



APPENDIX B

Complaints about a Member of a Council's failure to behave

1. Your name:

2. Contact details:

Address:

Post code:

Email:

Telephone:

3. Full name of the person the complaint is about:

4. Name of the Council of which they are a member:

5. Requesting your identity to be kept confidential:

(Please note that requests for confidentiality or anonymity will not automatically be granted. The Monitoring Officer will consider the request alongside the substance of your complaint)

Reason for anonymity:

6. Nature of the Complaint:

(definitions of these terms can be found at the end of this form).

Please tick the relevant categories

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Selflessness | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Selflessness |
| Integrity | <input type="checkbox"/> Integrity |
| Objectivity | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Objectivity |
| Accountability | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accountability |
| Openness | <input type="checkbox"/> Openness |
| Honesty | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honesty |
| Leadership | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leadership |

7. Please set out the details of your complaint:

At the general Meeting of Northill Parish Council held on 8/04/13, the Chairman, Cllr D. Milton was forced to abandon the meeting after the Clerk, Ms Leanne Bacon left the room (in distress) having withstood some very hostile and repeated questioning (~20 minutes plus) from Cllr Robinson during the "Matters Arising" section of the agenda. Prior to this event, Cllr Robinson had pointed purposely and extremely rudely at two councillors, calling them Councillor "What's His Name", and had repeatedly refused to let anyone else speak or interrupt him to challenge his behaviour. This disgraceful behaviour follows on from the previous Council Meeting, a Planning Meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting held on the same night, when he had also monopolised the floor with complete disregard for the protocol of agenda items and procedures for voting, despite Clerk having set out this information very clearly in an email sent prior to the meeting. Last night's meeting had a large number of concerned attendees, because of recent planning application for Affordable Housing in Upper Caldecote, who all witnessed Cllr Robinson's erratic and inappropriate behaviour, and subsequently lost the opportunity to see whether Northill Parish Council would uphold the Planning Committee's decision, once the meeting was abandoned.

With specific regard to the 7 Nolan Principles:

1. Selflessness: (Members must never use their position as a member of the Council improperly to secure for themselves or any other person, an advantage or disadvantage) Cllr Robinson consistently acts as a dissenting and disrupting voice for two parishioners who wish to buy a small piece of land owned by Northill Parish Council. He has recently increased his area of interest to include the Affordable Housing application, which just happens to be up the road from his house. (I do not think that he has declared a pecuniary interest, just a personal interest rather late in the day, if I remember correctly. If he hasn't, I believe that he should have done as potentially the value of his property might be affected)

3. Objectivity: Cllr Robinson consistently fails to follow the advice of our Clerk - there have been many examples previously, but with regard to last night's meeting, he did not listen to or accept the Clerk's explanations about several matters in the Minutes of the previous Council meeting which were being considered under "Matters arising". In particular he does not understand that if Council has made a decision, he must abide by it, even if he disagrees with it. This is when the hostile questioning witnessed by all, including ~20 members of the public and Cllr Tricia Turner took place.

4. Accountability: (Members must act in accordance with the Council's policies and reasonable requirements, including any protocols and

codes of practice that may apply.) Cllr Robinson completely disregarded the Council's published Standing Orders re Standards of Behaviour expected from an elected Councillor, and his interrogation of Clerk very publicly challenged her competence, just a few weeks after he himself had sat in on her recent glowing staff appraisal.

6. ?Honesty: if Cllr Robinson has not declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the affordable Housing planning application, in my opinion, he should have done, for the reasons given above.

7. Leadership: Cllr Robinson fell well short of the requirements expected of Councillors, namely Members must set an example by their behaviour and shall act in a way that enhances public trust and confidence in the integrity of the Council and its Members.

Members must show respect and courtesy to others.

Members should value the Council's officers and work alongside them to achieve the Council's objectives.

In their dealings with the Council's employees, Members must have regard to the Council's protocol on Member/Officer Relations and on no account should they behave in a manner that might constitute bullying.

In particular, in my opinion, his behaviour last night constituted bullying of our Clerk. He also prevented the Chair, Cllr David Milton from effectively chairing the meeting by prolonging Matters Arising and not allowing any other Councillor an opportunity to speak.

I am aware that other Councillors are also putting in a complaint, and I am confident that they will have a similar description of the disgraceful proceedings last night. This Councillor was out of control, playing to the floor, with complete disregard for the standards expected. I take very great exception to his completely unnecessary harassment of a very able and competent clerk on behalf of two disgruntled parishioners, who we reluctantly had to prevent communicating with Council because of their own previous harassment of her. Just another example of his complete disregard for Council's resolutions and Clerk's advice, as he actually stated that he was asking their questions last night, because they were prevented from doing so by Council. (You may or may not be aware that Council was forced to deem these parishioners vexatious, because of their persistent Fol requests to Clerk in 2011, a decision upheld by the Information Commissioner but which the two parishioners appealed against and which is now in the throes of a very lengthy and slow judicial process)

8. Please identify any documents which would support your complaint:

1.

I am prepared to supply a Witness Statement if necessary

i)

2.

ii)

3.

iii)

Please indicate the outcome you would like to achieve by submitting this complaint:

b) other (please provide details)

If other, please give details:

I do not believe that an apology from Cllr Robinson is in any way acceptable for his harassment of our employee, nor the disrepute he caused Northill Parish Council last night. He has had several warnings from Clerk which he has disregarded, He also attended Councillor training when first elected, so he is certainly aware of the conduct expected. I would like to see him removed from office with immediate effect.

I am Vice Chairman of Northill Parish Council, and have been a Councillor for 9 years, apart from one 3 year spell when I resigned because of a pecuniary interest in matters to do with the Ickwell perimeter track. I understand the seriousness of my complaint, and the effect it may have on Northill Parish Council and also for Cllr Robinson.

When you have completed all of the form, we would ask that you check through the information and then save or print a copy for your records.

What standards of Conduct are elected Members of a Council expected to observe? (section 6 above refers)

Selflessness:Members must always act in the public interest. Members must never use their position as a member of the Council improperly to secure for themselves or any other person, an advantage or disadvantage. Members must not use the Council's resources improperly for personal or party political purposes.

Integrity:Members must not do anything which compromises or is likely to compromise the impartiality of those who work for, or on behalf of, the Council. Members must not disclose information given to them in confidence.

Objectivity:When making decisions on behalf of the Council, including awarding contracts or making appointments, Members must do so on merit. Members must have regard to any relevant advice provided to them by the Council's officers and, in particular, the Head of Paid Service, Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer, where such advice is provided pursuant to their statutory duties*.

(*Note: This paragraph will need to be revised in the case of town and parish councils).

Accountability:Members must act in accordance with their legal obligations, including the following Acts of Parliament that confer special obligations on elected councillors: Local Government Act 1972, Employment Rights Act 1996, Data Protection Act 1998, Freedom of Information Act 2000, Bribery Act 2010, Equality Act 2010, Localism Act 2011. Members must act in accordance with the Council's policies and reasonable requirements, including any protocols and codes of practice that may apply. (e.g. in respect of Member/Officer Relations, ICT, Member Allowances etc).

Openness:Members must give reasons for any decisions taken on behalf of the Council in accordance with any statutory requirements and the Council's Constitution. Members must not prevent another person from gaining access to information to which that person is entitled by law.

Honesty:Members must declare any disclosable (pecuniary and non-pecuniary) interests or conflicts of interest that may arise in respect of their responsibilities as a member of the Council. Members must at all times ensure that any claims for expenses, allowances, and any use of facilities and services provided by the Council, are strictly in accordance with the rules laid down on these matters.

Leadership:Members must set an example by their behaviour and shall act in a way that enhances public trust and confidence in the integrity of the Council and its Members. Members must show respect and courtesy to others. Members should value the Council's officers and work alongside them to achieve the Council's objectives. In their dealings with the Council's employees, Members must have regard to the Council's protocol on Member/Officer Relations and on no account should they behave in a manner that might constitute bullying.

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