he regularly locked horns with opponents on the Labour benches.

Council leader Richard Grosvenor paid tribute to his colleague, saying: "It's very sad David has taken this brave decision.

He's made a huge impact on the council in his 14 years' service.

"Never afraid to call a spade a spade, you always knew where you stood with David. Thoroughly devoted to the council and the Conservative Party, he was a constant thorn in the side of the opposition political groups."

Council chief executive Andy O'Brien said: "David could always be relied upon to make a contribution to the council in his quest for continuous improvement.

His vitality and insight will be missed around the place." No date has yet been set for the byelection in Yoxall ward necessitated by Mr Brookes' departure.

LINKS

News

National News

Sport

National Sport

Letters

What's On

About Us



www.jobsNOW.co.uk

Job Type eg. Sales Manager

Job Location eg. Cambridge

SearchNOW

NEWS HEADLINES

Man killed in rail horror

Social housing chiefs fight corner of the vulnerable

Family waiting for green light

Probe launched into tragic toddler's care

Animal rescue centre is targeted by thieves

Mum still waiting to hear ban meeting outcome

Another vehicle spiked by High Street bollards

Bridge to Bridge swim is back on sporting calendar

Village considering court challenge to traveller site

New standards are to be set for private landlords

NATIONAL NEWS

£107m overpaid on student loans

EDL leader convicted of assault

M-way speed limit increase mooted

Cancer patient hails 'kind' Duchess

Husband hits out at woods murderer

NATIONAL SPORT

Scholes shows sympathy for Tevez

Johnson strikes impress Jol

Hatton - Yes he Khan beat Floyd

Lennon furious at penalty decision

City win support in Tevez row

Replay

Let BP offset your journey to London 2012 >