

# Embattled parish council <sup>March</sup> hoping its troubles are over

**ENBORNE parish councillors want to draw a line in the sand after a turbulent month of resignations and a 'no confidence' vote in the treasurer.**

At last week's meeting, councillors voted to acknowledge that financial errors had been made under the previous accounting system and to start the accounts afresh from April 20.

At an extraordinary meeting of the council last month, the honorary treasurer Gaythorne Gough was asked to stand down to bring the council in line with modern local government procedures.

It was revealed that the council's finances were being run together with the finance's of a local charity, the Poors Allotment Trust.

Councillors were not aware that they were trustees to this charity and it was alleged that Mr Gough had not properly carried out his duties as treasurer and the council had missed out on funding as a result.

Councillors voted by a majority to tell the honorary treasurer that his services were no longer required.

Mr Gough said: "I am most concerned about the way recent events have been handled by Enborne Parish Council.

"Pending legal advice, I would prefer

to leave any comment to a later date."

The council's and the Poors Allotment Trust's finances have been brought under the control of the clerk, Dee Bavister, as is normal with small councils.

The decision has been taken to separate the two sets of bank accounts.

Mrs Bavister said that any anomalies have been explained and an amicable arrangement had been reached.

She said: "A letter of explanation for the external auditors, and possibly in turn the Audit Commission, will be provided."

A new councillor, Gordon King, has been co-opted on to the council to replace former chairwoman Marilyn Ray, who resigned last month for personal reasons.

Another vacancy has been left by the resignation of Barry Hunt.

A spokeswoman for Berkshire Association of Local Councils, Irene Thompson, said: "After the changes the council set up, I delivered a training session which was very well received.

"I also spoke to those who had come off the council.

"I hope that at last a line can be drawn under this."