

, respecting the decorum at last week's GIC meeting, I would advise as follows;

It is clearly the chair's role to enforce the rules of order and to keep the meeting flowing and on topic.

Councillor Clark was in the chair and ruled Councillor Ferguson out of order for what I believe was raising his voice.

As chair, Councillor Clark handled the issue appropriately in my opinion. He clarified with the clerk, how the GIC committee had previously dealt with the matter.

He then attempted to clarify this position with Councillor Ferguson. Councillor Ferguson expressed his disagreement and feelings vocally and is at that point called to order by the chair.

The use of a gavel is appropriate as well. It is placed at the dais for that reason. The level of force is at the discretion of the chair to bring the meeting back to order.

Councillor Clark gave his ruling as chair. He then indicated correctly that if Councillor Ferguson disagreed with this ruling that he could officially "challenge the chair".

Councillor Ferguson did not utilize this procedural option and left the meeting.

For clarification, "Challenging the chair" involves the clerk assuming an independent role as temporary chair of the meeting and conducting a vote of the members present to either accept or overrule the chairs position. If the chairs position is accepted, the meeting moves on. If the chairs position is overruled, the speaker continues with his/her comments and questions from the point where the chairs ruling was made.

Should you require any clarification please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kevin Christenson