

## APPENDIX P.

Lynne Wade

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**From:** Wendi Momen <wendi@momen.org>  
**Sent:** 09 April 2014 02:06  
**To:** Lynne Wade  
**Subject:** Re: RESTRICTED - Complaint re: Cllr Robinson

Dear Ms McShane,

Thank you for your email and the assessment attached.

Please note my correct address: [wendi@momen.org](mailto:wendi@momen.org)

I am very disappointed at the decision made about Cllr Robinson.

First, it has taken a year to make the assessment: justice delayed is justice denied.

Second, the report is inaccurate: it was not the Clerk who dealt with matters on the evening in question but the Chair. Sam Vernon, the member of the public who attended the meeting, suggested that reason why 'the Clerk was allegedly harassed was down to the weak handling at the meeting by the Clerk. The Clerk should have answered the questions raised by Councillor Robinson without bringing the Clerk into the debate and should have stopped the harassment by at least two other Councillors who verbally attacked the speaker. This was not a criticism of these Councillors as they were only doing what the Clerk should have done in controlling the meeting.' This just erroneous - it was the Chair, not the Clerk, who took the meeting and I am surprised this clear inaccuracy should have been allowed into the report, suggesting either that Mr/Ms Vernon misunderstood the situation or that the report writer failed, after a whole year, to proofread the report.

Third, it is disappointing that so much weight was given to Mr Vernon's apparently inaccurate email, in the face of many other witnesses to the events.

Fourth, it is disappointing that so much weight was given to the letter of Mr John Atkinson, whose account of the events was more than five months after the meeting on 8 April and whose memory of the events could not be fresh and whose accuracy must be questioned against accuracy of the reports of those who wrote immediately.

Fifth, it is disappointing that the independent person believes Cllr Robinson when Cllr Robinson says that he is 'being obstructed in getting appropriate information from the Parish Council'. This is, of course, Cllr Robinson's very methodology for bringing the Clerk and the Parish Council into disrepute. He **does** receive appropriate and correct answers, he just **does not like** the answers because he disagrees with them. Further, he asks the same questions over and over, receiving the same answers. He accuses the Clerk of hiding information from him that he, like all Councillors, has had. By way of example, I set out below an exchange of emails between myself and Cllr Robinson arising from his very similar abusive behaviour at the Parish Annual Meeting last week. I should point out that the Clerk did respond on the night with the information she had. Cllr Robinson asked over and over the same question regarding the money - he simply would not accept the answer given.

Sixth, it is disappointing that so much weight has been given to Cllr Robinson's apology and the idea that he has taken steps to modify his behaviour. It is the case that he did send a letter of apology to the Clerk and the Councillors. I received this the next morning. I had, by that time, already written making my complaint (having made it at 02:27 a.m. on the 9th).

In the interview with Cllr Robinson on 22 October 2013, the report states: 'Councillor Robinson concluded the interview by stating that he was sorry that matters had got out of hand on the evening of 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013. He wants to put all of this behind him and develop a good and cordial relationship with the Clerk to Council who he held in great respect for the role she had played in helping the Parish Council recover from former difficulties and her professionalism. ' I have no evidence of this at all. He has done nothing to create or sustain a

good and cordial relationship. He goads her at meetings, points out 'failings' that no one else perceives to be such and is sarcastic and unrelenting.

It is the case that Cllr Robinson attended the training session - I took him there myself - but it has not modified his behaviour. At the Annual Parish Meeting on 31 March 2014, Cllr Robinson again monopolized the discussions, asked the same questions over and over, evoking very negative responses from others, including Alan Bigg. Such was the situation that I felt compelled to leave before the end. One Councillor who was unable to attend owing to ill health wrote the next morning asking how things went. My short response was: 'When it became abusive, I left. I feel we need to do more to protect our clerk.'

Thus Cllr Robinson continues to behave in much the same way as he behaved a year ago. He does not respond to pleas from the Chair to allow others to speak and he makes *ad hominem* remarks about Councillors and the Clerk.

Seventh, it is disappointing that assessor did not see fit to interview all the complainants, particularly as such weight has been given to Cllr Robinson's claims of contrition and remedy yet no attempt has been made to see if Cllr Robinson has actually changed his behaviour. I consider this to be unjust and has resulted in a recommendation that will be difficult to fulfil. In light of the prolonged period of the investigation, there was surely time to see if the views of the complainants had changed, given Cllr Robinson's suggestion that he is a changed man.

Eighth, it is disappointing that the assessment fails to take account of the psychological and emotional damage done by the very challenging actions of Cllr Robinson, actions that have continued for the entire year that it is has taken to complete this assessment. He continues to act as he did on 8 April 2013. I believe that the assessment fails to take account of the very real anguish that Cllr Robinson has caused the Clerk and other Councillors through what I have come to see as bullying.

It may come as surprise to you to know that I count myself a friend of Cllr Robinson and the Cllr Robinson counts me as his friend. He is aware of my complaint against him. I have invited him to my home and we have had long discussions over coffee. I have tried over the past 18 months to help him modify his behaviour in public meetings so that his genuine questions are able to be heard. He simply does not see that his behaviour is abrasive and rude, that the public is wearying of him and his behaviour, and that the Parish Council itself has lost the respect of the local people and its credibility as a result.

I urge the assessor to reconsider the recommendation made in the report, particularly in light of Cllr Robinson's behaviour on 31 March 2014. I am at present considering whether to lay another complaint against Cllr Robinson as a result of his actions that night.

Best wishes,  
Wendi Momen

01/04/2014 09:35, D ROBINSON wrote:

Dear Leanne,  
Here are the questions & comments I made at the APM on 31st March 2014 under matters arising from the minutes of the APM of the 25th March 2013. I request that these questions and comments are recorded in the minutes of this years APM and a response made by NPC to each questions & comment.

**Item 6 Affordable Housing.** If NPC & CB are unable to monitor the build and residents are not permitted to visit site, how can the concerns of the material planning considerations, e.g. possible chemical seepage from the old gravel pit, be effectively monitored and addressed?

**Item 10 open forum. 1.** [REDACTED] What is the NPC response to the phrase - 'views weren't upheld by council.....

8. [REDACTED] *What is the NPC response to my comments that I had no response to my questions on representation in 2013 and that I am still awaiting a positive response to my questions on speeding correspondence in 2014?*

**Chairmans Annual Report ending 31st March 2013.** How can NPC justify the phrase *'forced into 2 elections'* when the Chair & Vice Chair respectively, nominated and seconded the second candidate, after the first candidate had offered to be coopted on to the parish council?

**H & OP Committee Annual Report ending 31st March 2013 -**

**Caldecote Green** Could NPC provide an update on the drainage problems and on the ownership and responsibility for the maintenance of the track.

**Pound Close** - What was the advice given by CB regarding the safety barrier near the exit?

**Highway matters** - Do NPC intend to spend any money on Highways in the future?

In addition, would you kindly inform me of the present balances of all the NPC accounts and advise me as to when I should have received this information. Judging by the uncertainty and different sums quoted at and after the APM, It would appear that I was not alone in having little knowledge of the accurate balances.

Finally, can you please inform me when NPC will receive the first half of the precept and the amount this half will be.

Regards,  
Ian

**From:** Wendi Momen <[wendipc@momen.plus.com](mailto:wendipc@momen.plus.com)>

**To:** D ROBINSON <[d.robinson572@btinternet.com](mailto:d.robinson572@btinternet.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 April 2014, 11:19

**Subject:** Re: APM 31st March 2014

Dear Ian,

Like everyone, you had this in February. If you wanted to raise this, why did you not bring the information with you and refer to it?

Wendi

[accounts attached]

1 April 2014

Thank you for calmly addressing the issue by providing the info requested. I do not remember seeing this, but that is not to say I did not have access to it. I was not present at the FCM in October nor February, may be that is a contributory factor.

I take your point on this but from the public point of view , it would have been helpful for the meeting to have the accurate balances at hand, considering the Annual Financial Report was given. To have figures of about £43K quoted and then later after the meeting to quote about £117K does not inspire confidence.

I would similarly ask why did the meeting did not have the balances to hand at an APM?

Anyway I appreciate your gesture in being helpful, especially after a meeting that displayed deplorable examples of improper councillor conduct.

Best wishes,  
Ian

1 April 2014

Dear Ian,

Thanks for your email.

Just off to Wales but am sending you the link to the materials circulated to all Councillors on 20th February.

[https://www.\[REDACTED\].pdf](https://www.[REDACTED].pdf)

Best wishes  
Wendi

On 08/04/2014 13:23, Lynne Wade wrote:

**SENT ON BEHALF OF LORNA McSHANE**

Dear Councillor

Please find attached a copy of the draft Report which is to be submitted to the Monitoring Officer about the complaint you submitted about Councillor Robinson and the events that occurred at the Parish Council Meeting on 8 April 2013. This report has been considered by one of the Independent Members appointed to review the investigation.

I interviewed Leanne Bacon and Councillor Robinson in the process of my investigation and I am now writing to you to give you the opportunity to raise any matter in the report which you feel requires more consideration or which you would like me to take into account.

I would be grateful if you could respond to me within 10 days in order that I can incorporate any further comments into my report before it is submitted to the Monitoring Officer.

I apologise that there has been some delay in preparing this draft Report and look forward to receiving any further comments from you.

Yours sincerely

Lorna McShane  
**Legal Services Manager – Commercial**  
T: 0300 300 4025  
Email: [lorna.mcshane@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:lorna.mcshane@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

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