

**To: Members of the Standards Committee**

**For the information of the other Members of the Council**

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**18 DECEMBER 2017**

The Standards Committee will meet in the Committee Room, The Council House, South Street, Atherstone on Monday 18 December 2017 at 11.00am.

### **AGENDA**

#### **PUBLIC BUSINESS**

- 1 Evacuation Procedure.**
- 2 Apologies for Absence / Members away on official Council business.**
- 3 Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

4 **Former Councillor Mark Jones – Report of the Monitoring Officer**

**Summary**

This report advises Members of a report into allegations of a breach of the Councillor Code of Conduct by former Councillor Mark Jones.

The Contact Officer for this report is Steve Maxey (719438)

JERRY HUTCHINSON  
Chief Executive

**For general enquiries please contact David Harris, Democratic Services Manager, on 01827 719222 or via e-mail – [davidharris@northwarks.gov.uk](mailto:davidharris@northwarks.gov.uk).**

**For enquiries about specific reports please contact the officer named in the report.**

**Agenda Item No 4**

**Standards Committee**

**18 December 2017**

**Report of the Monitoring Officer**

**Former Councillor Mark Jones**

**1 Summary**

- 1.1 This report advises Members of a report into allegations of breaches of the Councillor Code of Conduct by former Councillor Mark Jones.

**Recommendation to the Committee**

**That the report is noted.**

**2 Report**

- 2.1 In May and June 2016 complaints were received into the conduct of then Councillor Mark Jones, in respect of his role as Member of Coleshill Town Council. Those allegations are detailed in the investigator's report set out in two volumes at Appendix 1.

- 2.2 In accordance with the Council's adopted procedures for complaints (see Appendix 2 to this report) attempts were made to establish whether the matter could be dealt with informally, with a view to offering advice to former Councillor Jones regarding his future conduct. The complainants confirmed that they would like the matter to be formally investigated and given the nature and number of complaints I agreed. In July 2016 therefore Hoey Associates Limited were approached to appoint an investigator. The Council is a member of Hoey Associates' national Standards Exchange scheme which provides support to the Council and discounted rates for investigations. Wilkin Chapman LLP, a firm of solicitors, was appointed to investigate this matter in late July 2016.

- 2.3 It may be helpful at this stage to advise Members that former Councillor Mark Jones resigned as a Member of Coleshill Town Council, and this Council, with effect from 19 May 2017. Given the nature and number of complaints and the stage this investigation had reached I decided it was in the public interest to conclude the report and that it should be reported to Members. The report is marked private and confidential and remained so whilst I considered it. In accordance with usual practice however the matter is reported in public session, again due to the nature and number of the complaints and in the interests of transparency. Mr Jones is no longer subject to the Councillor Code of Conduct and therefore no hearing is being held, as would otherwise

be required by the Council's procedures, and no sanctions can be imposed. The issue of whether there has been a criminal breach of the Code of Conduct with regard to pecuniary interests could be passed to the Police for consideration. Members will see that this matter has been considered, as set out in paragraphs 6.1 to 6.6 and paragraphs 7.50 to 7.52 of the report. The investigators are of the view that there is insufficient evidence that former Councillor Jones sought to influence issues within which he had a pecuniary interest. I agree with that view and in all the circumstances of the case I have decided to take no further action in respect of that matter.

- 2.4 Prior to the investigators looking into the allegation there was a significant legal issue to be resolved. Coleshill Town Council had, until June 2016, failed to adopt a Code of Conduct for Councillors following changes to the legislation in this area as a result of the Localism Act 2011. Wilkin Chapman was therefore asked to consider the impact of this on the complaints and in September 2016 they confirmed that none of the conduct prior to June 2016 could be considered.
- 2.5 The next stage was therefore for me to consider each of the complaints individually to decide which should be investigated. This exercise was completed in October 2016. The opinion of one of the Council's Independent Persons was then needed and the complaints were sent to him in mid October 2016. The Independent Person confirmed his agreement with the matters being passed for investigation on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2016. The papers were then passed to the investigator on the 8<sup>th</sup> November and the investigation proceeded as set out in the report.
- 2.6 In addition to the action detailed above, I advised Coleshill Town Council at several points between August and December 2016 on what action it could take as an employer, such as by restricting access to their staff.
- 2.7 As set out in paragraph 1.6 of the Executive Summary of the report, the investigators conclude that former Councillor Jones brought his office or Authority into disrepute, behaved disrespectfully and engaged in bullying and intimidatory behaviour. I agree with those findings.
- 2.8 For the reasons set out above the Committee is asked to note the report.

The Contact Officer for this report is Steve Maxey (719438).

CONFIDENTIAL REPORT



North Warwickshire  
Borough Council

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Report of an investigation by Wilkin Chapman LLP, appointed by the Monitoring Officer for North Warwickshire Borough Council into allegations concerning former Councillor Mark Edward Jones of Coleshill Town Council.

29 September 2017

# VOLUME 1 REPORT

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## CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

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## CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Mark Jones was a Conservative member of Coleshill Town Council. He resigned as a councillor in the course of the investigation which gave rise to this report.
- 1.2 Throughout this report any reference made regarding former Councillor Jones refers to him as Councillor Jones for ease and clarity of reading.
- 1.3 Numerous reports and complaints were lodged with the Monitoring Officer of North Warwickshire Borough Council relating to bullying and intimidating behaviours allegedly displayed by Councillor Jones along with information suggesting that Councillor Jones had business interests which he failed to disclose and from which he derived financial benefit.
- 1.4 Complaints were made alleging that Councillor Jones:
- acted in an aggressive and rude manner. This was in respect of other councillors, the Town Council's staff and contractors;
  - undermined and overly challenged the Clerk and the legitimate, general decision making process of the Town Council;
  - was overly dominating and disruptive concerning various Town Council projects and issues; and
  - had breached the adopted Code of Conduct by seeking to influence an issue in which he had a pecuniary interest.
- 1.5 We have considered whether Councillor Jones's actions amounted to a breach of the Council's Code of Conduct.
- 1.6 We have concluded that:-
- (a) Councillor Jones was acting in an official capacity in relation to the conduct alleged;
  - (b) Councillor Jones conducted himself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing his office or Authority into disrepute;
  - (c) Councillor Jones' behaviour was such that a reasonable person would not regard it as respectful;
  - (d) Councillor Jones' behaviour was such that a reasonable person would regard it as bullying or intimidatory;
  - (e) Councillor Jones received remuneration for work provided relating to Coleshill Carnival; and
  - (f) There has been insufficient evidence to suggest that Councillor Jones sought to influence issues within which he had a pecuniary interest.
- 1.7 Our conclusion is that there has been a breach of the Code of Conduct of the Council by Councillor Jones.

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### 2. Councillor Jones' official details

2.1 Councillor Jones was a member of Coleshill Town Council with a responsibility for Coleshill South Ward. Councillor Jones was elected into this position in May 2015.

2.2 He was also a member of North Warwickshire Borough Council.

2.3 He held membership of the following committees:-

- Community and Environment Board;
- Planning and Development Board;
- Safer Communities Sub-Committee;
- Area Forum South; and
- Lead Councillor on IT.

2.4 He had been appointed by the Council to the following external bodies:

- Birmingham Airport Consultative Committee.

2.5 Councillor Jones was also a member of the Coleshill Carnival Committee.

2.6 Councillor Jones had not received any training on the NALC Councillor and Clerk Protocols (having given apologies on the morning of training), February 2016, or Coleshill Town Council 'Code of Conduct', adopted 15 June 2016, as no training had been offered.

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### 3. Relevant legislation and protocols

- 3.1 Section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 (the Act) provides that a relevant authority (of which the Council is one) must promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members of the authority. In discharging this duty, the Council must adopt a code dealing with the conduct that is expected of members when they are acting in that capacity.
- 3.2 Section 28 of the Act provides that the Council must secure that its code of conduct is, when viewed as a whole, consistent with the following principles:-
- (a) Selflessness;
  - (b) Integrity;
  - (c) Objectivity;
  - (d) Accountability;
  - (e) Openness;
  - (f) Honesty;
  - (g) Leadership.
- 3.3 These principles reflect the 'Seven Principles of public life' as detailed in the Committee on Standards in public life guidance published 31 May 1995.
- 3.4 The Council adopted a Code of Conduct (attached at WC 1) on 15 June 2016 in which the following paragraphs are included:

#### *“Introduction*

*Pursuant to section 27 of the localism Act 2011, Coleshill Town Council ('the Council') has adopted this Code of Conduct to promote and maintain high standards of behaviour by its members and co-opted members whenever they conduct the business of the Council, including the business of the office to which they were elected or appointed, or when they claim to act or give the impression of acting as a representative of the Council.*

#### *Member Obligations*

*When a member of the Council acts, claims to act or gives the impression of acting as a representative of the Council, he/she has the following obligations.*

- 1) He/she shall behave in such a way that a reasonable person would regard as respectful.*
- 2) He/she shall not act in a way which a reasonable person would regard as bullying or intimidatory.*
- 3) He/she shall not seek to improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person.*

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- 4) *He/she shall use the resources of the Council in accordance with its requirements.*
- 5) *He/she shall not disclose information which is confidential or where disclosure is prohibited by law.*

### *Registration of Interests*

- 6) *Within 28 days of this Code being adopted by the Council, or the member's election or the co-opted member's appointment (where that is later), he/she shall register with the Monitoring Officer the interests which fall within the categories set out in Appendices A and B.*
- 7) –
- 8) *A member shall register with the Monitoring Officer any change of interests or new interests in appendices A and B within 28 days of becoming aware of it.*
- 9) *A member need only declare the existence but not the details of any interest which the Monitoring Officer agrees is a sensitive interest'. A sensitive interest is one which, if disclosed on a public register, could lead the member or a person connected to the member to be subject to violence or intimidation."*

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### 4. Evidence and facts

#### *Our appointment*

- 4.1 North Warwickshire Borough Council's arrangements for dealing with standards complaints provide that the Monitoring Officer (MO) of that Council, in consultation with the appointed Independent Person, shall decide whether or not to investigate a complaint.
- 4.2 On conclusion of the internal review the MO issued the Decision Notice (attached at WC 2) and referred the complaint for further investigation.
- 4.3 In November 2016 the MO instructed Wilkin Chapman LLP to perform their investigatory functions in respect of these complaints.
- 4.4 The investigation was carried out by Jonathan Goolden and Terry Ball. Jonathan Goolden holds a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in Law from the University of Sheffield. He is a solicitor, partner and an accredited mediator. He has been employed by various local authorities as a solicitor for a period of fourteen years and has held the position of Monitoring Officer in two authorities for six years. He has carried out over 270 investigations of members of local authorities and other public bodies.
- 4.5 Mr Ball is a former senior police officer who, through his police service, has conducted many sensitive police misconduct investigations. He holds a Bachelor of Science Honours degree in Policing from the University of Portsmouth. He has worked closely with local authorities and other public bodies and is an accredited hostage negotiator and mediator.

#### *The investigation*

- 4.6 During the investigation, Mr Ball gathered information in the form of telephone interviews and email communications from individuals identified as being relevant to the investigation. Signed statements were taken from:
  - Mr Colin Greatorex, Town Clerk for Coleshill Town Council (interview date 9 January 2017, transcript signed 31 January 2017);
  - Ms Zoe Hilcox, Deputy Town Clerk for Coleshill Town Council (interview 16 January 2017, transcript signed 7 February 2017);
  - Ms Helen Whittaker, Admin Manager for Coleshill Town Council (interview 19 January 2017, transcript signed 14 February 2017);
  - Ms Kate Shtrezi, Records Assistant for Coleshill Town Council (interview 17 January 2017, transcript signed 10 February 2017);
  - Councillor Kirsteen Wootton, Independent Councillor, Chair of Resources and Amenities Committee (interview 19 January 2017, transcript signed 7 March 2017);
  - Councillor Dominic Ferro, Labour Councillor (interview 16 January 2017, transcript signed 24 February 2017);

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- Councillor Harry Taylor, Labour Councillor (interview 11 January 2017, transcript signed 17 February 2017);
  - Councillor Adam Farrell, Labour Councillor (interview 11 January 2017, transcript signed 9 February 2017);
  - Councillor Adam Richardson, Labour Councillor (previously Conservative Councillor) (interview 9 January 2017, transcript signed 9 February 2017);
  - Mr Dewi Jones, Managing Director - Greensleeves Lawncare (interview 11 January 2017, transcript signed 7 February 2017);
  - Ms Sue Moore, Director – Moore Environment (interview 10 January 2017, transcript signed 22 February 2017);
  - Mr Declan Rooney, Landscape Architect – Moore Environment (interview 17 January 2017, transcript signed 8 March 2017);
  - Ms Marie Brotheridge, Secretary – Friends of the Memorial Park (FOMP), resigned (interview 17 January 2017, transcript signed 10 February 2017);
  - Ms Julie Gregory, Treasurer – Friends of the Memorial Park (FOMP), resigned (interview 16 January 2017, transcript signed 9 February 2017);
  - Not signed - Mr Michael Ford-Terry, Chairman – Coleshill Carnival (interview 9 February 2017, Draft statement sent for amendment/signature 9 February 2017)
- 4.7 Despite numerous attempts at corresponding with Councillor Jones he would not engage in an interview process with Mr Ball. This continued, even after intervention by the MO reminding Councillor Jones of the necessity and duty to engage in this process.
- 4.8 In light of the unwillingness to undertake any form of interview with Mr Ball a comprehensive list of questions was compiled (attached at WC 3) and sent to Councillor Jones for response or comment on 22 May 2017, with an accompanying email requesting a response by 5 June 2017.
- 4.9 Councillor Jones did not acknowledge receipt of these questions or offer a response to date. On receiving a copy of the draft version of this report, Councillor Jones made a number of comments including calling for additional witnesses to be contacted. These comments and our response to them are set out in section 6 below.
- 4.10 Copies of the above, together with other relevant documents, are annexed to this report and listed in a schedule of evidence at Appendix A.
- 4.11 I wish to record our thanks for the co-operation and courtesy shown to us by all those we had cause to contact during the investigation.

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### *Background*

- 4.12 By way of background, we have made reference to email threads that provide information relating to the complaints against Councillor Jones.
- 4.13 The email threads need to be read as part of an overall picture and therefore should not to be read in isolation. To do so would cause them to be taken out of context.
- 4.14 We therefore invite the recipients of this report to refer to the paginated numbers aligned to each email which will enable the reader to cross reference the relevant person to the email thread and accompanying statement.
- 4.15 Initial complaints and interactions are recorded within email communications compiled and recorded by the MO. We attach the following:-
- Complainant Colin Greatorex – emails dated 10.06.16, 04.07.16, 05.08.16, 24.08.16, 25.08.16, 09.09.16, 13.09.16, 14.09.16, 16.09.16, and 21.10.16 (attached at WC 4 – schedule of evidence page 15);
  - Complainant Adam Farrell – emails dated 16.06.16 and 28.06.16 (attached at WC 5 – schedule of evidence page 83);
  - Complainant Harry Taylor – email dated 17.06.16 (attached at WC 6 – schedule of evidence page 85);
  - Complainant Adam Richardson – email dated 18.08.16 and 20.10.16 (attached at WC 7 – schedule of evidence page 91);
  - Complainant Sue Moore – emails dated 19.10.16 and 20.10.16 (attached at WC 8 – schedule of evidence page 95);
  - Complainant Dewi Jones – email dated 18.10.16 (attached at WC 9 – schedule of evidence page 102);
  - Complainant Zoe Hilcox – email dated 23.08.16 (attached at WC 10 – schedule of evidence page 104);
  - Complainant Kate Shtrezi – email dated 25.08.16 (attached at WC 11 – schedule of evidence page 106).
- 4.16 It is noteworthy that, as opposed to a singular complainant, in this case there are multiple complainants, independent of each other, all complaining of a similar and continuous course of action.

### *Mr Colin Greatorex*

- 4.17 Mr Greatorex was interviewed by means of telephone interview from which a statement was formulated and subsequently signed (attached at WC 12). Mr Greatorex stated that:
- (a) he had worked as the Town Clerk for Coleshill Town Council since October 2012;

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- (b) he had close contact with administrative staff, elected councillors and external contractors and saw his role as being a conduit between these groups;
- (c) prior to the adoption of the Code of Conduct by Coleshill Town Council on 15 June 2016, he believed the Council and its officers conformed to the guidance within the NALC Councillor and Clerk Protocols;
- (d) he raised this issue to show a continuous course of inappropriate and bullying behaviour which had been adopted by Councillor Mark Jones from his joining the Council in 2015 until the present day;
- (e) he had arranged for Councillor Jones to receive training under the Protocols. However, Councillor Jones withdrew from attendance on the day of training;
- (f) within an email dated 10 June 2016 to the Monitoring Officer he identified, *"constant criticism, constant disrespectful wording, constant bullying and intimidation, rubbishing of Council decisions, challenging my professionalism and the lack of apology/recognition of error"*. He stated that dealing with a constant stream of criticism distracted him from doing his duties;
- (g) since the adoption of the Code of Conduct Councillor Jones' behaviour had continued;
- (h) he identified that Councillor Jones used his stature, physical presence and loud booming voice in a manner that was rude and aggressive;
- (i) he gave an example of when Councillor Jones challenged his decisions across the open office space, within the sight and hearing of office staff;
- (j) he highlighted the level of questioning and demand for detail, by email and in person, that was so relentless that he used the word 'vexatious'. He perceived that the 'continued abuse of authority as a Councillor' undermined not only his confidence but that of his staff;
- (k) he felt that Councillor Jones had breached the Code of Conduct relating to prejudicial interest. On 4 July 2016 he sent an email to Michael Ford-Terry regarding damage caused by the funfair related to the Coleshill Carnival;
- (l) he identified an email trail resulting in Councillor Jones stating he would deal with any funfair issues;
- (m) he went on to highlight that Councillor Jones continuously stated that he could get anything done cheaper than through accepted channels;
- (n) as a result of the outcome regarding the memorial park damage he was confronted in the Coleshill Town Council offices in front of staff. This resulted in Councillor Jones 'shouting and bawling'. He perceived this behaviour as bullying, intimidating and humiliating;
- (o) Councillor Jones belittled the position of Town Clerk and reminded him that he did not have the authority to contradict him as a Councillor;

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- (p) his staff had observed this behaviour and supported him by maintaining a presence so they could act as witness;
- (q) he would now only meet with Councillor Jones if others were present;
- (r) There had been instances when Councillor Jones had 'barged' into his office, without invitation, irrespective of whether he was on the phone, dealing with someone or in meetings;
- (s) this had become such an issue he had moved offices in order to not be so readily available;
- (t) he has taken complaints from staff, councillors and external contractors regarding the behaviour of Councillor Jones;
- (u) he specified an incident in September 2016 where Councillor Jones challenged him relentlessly about minutes to such an extent that he believed Councillor Jones wished to influence their content contrary to established process;
- (v) another course of emails that 'affected him greatly' where the resultant sentence was "*Thank You only took two years to get something right*". He believed these were representative of all emails originating from Councillor Jones;
- (w) he believed that Councillor Jones was part of a printing company B46 Print, who provided fliers, banners and programmes to the value of some £1000 commissioned by the carnival committee;
- (x) the company B46 Print or details of any work relating to the provision of items for Coleshill Carnival, were not provided by Councillor Jones or recorded in required declarations of interests forms either with Coleshill Town Council or North Warwickshire Borough Council;
- (y) Councillor Jones used social media to rubbish the Council and conduct political arguments, identifying himself as a councillor, to the detriment of the Council and its officers' reputation;
- (z) the behaviour of Councillor Jones had made him consider his position within Coleshill Town Council, affected his health and made him modify his work practices to an extent that he was no longer 'open' or as productive.

*Ms Zoe Hilcox*

4.18 Ms Hilcox was interviewed by means of telephone interview from which a statement was formulated and subsequently signed (attached at WC 13). Ms Hilcox stated that:

- (a) she was the Deputy Town Clerk for Coleshill Town Council and had undertaken this role for four years, with responsibility for outdoor projects;
- (b) access to the offices of Coleshill Town Council were via a security controlled system where people were allowed entrance following being spoken to by the reception desk;

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- (c) councillors, as did the public, had to pass through this security system;
- (d) an incident occurred on Friday 5 August 2016 when she had asked Councillor Jones, as a Borough councillor, to speak to a member of the public which, he did within the office confines;
- (e) from a separate office she could hear Councillor Jones shouting at the Town Clerk in the main office area;
- (f) on entering the reception area she saw Councillor Jones shouting at the Town Clerk in what she described as a bullying and domineering manner;
- (g) Councillor Jones was a large man who used his physical presence to dominate people. In this instance she felt the situation was unprofessional and embarrassing and maintained a presence to listen to the conversation;
- (h) the Town Clerk continually attempted to pacify Councillor Jones, whom she said could not let the conversation be. The conversation went around in circles with Councillor Jones lambasting the Town Clerk;
- (i) there had been similar incidents in the open office where Councillor Jones had shouted at the Town Clerk, identifying that this inappropriate behaviour was affecting office morale;
- (j) at an open meeting of the Friends of the Memorial Park (FOMP) in September 2016, she had been present in her role of Deputy Town Clerk. Councillor Jones was also in attendance and spent an hour shouting over the Chairman and 'slagging off' the Council and councillors;
- (k) his actions and manner indicated he was clearly stating his point as a councillor and not as a member of the public;
- (l) following that meeting, the committee of volunteers resigned en-masse and put this down to Councillor Jones' behaviour;
- (m) there had been incidents when Councillor Jones had belittled her in respect of work she was undertaking relating to damage caused by the Fairground and replacement benches. His manner implied 'you don't know what you're talking about' which was linked to a sweep of his hand, dismissing her;
- (n) Councillor Jones' behaviour on social media and in the public arena was inappropriate in that he made flippant comments about Town Council staff 'not doing anything';
- (o) she had had no option but to disclose what she had witnessed as Councillor Jones' behaviour had caused distress to her staff;
- (p) Councillor Jones made it clear that his instructions were those of a councillor and the barrage of abuse greatly affected others.

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*Ms Helen Whittaker*

4.19 Ms Whittaker was interviewed by means of telephone interview from which a statement was formulated and subsequently signed (attached at WC 14). Ms Whittaker stated that:

- (a) she was the Administration Manager for Coleshill Town Council;
- (b) in August 2016 she had had cause to contact the Monitoring Officer by email regarding the continued and deteriorating behaviour of Councillor Jones as his behaviour was having a detrimental affect on the women in her office;
- (c) the women in the office were concerned regarding their safety and possible recrimination from Councillor Jones;
- (d) she felt his behaviour was underhand and identified an occasion where he had stated "*I have friends in the police*", leaving the sentence hanging in the air;
- (e) Councillor Jones was difficult, demanding and intimidating. He barged into the office, speaking rudely and disrespectfully to the Town Clerk continually to challenge him, trying to bully and intimidate him to change his actions;
- (f) his behaviour often occurred in front of staff members and members of the public;
- (g) his behaviour in person was often followed up by emails, as well as being discussed on social media;
- (h) there was an ongoing incident involving damage caused by a council vehicle. This incident had become protracted, with Councillor Jones taking it upon himself to intervene. Councillor Jones escalated the incident involving other councillors, departments and her line management;
- (i) this incident had caused her to go home in tears, feeling disrespected and undermined. He had made her look a fool at the Borough Council;
- (j) due to Councillor Jones' continuous challenging in the office, they ensured there were two people present when he came in;
- (k) as a result of his continued attacks in emails she now kept her emails to a minimum;
- (l) he came into the office and started shouting about printing, saying that he could get things done cheaper and better than the staff could. He had no empathy or respect for anyone in the office;
- (m) the staff had considered resigning en-masse if his behaviour continued;
- (n) Councillor Jones had made everything at Coleshill Town Council grim.

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*Ms Kate Shtrezi*

4.20 Ms Shtrezi was interviewed by means of telephone interview from which a statement was formulated and subsequently signed (attached at WC 15). Ms Shtrezi stated that:

- (a) she had been a Records Assistant with Coleshill Town Council since 2014. Her role included many IT related tasks and also cover for reception;
- (b) as background, she relayed an ongoing interaction with Councillor Jones, where he felt the IT infrastructure at Coleshill Town Council was inadequate;
- (c) she had a number of meetings with Councillor Jones and others. She was aware that he knew her name. However, on numerous occasions he would 'deliberately' get her name wrong as a tactic to dismiss and undermine her at the meetings;
- (d) there had been an incident in August 2016 when Councillor Jones attended the office whilst closed. He had challenged her regarding her lack of placing items on the Council webpage relating to Coleshill Carnival. During this interaction he referred to her as 'staff' and excluded her from the conversation, speaking only to the Town Clerk in her presence and talking about her as if she was not there;
- (e) this continued behaviour, putting her in her place and undermining her, left her in a position where she no longer offered comment or spoke;
- (f) Councillor Jones was a large man, of big build who made a point of leaning over you and dominating one's personal space;
- (g) there had been incidents where Councillor Jones had barged past her when she was on reception duties, storming into the back office to speak to the Town Clerk, irrespective of what the Town Clerk was doing;
- (h) he used his position as a Councillor and dominating presence to get what he wanted, making everyone feel like they were there to serve him;
- (i) her engagement with Councillor Jones had damaged her confidence and she worried about what she said in meetings. When he was present she just nodded and agreed;
- (j) Councillor Jones' demeanour was aggressive and intimidating with his constant visits and negative jibes making the work atmosphere very low;
- (k) she no longer felt comfortable dealing with Councillor Jones and did not want to deal with him in person, preferring to communicate in writing so things were recorded;
- (l) his behaviour was such that she had looked for other employment;

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- (m) she was worried about disclosing a statement as she was due to go on maternity leave.

### *Councillor Kirsteen Wootton*

4.21 Councillor Wootton was interviewed by means of telephone interview from which a statement was formulated and subsequently signed (attached at WC 16). Councillor Wootton stated that:

- (a) she was an Independent Councillor on Coleshill Town Council and had been on the Town Council since 2012. She had held the role of Mayor during 2015 – 2016. She was currently Chairman of the Resources and Amenities Committee which gave her councillor responsibility for staff;
- (b) she felt she was the go to person and often had staff or other councillors approach her due to her responsibilities and independence;
- (c) she had received numerous emails, spanning many months, regarding Councillor Jones' inappropriate tone in emails, pestering questions and manner of questioning that she described as 'vexatious';
- (d) there had been an incident where Councillor Jones escalated an incident that was, in her view, being professionally dealt with by Helen Whittaker. She felt the content of Councillor Jones' communication was curt, rude and critical not only to Ms Whittaker but to others, including the Town Clerk who, as Ms Whittaker's line manager, made attempts to challenge Councillor Jones' behaviour;
- (e) since June 2016 she had spoken to a number of staff who had indicated that Councillor Jones' behaviour was such that they insisted on having two people present when he attended the office;
- (f) there had been an incident when she had attended the Town Hall to see Kate Shtrezi very upset after she had been confronted by Councillor Jones. At that time she had challenged Councillor Jones, informing him that his criticism was unjustifiable;
- (g) there had been another incident when Councillor Jones had taken it upon himself to criticise and challenge the Town Clerk regarding movement of containers in the Memorial park;
- (h) she had again had to intervene in speaking to the parties concerned with the containers and found the criticism again invalid as the Town Clerk was following instruction and was acting within Standing Order guidance;
- (i) she was aware that Councillor Jones' behaviour had left staff demoralised and dispirited, feeling vulnerable and susceptible due to his bullying. One member of staff had been signed off ill due directly in part to his bullying. This was inappropriate behaviour from an elected councillor;
- (j) Councillor Jones showed continued disdain for the Town Clerk, refusing to see anything positive within the administration and showed a lack of knowledge or contempt of the Codes of Conduct;

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- (k) she has been approached by other councillors who were upset by Councillor Jones' inappropriate behaviour towards them and towards others in the Council;
- (l) the atmosphere that had been created by Councillor Jones was poisonous;
- (m) the hostility and disharmony caused by Councillor Jones was reducing the confidence in the role of councillor and the perceived lack of action against such behaviour adversely affected the reputation of the Town Council.

### *Councillor Dominic Ferro*

4.22 Councillor Ferro was interviewed by means of telephone interview from which a statement was formulated and subsequently signed (attached at WC 17). Councillor Ferro stated that:

- (a) he was a Labour Borough Councillor with North Warwickshire Borough Council and covered the area of Coleshill North. He had been a Councillor for six years. Between the years of 2013 – 2014 he was Mayor for North Warwickshire;
- (b) he felt he needed to identify a course of action undertaken by Councillor Jones that had spanned such a period it could not be taken in isolation;
- (c) there had been an incident when he was Mayor when he had spoken to Councillor Jones, who was then a trader, showing support for local business. This ended with Councillor Ferro challenging the then Mr Jones for inappropriate use of his photograph. Since that incident Councillor Jones has been 'obnoxious, rude and arrogant' towards him;
- (d) he was wary of engaging with Councillor Jones as he invariably 'attacked' Councillor Ferro verbally and through social media;
- (e) there had been an incident on social media, Facebook, in September 2016 when Councillor Jones had lied about Park Equipment. This was a protracted trail, identifying both parties as councillors;
- (f) he felt so aggrieved by the tone and perceived incorrect information that he logged this as a complaint with the Town Clerk;
- (g) due to Councillor Jones' behaviour he sought to avoid contact with him, other than within a Council arena;
- (h) there had been an incident in December 2016 when he had attended the Coleshill Xmas Fayre with his mother. Councillor Jones made contact with him at this event. Councillor Jones' attendance at the Fayre was within his role as Councillor as he was with others and was part of the Carnival Committee;
- (i) Councillor Jones referred to him saying "Hello Fatboy", followed up by pushing his chest out and pushing him repeatedly. Colleagues of

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Councillor Jones pulled him away and verbally disassociated themselves from the incident;

- (j) other members of the community must have seen the incident. That, along with his continued aggressive presence on social media, barraging anyone who conflicted with him, was not what was expected of an elected official.

### *Councillor Harry Taylor*

4.23 Councillor Taylor was interviewed by means of telephone interview from which a statement was formulated and subsequently signed (attached at WC 18). Councillor Taylor stated that:

- (a) he was a Labour Councillor on Coleshill Town Council and had undertaken this role since 2011. He had undertaken the role of Mayor between 2014 and 2015 and sat on the Council's Resources Committee;
- (b) many of the incidents relating to Councillor Jones originate prior to 15 June 2015 but continued to the present;
- (c) there had been a previous incident relating to a Love Coleshill meeting where Councillor Jones had dominated the meeting to such an extent that people were upset and in tears. Councillor Jones was expelled from the group which was, in his words, 'destroyed'. However, it is now re-growing;
- (d) he had personally seen Councillor Jones shout down the Town Clerk, speak over people, glaring and shouting at them, even to the extent where he caused members of his own party to fall in line;
- (e) in an email to Steve Maxey of 16 June 2016 he had referred to Councillor Jones saying, "*he is becoming increasingly unhinged*", concluding that the Town Clerk was finding it very difficult to carry out even basic tasks without vexatious interference from Councillor Jones;
- (f) the Council has received complaints from Moore Environment stating they were furious that Councillor Jones was criticising them through social media. Labour and Independent members voted to remove Councillor Jones from the Memorial Park working group;
- (g) Councillor Jones' public and private rudeness to the Town Clerk was disgusting and he was surprised that the Town Clerk had not resigned due to this treatment;
- (h) he drew attention to a stream of emails from Councillor Jones and had asked him repeatedly to stop emailing him or copying everyone else (councillors) into email threads;
- (i) he had asked Councillor Jones to stop emailing him due to their aggressive, rude and confrontational tone. Councillor Jones refused without official directive;
- (j) in an extensive email on 13 September 2016, outlining to Councillor Jones the reasoning behind his request to cease contact, he highlighted that he felt the behaviour of Councillor Jones frustrated the

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running of the Council and gave the appearance to the public that the Council no longer ran efficiently;

- (k) he felt that the behaviours displayed by Councillor Jones were not isolated and were in fact a shared ordeal, encouraging them to not feel bullied and to stand up for decency and themselves;
- (l) he had personally seen the Town Clerk being continually bullied by Councillor Jones in person and in emails;
- (m) the demands of Councillor Jones towards the Town Clerk were vexatious and to such a level that he did not have a 'hope in hell' of doing his job;
- (n) Councillor Jones used social media to constantly attack Council policy and tried to undermine the Town Council in a public arena;
- (o) he had heard comment from the public referring to the Council as 'Clowns' and that the 'Circus is already in Town';
- (p) the thought of coming forward had given him sleepless nights, worrying about being attacked and bullied by Councillor Jones to an extent where he had moved house to get away from constant attack;
- (q) he concluded in saying that the behaviour of Councillor Jones was 'soul destroying', fearing that the Town Clerk and others may resign should the issue not be resolved.

### *Councillor Adam Farrell*

4.24 Councillor Farrell was interviewed by means of telephone interview from which a statement was formulated and subsequently signed (attached at WC 19). Councillor Farrell stated that:

- (a) he was a Labour Councillor with Coleshill Town Council and had been so since 2011. He was also the Leader of the Labour Group and also fulfilled the role of a Borough Councillor;
- (b) Councillor Jones had an aggressive personality and got fixated without evidence. He felt that Councillor Jones provided opposition for oppositions sake;
- (c) he felt that Councillor Jones had a Jekyll and Hyde personality, displaying a different character at Borough Council than that at Town Council;
- (d) he made a formal complaint to Steve Maxey in June 2016 stating that Councillor Jones' behaviour fell short of that required within the Nolan Principles, stating he was aggressive, obstructive and intimidating and that he failed to abide by Council decisions and Standing orders;
- (e) Councillor Jones had breached Standing Orders in that he had attended the Memorial Park and had given contractors instructions identifying himself as a councillor, thus breaching the order that prohibits members inspecting land without prior delegation;

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- (f) Councillor Jones had attended the Memorial Park and confronted contractors. He had attended a Friends of the Memorial Park meeting, causing upset and the group to fold. He had upset the main contractor Sue Moore, Moore Environment in his presence by being impolite and domineering;
- (g) the behaviour of Councillor Jones had affected Sue Moore to an extent where she had gone from being full of energy and enthusiasm to being 'head down' and monotone. He felt Councillor Jones has destroyed her confidence;
- (h) Councillor Jones was hostile to anyone involved in the Memorial Park project;
- (i) there had been a drawn out social media exchange in October 2016 when Councillor Jones had used a community Facebook page to air his political views and attack the Council and other councillors regarding a community bonfire. This had included making a proclamation which included blatant lies;
- (j) Councillor Jones did not follow Council procedure regarding the declaration of interests, citing an incident where damage was caused to Council land and voting on grant awards when he had had involvement in both groups;
- (k) he had seen Councillor Jones bully and harass a member of the Conservative Party to such an extent that the member crossed the floor, joining Labour. This behaviour of such intensity that the member, when offered a lift, asked if he could hide in the boot of a car rather than risk being seen by Councillor Jones;
- (l) he felt Councillor Jones' behaviour has escalated out of control;
- (m) he felt that Councillor Jones had focussed on pay and conditions, relentlessly pursuing the Town Clerk with incessant questions and challenges;
- (n) he felt that the tone of emails from Councillor Jones was inappropriate stating, 'interspersing his aggressive narrative with capital letters. I can almost see him screaming at his computer';
- (o) he felt that the behaviour of Councillor Jones towards staff and in particular, the Town Clerk, was causing them to disengage;
- (p) he concluded by saying the morale and standards at Coleshill Town Council were deteriorating and that it was impacting on service delivery. He felt that people were suffering at the hands of Councillor Jones and feared they may suffer stress or leave.

### *Councillor Adam Richardson*

4.25 Councillor Richardson was interviewed by means of telephone interview from which a statement was formulated and subsequently signed (attached at WC 20). Councillor Richardson stated that:

- (a) he was a Labour Councillor with Coleshill Town Council and had been a councillor for two years;

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- (b) it was important to note that prior to December 2016 he was a Conservative Councillor with Coleshill Town Council. He said that a continuous course of bullying behaviour undertaken towards him by Councillor Jones was the singular reason for him believing his position was untenable and had resulted in his crossing the floor to the Labour Group;
- (c) on 16 June 2016 he contacted Steve Maxey, raising a formal complaint relating to the behaviour of Councillor Jones stating, 'he fails to meet the Nolan Principles, operates in an aggressive, obstructive and intimidating manner and fails to abide by Council decisions';
- (d) he also raised a complaint regarding Councillor Jones inspecting Council land without prior delegation;
- (e) in extensive emails Councillor Jones had informed him that the Conservative Party had said "I've just been told I'm a naughty boy, and that the party have told him to behave";
- (f) he highlighted an incident during August 2016 on Coleshill High Street relating to the Coleshill Star Awards where Councillor Jones had confronted him, using his physical presence and loud voice, 'belittling him' in the presence of the public;
- (g) he had attempted to talk to Councillor Jones about his behaviour as advised by Stacey Ingram. When he had he stated Councillor Jones laughed it off saying "its the way he was" and "get used to it, its politics, grow a pair";
- (h) Councillor Jones had made many telephone calls to him to belittle him and avoid any evidential trail;
- (i) There had been an incident when he had told Councillor Jones he had aspirations to become Mayor. Again Councillor Jones took the opportunity to belittle him saying, "You don't look the part to be a Mayor";
- (j) Councillor Jones had told him he could make his life hell in the Council and constantly used his position as Leader of the Conservative party in Coleshill so he made sure it was Councillor Jones who was in charge;
- (k) he concluded by saying the behaviour of Councillor Jones has affected him so much he has considered stepping down as a councillor but feels he should not be beaten by Councillor Jones and must stand his ground.

### *Mr Dewi Jones*

4.26 Mr Jones was interviewed by means of telephone interview from which a statement was formulated and subsequently signed (attached at WC 21). Mr Jones stated that:-

- (a) he was the Managing Director of Greensleeves Lawncare with offices based at, The Blue Box, Storage Solutions, Station Road, Coleshill;

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- (b) Greensleaves Lawncare had won a contract with Coleshill Town Council in December 2016. The contract was to maintain and repair football pitches. This contract was supported by Councillor Jones;
- (c) Councillor Jones attended his offices on 18 October 2016 and confronted him face to face in what could be described as a violent and aggressive manner, using foul language, stating he should 'mind his f'ing business' and that he 'didn't know what was going on in the f'ing Council';
- (d) during that protracted incident he had felt threatened and also that the situation may have resorted to violence on the part of Councillor Jones,
- (e) The content of this confrontation and behaviour caused him to raise a formal complaint with Steve Maxey;
- (f) he said that Councillor Jones operated a business, B46 Print, from the same office complex as he did and highlighted conversations regarding the use of land for the firework display and bonfire;
- (g) he used social media and described an interaction on Facebook, identifying confrontational threads where Councillor Jones had identified himself as a councillor and related negatively to the Council, other councillors and referred to Council minutes in a negative manner;
- (h) he referred to an email to Steve Maxey on 14 November 2016 in which he described Councillor Jones as 'challenging' and 'rude, highlighting reference to a £1,000 grant from Coleshill Town Council towards the fireworks;
- (i) he felt that Councillor Jones was out of control and was a vulgar and ferocious man damaging the reputation of the Town Council;
- (j) he identified derogatory comments made by Councillor Jones regarding Councillors Harry Taylor, Adam Farrell and Sue Gascoigne, individually;
- (k) he closed stating "I do not expect a representative of the Council to storm into my workplace and release a tirade of abuse and foul language in such a threatening manner" and asked the Council to take action to curb his aggressive nature.

### *Ms Sue Moore*

4.27 Ms Moore was interviewed by means of telephone interview from which a statement was formulated and subsequently signed (attached at WC 22). Ms Moore stated that:

- (a) she was a Chartered Landscape Architect, Environmental Consultant and Environmental Coordinator with Moore Environment of which company she held the position of Director;
- (b) she had over 30 years experience in that profession and had undertaken several major schemes and projects. As director she managed and monitored the social media profile of the company;

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- (c) Moore Environment were appointed consultants by Coleshill Town Council with reference to the Memorial Park Project;
- (d) as consultants they undertook community consultation and worked with the Council through the tender process with successful applicants and appointments being approved by the full Council;
- (e) she was part of a working group to discuss design, development and tenders. Councillor Jones was also part of that group;
- (f) at the first meeting Councillor Jones stated he was unhappy with the project but did not expand on his criticism. At meetings he was challenging and demanding, even when matters had already been agreed;
- (g) Councillor Jones' involvement in the decision making process including the approval of the tender award for the works and he had praised the report recommending its transparency and thoroughness of process;
- (h) she was aware of negative Facebook threads, highlighting comments such as 'nobody seems to know what's going on' and 'badly managed' which gave the impression that details were kept secret and that he had no involvement in the tender process, which was factually incorrect;
- (i) she had received reports from contractors that Councillor Jones had visited the site and criticised work being undertaken, again stating that he had no involvement in the approval process;
- (j) on occasion Councillor Jones' attendance had stopped work and required management attendance to resolve issues and give direction;
- (k) she did not respond on social media due to her professional profile. However, she reported the actions of Councillor Jones to the Town Clerk as conduit between contractors and the Council;
- (l) the clear use of the social media platform by Councillor Jones was that of a councillor, to reach out to the community, and not as a private individual;
- (m) she explained the role of the Friends of the Memorial Park (FOMP) and their capacity to access external future development funding unavailable to the Council;
- (n) she identified an email dated 14 September 2016 in which she stated she would be unable to attend a FOMP meeting until action was taken to manage Councillor Jones' behaviour. She highlighted his hostility and negativity at group meetings and identified his behaviour as the reason for the FOMP folding;
- (o) as a result of the FOMP folding, Councillor Jones' behaviour had caused significant harm regarding potential grant and funding opportunities and that it had a wider impact regarding community opportunities relating to health and wellbeing;

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- (p) she found working with Councillor Jones 'stressful', his constant challenging and demand for information was unworkable;
- (q) Councillor Jones had implied that another contractor, Jack Moody, was ripping us (the Council) off and that he could get materials and work done cheaper. She found this behaviour undermining and offensive;
- (r) she had never seen such behaviour displayed in her experience of working with public authorities and had never seen such hostility for a project;
- (s) she had raised her complaint with specific regard to the displayed behaviours towards the FOMP, contractors and the fact that Councillor Jones appeared to be working against the community benefitting from such projects;
- (t) she closed by identifying the negative impact that Councillor Jones had regarding the perception of the work of the Councillors and the Council.

### *Mr Declan Rooney*

4.28 Mr Rooney was interviewed by means of telephone interview from which a statement was formulated and subsequently signed (attached at WC 23). Mr Rooney stated that:

- (a) he was a Landscape Architect, Environmental Consultant and Environmental Coordinator with Moore environment. He has 10 years experience in landscape architecture and had worked with Moore Environment for 3½ years;
- (b) his role was that of managing works and on site project management whilst acting as liaison between the Town Council, the public and contractors;
- (c) he explained the consultation and tender process along with the approval of contracts and master plan by the full Council;
- (d) Councillor Jones was part of the working group set up to act as a conduit between, the public, contractors and the Council;
- (e) he felt his key role was to foster good relations between interested parties;
- (f) at the first meeting with Councillor Jones, Councillor Jones had identified that he was unhappy with the project. Councillor Jones' conduct at working group meetings was challenging and demanding and often about issues already resolved;
- (g) Councillor Jones was part of the working group that approved tender documentation and the recommendations for the successful tenderer;
- (h) he was made aware that Councillor Jones was less than complementary about the project and its management on social media;

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- (i) he had received several reports from site staff that Councillor Jones had attended the Memorial Park Project and given criticism. He felt Councillor Jones also left staff in a confused state as to how to proceed, causing him to have to attend the site and resolve issues;
- (j) his attendance at the site on a number of occasions had caused Sue Moore to complain to the Town Clerk relating specifically to the negativity and interference of Councillor Jones;
- (k) Councillor Jones had a negative impact on the process, causing delays and confusion on site;
- (l) he closed by saying that the behaviour of Councillor Jones did not benefit the community and that he would expect more from an elected official.

### *Ms Marie Brotheridge*

4.29 Ms Brotheridge was interviewed by means of telephone interview from which a statement was formulated and subsequently signed (attached at WC 24). Ms Brotheridge stated that:

- (a) she was the Secretary of the Coleshill Cricket Club, a resident of Coleshill and until September 2016 had been the Secretary of the Friends of the Memorial Park (FOMP);
- (b) she had become involved with the FOMP as she had an interest in her community;
- (c) she had attended three meetings in total before resigning;
- (d) the first two meetings were as 'on the whole positive', focussing around raising money for the project and the future;
- (e) the third meeting was held in September 2016 at the Coleshill Cricket Club. There were a lot of people in attendance along with Councillor Jones;
- (f) Councillor Jones really upset things at that meeting, sneering about the Park project and monopolising the meeting. He had shown contempt regarding the other Town Councillors 'sneering', and stating 'even I haven't seen updated plans for the park';
- (g) he had encouraged dissent in the attendees, and had taken over the meeting, diverting it away from positive discussion;
- (h) he had cut off the groups speakers, talking over them and talking loudly so as to dominate the meeting;
- (i) he was rude and unnecessary. Others had tried to interject, however, Councillor Jones spoke over them;
- (j) he made it clear from his narrative that he was a councillor and barked his answers at the panel, clearly putting his role on show;
- (k) he had enjoyed how he had undermined the group and embarrassed her, 'he had a grin on his face like a bully';

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- (l) he was so domineering that he had put her off to such an extent she would never get involved again;
- (m) on 14 September 2016 she had sent an extensive email to the Town Clerk complaining about Councillor Jones, stating 'is it right that he should attend these meetings in his capacity of a councillor';
- (n) she highlighted that his behaviour had made her frustrated and very angry;
- (o) she had spoken to the Chairman and Treasurer of FOMP and they all agreed that they could not carry on and highlighted that someone acting as a councillor changed the focus of the group;
- (p) Councillor Jones had taken over the meeting as his platform;
- (q) she was deeply upset in that she felt she could contribute to the Town but that had been taken away and her confidence was damaged;
- (r) she closed by highlighting that she had resigned because of the pressure placed on her and the rest of the group by Councillor Jones. She felt that Councillor Jones should not be a councillor.

### *Ms Julie Gregory*

4.30 Ms Gregory was interviewed by means of telephone interview from which a statement was formulated and subsequently signed (attached at WC 25). Ms Gregory stated that:

- (a) she was a resident of Coleshill and worked within Coleshill Town Council;
- (b) she had been keen to become the Treasurer of FOMP and keen to promote its use. She saw it as a way of benefitting the communities of Coleshill;
- (c) Councillor Jones had attended the FOMP meeting of September 2016 with a number of members of the public. He had turned a normally pleasant meeting into an unpleasant and negative meeting;
- (d) he had riled up members of the public stating that money for the park had been spent wrongly;
- (e) his negativity and encouragement caused the public to bombard the panel with questions;
- (f) Councillor Jones had stated that people had not been properly consulted and that the project had been badly managed;
- (g) Councillor Jones had spoken clearly on Council matters, making it clear he was a councillor throughout the meeting;
- (h) she was annoyed and embarrassed and felt the panel had had to defend themselves, placing the reason for hostility being the encouragement of Councillor Jones;

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- (i) his bullying attitude and cajoling the public annoyed her;
- (j) she felt the resignation en-masse was sad and felt that FOMP could have been a positive thing for Coleshill.

4.31 Mr Ford-Terry was interviewed by means of a telephone interview from which a statement was formulated (attached at WC 26). At the time of submitting this report this statement has not been signed. We have considered what weight can be attached to Mr Ford-Terry's statement. Though obtained as a result of a telephone interview, in our view less weight should be attached to the statement because Mr Ford-Terry did not sign it. Its content is neither corroborated nor disputed by other evidence. It has been included to indicate the extent of enquiries made in relation to the allegations against Councillor Jones that he had an interest in the printing contract. Mr Ford-Terry stated that:

- (a) he was a builder and ran a company by the name of 'Attention to Detail'. He was based in Coleshill and, in addition to his building interests, he undertook voluntary work including involvement in Coleshill in Bloom and the Coleshill Carnival;
- (b) whilst on the Coleshill in Bloom committee he met Councillor Jones when he was placed on that committee as a Council representative. Later, Councillor Jones joined the Coleshill Carnival Committee and took on the role of vice Chair;
- (c) as part of the Carnival process the committee were looking to advertise the project. They asked Councillor Jones to put prices together for the aforementioned products. They had also looked at other providers;
- (d) any discussions regarding money were had without Councillor Jones being present as they did not want to compromise his position;
- (e) the price Councillor Jones quoted blew the other 'out of the water'. The price could only have given him a marginal profit, if any. It looked like they got charged for materials and overheads only. The committee actually assisted in folding and preparation of the items.

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### 5. Summary of the material facts

- 5.1 Mark Jones was a Conservative Councillor and a member of Coleshill Town Council with a responsibility for Coleshill South Ward.
- 5.2 Councillor Jones was elected into this position in May 2015. He was also a member of North Warwickshire Borough Council.
- 5.3 Interviews and subsequent signed statements would indicate oppressive, relentless and bullying conduct towards the Town Clerk, Colin Greatorex.
- 5.4 There is clear indication from witness statements and accounts that Councillor Jones interfered with the implementation of and negatively influenced public perception regarding the Coleshill Memorial Park Project. This was a result of his attendance and behaviour at meetings, causing the collapse and resignation en-masse of the Friends of the Memorial Park.
- 5.5 Moore Environment, being the company tasked with delivering the Memorial Park Project, was subjected to ongoing demands and interference by Councillor Jones both on site, with sub contractors and staff, and by questions and demands for information. This conduct was at such a level that it caused additional work and invariably reduced the ability to progress onwards with the project.
- 5.6 Councillor Jones attended Mr Dewi Jones' offices and subjected him to a verbal attack, incorporating foul and abusive language, as well as threatening behaviour.
- 5.7 The behaviours of Councillor Jones towards Coleshill Town Council staff resulted in staff adapting office procedures. Staff would ensure that they were in at least pairs when in the presence of Councillor Jones so that there was an additional witness to his behaviour. Staff felt it necessary to reduce interaction with Councillor Jones and provide support for each other in response to Councillor Jones' behaviour, in particular, to Colin Greatorex.
- 5.8 The accounts of other councillors all give similar narratives to the behaviours of Councillor Jones. The behaviours described are concurrent with that of Council staff and independent members of the public, describing aggressive and confrontational behaviours by Councillor Jones and indicating that his role within the Conservative party places him in a position of influence, above some other councillors, and in a position of outright conflict with others.
- 5.9 Enquiries into Council process regarding disclosure of personal interest clearly identifies that there are discrepancies in the disclosures provided by Councillor Jones, in particular, in relation to his involvement in B46 Print and the provision of goods and services to the Coleshill Carnival.

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### 6. Additional Submissions

- 6.1 The following comments were received from Colin Greatorex on the draft version of this report:

*"There are no changes I would seek when referring to the text which covers my own tele interview.*

*As a minor matter of detail, there is a reference in another's tele interview to "Sue Gascoigne." She is a Town Councillor and is known by her marital name of Sue Wallace, for clarification.*

*I have an observation on the disclosable pecuniary interest conclusion reached (sections 7.50, 7.51 and 7.52). It seems that you have recognised that Cllr. Jones received payment in the guise of 'B46 Print', a matter not disclosed. To not disclose a disclosable pecuniary interest is a legal matter. This is taken from the NALC guidance:*

#### *Criminal Offences*

*There are a number of potential criminal offences associated with:*

- the failure to register or disclose a DPI*
  - discussion and/or voting on a DPI.*
- Successful prosecutions can result in a fine of £5000 and disqualification for five years from your local council and from other local authorities.*

*Firstly, to not disclose the 'B46 Print' interest is therefore a potential criminal offence (first bullet point above).*

*Secondly, I would maintain you have evidence that Cllr. Jones challenged work at the Memorial Park wearing his Coleshill Carnival Committee "hat". His interference on site and challenge of Town Council actions sought to gain benefit for the Carnival Committee where he stood to gain financially through carnival entry and thereby the entry programme sales where he was the supplier. In doing so he was "discussing" matters where he had a DPI (second bullet).*

*Please advise:*

- Do you agree with my assertions?*
- If so, should these therefore form part of your conclusion?*
- If not within the remit of your reporting of the code of conduct, will you assist with taking forward the criminal actions, if agreed, for the Monitoring Officer?*

*Regards  
Colin Greatorex"*

#### *Response to Comments*

- 6.2 Mr Greatorex submitted comments on the draft report. These comments focus around the issues of disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI). This issue has been considered within the report at 7.50, 7.51 and 7.52 as mentioned by Mr Greatorex.

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- 6.3 Further to this, Mr Greatorex outlines issues of potential criminal offences that fall within the area of failure to disclose a DPI.
- 6.4 We have considered the information available and have discussed this, along with the fact that Councillor Jones has now resigned, with the MO Steve Maxey. The MO has indicated that he wished the investigation to be concluded in a proportionate manner. We consider it is not proportionate or productive to pursue allegations concerning possible interests further.
- 6.5 The MO has indicated that the final report will be presented to the Standards Board for consideration as to further action, if any.
- 6.6 We have carefully considered the evidence in this case together with the supplementary information provided by Mr Greatorex. We have not changed our findings in this report.
- 6.7 The following comments were received from Dewi Jones on the draft version of this report:-

*“many thanks for the report.  
I am shocked to see so many people being negatively affected by this person, now that he has “chosen” to resign they may be able to get on with their lives and continue their work for the Town and Borough.*

*When will this report hit the public domain and published?*

*regards  
Dewi”*

### *Response to Comments*

- 6.8 We have noted the comments of Mr Jones and as such have not changed our findings in the report.
- 6.9 The following comments were received from Sue Moore on the draft version of this report:-

*“My comments on the Draft Report are below. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any further information or clarification:-*

*4.27 g Councillor Jones (CJ) involvement in the decision making process including the approval of the tender award for the works and he had praised the report recommending the award saying it*

*4.27 j On occasion – not many occasions*

*4.27 n ...in which she would be unable to attend.. (not had refused)*

*4.27 o As a result of FOMP folding Councillor Jones’ behaviour...*

*4.28 j ...on a number of occasions....*

*NB – Mrs Marie Brotheridge – not Sue*

*5.4 cannot agree with ‘sought the demise of’ perhaps ‘interfere with the implementation and negatively influence public perception’*

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*5.5 Cannot agree with 'subjected to such demands and relentless interference' perhaps 'subjected to ongoing demands and interference'*

*5.5 ...invariable reduced the ability....*

*7.29 Cannot agree that he 'bullied' contractors and staff of Moore Environment – we had very little face to face contact. He was very disruptive to the contractor and his manner could be described as bullying to them – but in the terms of the definition it didn't 'undermine an individual or a group of individuals, it is detrimental to their confidence and capability, and may adversely affect their health' The comment about bullying the members of FOMP however is correct.*

*Kind regards  
Sue Moore”*

### *Response to Comments*

- 6.10 With regard to the comments made by Ms Sue Moore on the report. We have corrected any typographical errors within the report as identified and amended where appropriate the wording within the narrative to adequately reflect her sentiment and that of Moore Environment.
- 6.11 We have again carefully considered the evidence and looked into the areas where she has indicated she did not agree with the narrative, this again has been altered where appropriate to reflect her views.
- 6.12 With respect to the comments on the draft report made by Ms Moore our reflections are such that we have not changed our overall findings within this report.
- 6.13 On 11 August the following comments were received from Mark Jones on the draft version of this report:-

*“Thank You for your letter dated 27th July and received on 28th July and which contains a bundle of papers.*

*First, may I say your tone throughout the report is derogatory to myself and one sided and makes allegations that are unfounded which starts with your comment that you have found a breach of the code of conduct.*

*I was informed from the start of this enquiry by Steve Maxey and indeed by Terry Ball and yourself that your job was simply to put the facts into a report which would then be forwarded to the decision-making body. You have failed to do so and with the Breach of the code of conduct being an ALLEDGED breach and not proven you have made an opinion. It is not your job to offer opinion of guilt, you are NOT judge and jury, you are not the decision making body, yet throughout the report you present one side of the story and make unfounded allegations and opinions and fail in your duties to provide a level report for the information of the final body.*

*You have failed in looking at in particular the witnesses who have made telephone statements and their backgrounds omitting the facts*

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*that one is involved in the pornographic industry and is hardly a reliable witness, one is now not involved in Politics in Coleshill, has had complaints made against him which were not dealt with ( NOT by me by members of the public) and one other has had a number of complaints made against him again by members of the public and are points that have not even been looked at. Do you not think this affects the integrity of the so-called evidence? They all present evidence which attacks my integrity without the ability for me to question those attacks. I will be contacting them separately with responses. Most of the witnesses are also on one side of the Political spectrum a point which I think is important and proves a targeted campaign against me who is on the opposite bench. It should be of note that only 3 of the councillors on Coleshill Town Council have even made a statement, one is one of who made the complaint, one who has transferred to the opposite political spectrum. It is interesting that neither last years or this year's Mayor have commented and who are probably the most respected and established councillors. I would suggest that is because they also do not agree with the complaint or its contents. So only 3 of 10 councillors have replied to this complaint.*

*The civilian sides of your contacts namely Moore Environmental have a total conflict of interest and of course will not agree with me as I questioned their prices and managing of the project. You have failed to contact any other civilians who have complained several times. This is pure bias.*

*I have never seen such a one-sided report which offers evidence from one side only and offers statements from one side of the enquiry. I find it disgusting and a waste of taxpayers' money. I totally disagree with its findings which is what they are and dispute them in their entirety. I consider your methods of obtaining the evidence from the witnesses leading and biased and certainly not within any evidence rules when interviews are on the phone. Were these recorded if so may I have a copy please? If they are not recorded then they should have been and this highlights more concern.*

*I know you stated previously that this enquiry is not criminal so doesn't have to go by evidential rules but surely if that is the case then the evidence is incorrect wrong and not of any value at all. There does seem to have been a trial here but you can be assured the other 50% of the evidence is rather revealing as well and tells the truth. You have omitted this evidence from your enquiry and surely professional competence should mean you look at it.*

*Moving to your paragraph on confidential. Please can you forward to me where it states IN LAW that this document should be confidential. I have had this discussion with you before and this enquiry should be totally transparent and I encourage that. There are many lies from the statements provided and I will be following those issues up and if they are to be in Public view then so be it and I will do exactly that. However, if you send me evidence that the LAW states it must be confidential I will of course consider it. Please send this by return otherwise I will take it I am free to discuss with whoever I see fit. I would also like an explanation why this so called confidential rule does not apply to Councillor [redacted] who has already publicly revealed the enquiry on social Media. It seems there are rules for one but not the other.*

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*This investigation has not been carried out in a fair way in fact in my opinion is quite the opposite. I sincerely believed this enquiry would not be continuing after my resignation and I have since my resignation heard absolutely nothing from either yourself or Maxey in respect of the enquiry continuing and in fact I was under the impression that it had simply expired! I have not been given the chance to be interviewed, I have several areas that I consider important and relevant to this enquiry and the only reason ONE interview was cancelled was because of my impending resignation from the Council for personal reasons. I do not consider one interview cancelled is fair reason to simply not do it I find that incompetent and unfair. As for answering written questions this again is unfair and I do wish to be interviewed.*

*I will make myself available for interview once more, bearing in mind I thought this was not continuing. You can be assured that I dispute your report in many areas and wish to present my case as it should be and at least be offered the opportunity for you to present an unbiased case which is not the current report. This enquiry has been going on for over a year now and I have been treated with contempt since day 1 and treated extremely unfairly.*

*In respect of making comments on your report I will be doing more than that I will prepare further evidence which will conflict with your opinion and alleged evidence you have provided. It now seems that we have a plaintiff and defendant situation which is certainly not what the Taxpayer was paying for and I wonder who is the plaintiff and who is the defendant here as certainly in my view the complainants are not innocent or the officers of the council. I find this ludicrous.*

*There are many factors in this case which have not been provided to you by Maxey as it is not in your report.*

*Who do I present this report to? You are simply a contractor to NWBC and the taxpayer so should it be to you and will you then be looking at that further evidence and indeed several further witnesses that need to be interviewed to offer the opposite side of opinion and further evidence? I must say that after seeing this report I doubt your impartiality to the enquiry and am concerned as to the use of large amounts of taxpayer's money and the presentation of this case from both sides.*

*My final point is that this enquiry with false allegations has affected myself and my family both financially and emotionally leaving us in a very difficult situation and I feel bullied by the authority and treated extremely unfairly. They have offered no duty of care at all which in my opinion they should do so to elected councillors and have presumed guilt from the start. I have tried to assist in it to the best of my ability but considering we have had only a couple of phone calls and a few letters I have had little else or an opportunity to put my side forward and the opportunity to point you in the direction of other people who have evidence in respect of.*

*I sincerely hope you will be contacting me to arrange an interview.*

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*I await your response.*

*Mark Jones”*

- 6.14 We responded to Councillor Jones by email on 18 August in the following terms:-

*“Dear Mr Jones,*

*Thank you for your comments on the draft report, received on 11<sup>th</sup> August.*

*I note your comments and these will be included in full in the final version of the report together with our response to those comments.*

*You have asked that I respond to you concerning the confidentiality of the process. The contents of the report remains confidential until it is delivered to the Monitoring Officer. It is then for the Council to determine how the matter should be determined in accordance with its arrangements. Hearings normally take place in public but given that you have left office, it will be for the MO to consider how the matter is concluded.*

*I understand you have raised the issue of Councillor [redacted] alleged disclosure of information relating to this matter and the MO has responded to you in early May.*

*You have now asked for an interview, to adduce new evidence and that we should see additional witnesses identified by you.*

*I wrote to you on 4<sup>th</sup> April to ask you for an interview date. You telephoned my colleague Gill Thompson on 10<sup>th</sup> April indicating that you would not be available until 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> May. I emailed you on 13<sup>th</sup> April indicating that we could interview you in 19<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30 am at North Warwickshire District Council’s offices but that you had questions for us and additional witnesses for us to speak to. I asked you to let us have the questions you wanted to ask in advance so that we could consider them before 19<sup>th</sup> May. I also asked you for details of the witnesses you suggested we speak to, together with your reasons why we should do so. We would then be able to consider that before the interview.*

*You did not respond to my email. Gill Thompson emailed you on 2<sup>nd</sup> May to ask you to confirm the interview date and time. You replied on 4<sup>th</sup> May saying that you were preparing your responses to the disclosure bundle we had provided you with. You said you were awaiting information from the MO. Gill Thompson emailed you again on 5<sup>th</sup> May seeking your confirmation of the interview date and time. You replied on 15<sup>th</sup> May confirming your availability on 19<sup>th</sup> May. The time of the interview was confirmed to you by email the same day. You emailed on 18<sup>th</sup> May that you would not be able to attend. In view of your cancellation of the meeting, on 22<sup>nd</sup> May we sent you written questions for you to respond. We were then informed that you had resigned from office.*

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*In the light of that, we sought instructions from the MO as to whether the investigation should be completed. We were instructed to recommence work on 13<sup>th</sup> June. Having heard nothing further from you, we issued a draft report on 27<sup>th</sup> July.*

*You now say you want an interview and that have additional evidence and witnesses you wish to be seen. I am concerned that you are seeking to delay the completion of the investigation. At this late stage, I am not prepared to make arrangements for an interview. You can instead respond to the written questions sent to you on 22<sup>nd</sup> May.*

*I will consider any additional evidence you provide and consider speaking to any additional witnesses you put forward if you provide:-*

- 1. The additional evidence*
- 2. the names, addresses and contact details for the suggested witnesses and your reasons why they should be contacted*

*by Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August at 5 pm. Your responses to the written questions must also be provided by the same date and time.*

*I regret that I am on leave and not contactable until 29<sup>th</sup> August.*

*Regards,*

*Jonathan Goolden”*

- 6.15 On 21 August the following comments were received from Mark Jones on the draft version of this report:-

*“Dear Mr Goolden*

*Thank You for your response to my response received late on Friday the day you are going away, what a coincidence? Please can someone else deal with this in your absence as the deadline you state is the day you come back..... again another coincidence.*

*The contents of the report relate to my integrity and me personally and I will be treating the confidentially side as I see fit FYI. It is noted you have not stated any law at all that relates to confidentiality as requested and seem only to answer questions or give opinion when it suits you. As you have not stated any law I take it there is none.*

*Yes, I have raised the issue with the MO Maxey and I have also raised it with you. It does seem to be that there is bias towards one side of the enquiry and not the other and you seem to take that response also.*

*I am fully aware of the times you wrote to me in respect of the interview which you should be aware is the time I was considering my position as a councillor and an interview was not the right thing to do at that stage. I was under the impression that the enquiry would be finished upon my resignation, you have failed to answer my question regarding your jurisdiction now I am not a councillor. These are internal matters, denied strenuously and you should not be making judgements. I note I have also asked you questions which you have failed to respond to and as you state in your response to my response*

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*you will deliver those responses in your report. That is unfair and again bias you should be responding to me and allow me to have a chance to respond. I will be copying your stance and will provide my responses at the sight of the final report.*

*Yes, I do require an interview It is only fair and unbiased for me to be able to offer the other side of the argument which is what your job is funded by the taxpayer.*

*How dare you state "I am concerned you are seeking to delay the completion of this investigation"!! Please note the following FACTS;*

- 1. This enquiry started in June 2016 and since that date I have spoken with the MO in respect of my disgust at the length of time this enquiry has taken. Some of those meetings were with other members of the council including the leader of the council who also expressed concern. So, if you wish to dispute that Please do so.*
- 2. You were not appointed until October/November 2016*
- 3. A long period was spent on semantics deciding whether the Standing orders were not in place until the later date*
- 4. You have taken until now to provide even a preliminary report some 6-9 month after being appointed.*
- 5. You have now been asked as to what jurisdiction and right you should investigate me or indeed anyone when they are not a councillor as these are internal standing orders. I challenge your jurisdiction to continue with this enquiry.*
- 6. I don't see you can quote delaying tactics without looking at the incompetence of the Monitoring Officer in this case who has failed on several promises supplied to me via email on length of this enquiry. I have no intention in delaying I have every intention of engaging in a fair and just enquiry. This enquiry currently is NOT and is bias. It is based on opinion of mostly opposite members of the political spectrum and by people who have challenges themselves. You also give an opinion which is not your job. I do note you have not answered all my queries and just answered the ones you seem fit. I will not be responding to written questions to you but will reply to any decision-making body. I do not feel that you will treat the information fairly and you fail to do the same as per the first sentence of your reply where you do not answer my queries until the report.*

*I also note you are asking for the names and addresses of the suggested witnesses and the reasons why they should be contacted. Can you tell me why the witnesses you have interviewed were contacted and who suggested them?*

*Please provide me who I should prepare my evidence to, your deadline is irrelevant as you have no right to make deadlines. Who will be the decision-making body who you present this report to?*

*Yours Sincerely  
Mark Jones"*

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### *Response to Comments*

- 6.16 We have carefully considered the responses of Mr Jones regarding the content of the draft report. This has been in the form of two emails dated 11 August 2017 and 21 August 2017.

#### *Email dated 11 August 2017*

- (a) We have considered the statement that the report is derogatory towards Mr Jones and is one sided. Throughout the complex investigation we have sought evidence from individuals as identified to us. This has included independent individuals and those such as Mr Ford-Terry who were in some respects biased towards Mr Jones. It is fact that most, if not all, individuals contacted give a similar account of behaviours which have been accurately recorded within the report. It is lawful and the function of an investigator to reach findings on the complaints made – see *Hussain v Sandwell MBC* [2017] EWHC 1641
  - (b) Mr Jones was given a series of questions, having declined the opportunity of face to face interview, which to date he has not offered any response. During this process he was asked to provide any other witness which again he has failed to provide.
  - (c) Mr Jones states that individuals interviewed were not credible witnesses quoting persons being involved in the pornographic industry and individuals being subject of complaint. We are satisfied that we obtained evidence from a broad range of individuals, whose evidence is credible.
  - (d) Mr Jones challenges the issue of report confidentiality. This has and is being dealt with by the MO.
  - (e) Mr Jones is angry about the investigation continuing after his resignation. It is important to note that all interviews, bar his own, were completed by this time. The provision of an opportunity to respond and/or answer questions was as a means to reach conclusion in the form of report in a balanced and proportionate investigation. This continuation of the completion phase of the enquiry was conducted under instruction of the MO.
  - (f) Mr Jones concludes this email, stating that the investigation did not include information provided to the MO, as it was not in the report, but does not specify what this information is. The enquiry has taken into consideration all information provided and gathered during the course of enquiry.
- 6.17 Reflecting on the content of this email along with comments regarding the methodology of the investigation we find that none of the comments cause us to change the findings or content of this report.

#### *Email dated 21 August 2017*

- (a) Mr Jones states he will treat the confidentiality aspect of the report as he sees fit;
- (b) Mr Jones continues to relate a bias against him in the report;

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- (c) Mr Jones states he will offer response to the final report;
- (d) Mr Jones states he will require an interview despite having previously failed to cooperate or provide an opportunity to undertake such an activity. This is in conflict with his response stating he will only respond on receipt of the completed report;
- (e) Mr Jones challenges the ability to undertake the completion of the enquiry after his resignation as a councillor. This issue is being dealt with by the MO and is not a matter for this report;
- (f) Mr Jones concludes by asking who he should prepare his evidence for and who is the decision making body to whom the report will be presented. Wilkin Chapman LLP will present this report to the MO who will deal with further actions and any presentation within the Council's internal procedures.

6.18 We have considered the information within this narrative and conclude that there are no changes to the content of the report arising from this. We also conclude that Mr Jones' comments offer no further information that would cause us to change the findings in this report.

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### 7. Reasoning as to whether there have been failures to comply with the Code of Conduct

#### *Official Capacity*

- 7.1 Section 28(2) of the Localism Act 2011 requires the Council to adopt a code of conduct dealing with the conduct that is expected of members of the Council “*when they are acting in that capacity*”.
- 7.2 Section 27(2) of the Localism Act 2011 requires the Council to adopt a code of conduct “dealing with the conduct that is expected of members ... when they are acting in that capacity”. The Council's code is expressed to apply whenever a member is acting in the capacity as a member or co-opted member or claiming to act or giving the impression of acting as a representative of the authority.
- 7.3 Though relating to the former 2007 model code of conduct, the Upper Tribunal decision in *MC v Standards Committee of the London Borough of Richmond* [2011] UKUT 232 (AAC) is a helpful distillation of the previous High Court cases on capacity – *Livingstone v Adjudication Panel for England* [2006] EWHC 2533 and *R(Mullaney) v Adjudication Panel for England* [2009] EWHC 72. The principles stated in *MC* are:-
- (a) *was the councillor, as a matter of ordinary English, actually conducting the business of their authority, including the business of the office of councillor?*
  - (b) *a fact sensitive approach is required to the above;*
  - (c) *just because the councillor used routes of communication open to members but not to others does not in itself provide a definitive answer to the question;*
  - (d) *the question is one for the tribunal to determine, not a reasonable observer.*
- 7.4 In this case the allegations relate to Councillor Jones’ behaviour with specific relation to councillors, staff, the Friends of the Memorial Park, the Memorial Park work and interaction with contracted bodies. The question arises as to whether he was there or acted in his capacity of a councillor or as an interested member of the public.
- 7.5 With regard to the interaction with members of Moore Environment and subcontractors, his contact and demands were specifically targeted at the Memorial Park Project. His demeanour gave the impression that this was an issue over which he had influence and control, hence the response and delivery of information and actions regarding the site.
- 7.6 During his interactions with the Town Clerk, the contact and interactions were via Council email, on Council premises and whilst undertaking his Council role.
- 7.7 With Council Staff, Councillor Jones was on Council property and undertook his interactions with clear communication of his role within the Council.

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- 7.8 Relating interaction with other councillors, his membership of the Council was clear and the interactions all had clear council bases from which they expanded.
- 7.9 Regarding his disclosure of personal interests, Councillor Jones was asked on a number of occasions to complete and provide details of any personal interests.
- 7.10 The Facebook interaction indicated both roles and his responses were that of a councillor and not a member of the public. His narratives and habitual use of social media was that of a communication tool when acting as a councillor within these groups.
- 7.11 With specific respect to Mr Dewi Jones, Councillor Jones was a member of the Council and a member of Coleshill Carnival Committee.
- 7.12 His attendance and narrative within Mr Jones' offices were such that he indicated his role within the Council and his specific involvement in the project.
- 7.13 The incident in the offices of Mr Jones could have constituted a continuation of the conversation on social media. This conversation, however, was closely linked to the role held by Councillor Jones within the Coleshill Carnival and not specifically to that of his role as a councillor.
- 7.14 Whilst there is some argument that some of the alleged activity was not carried out in formal meetings, we have concluded that the matters referred to were carried out while Councillor Jones was acting in his capacity as a councillor.

### *Disrepute*

- 7.15 Having considered the facts as aforementioned within section 4 of this report and the considerations set out in section 5, we have considered the evidence relating to whether or not Councillor Jones has brought his position as a councillor into disrepute.
- 7.16 Although not referred to within the complaint it is relevant to consider disrepute. Paragraph 5 of the Council's Code of Conduct states:-

*"You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute."*

- 7.17 This is in the spirit of the relevant provision of the previous 2007 model code of conduct which deals with 'disrepute' and perceptions of both the Authority as a body and the office of member.
- 7.18 As such it is relevant to consider guidance issued by the then Standards Board for England (SfE). Question 43 on page 66 of the Case Review 2010 (2011 Edition) published by SfE advises that disrepute is:-

*"...a lack of good reputation or respectability."*

*In the context of the Code of Conduct, a member's behaviour in office will bring that member's office into disrepute if the conduct could reasonably be regarded as either:*

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- 1) *Reducing the public's confidence in that member being able to fulfil their role; or*
- 2) *Adversely affecting the reputation of members generally, in being able to fulfil their role."*

7.19 Q44 on the next page of the Case Review 2010 advises that:-

*"An officer carrying out an investigation...does not need to prove that a member's actions have actually diminished public confidence, or harmed the reputation of the authority...the test is whether or not a members' conduct "could reasonably be regarded" as having these effects.*

*The test is objective and does not rely on any one individual's perception. There will be a range of opinions that a reasonable person could have towards the conduct in question."*

7.20 Q42 on page 66 of the Case Review indicates that:-

*"A case tribunal or standards committee will need to be persuaded that the misconduct is sufficient to damage the reputation of the member's office or authority, as opposed simply to damaging the reputation of the individual concerned."*

7.21 In applying the Code to the circumstances of an alleged breach of code it is established that it is not necessary for the member's actions to have actually diminished public confidence, or harmed the reputation of the authority. The test is whether or not the conduct could 'reasonably be regarded' as having these effects. However, the conduct must be sufficient to damage the reputation of the member's office or the Authority, not just the reputation of Councillor Jones as an individual.

7.22 What must be considered here is a subjective view. That is, whether the actions of Councillor Jones, in respect of his interaction both with the public and contractors but also in clear sight of the public, were such that a member of the public, knowing all the relevant facts, would reasonably think that his actions were so significant that it would impact on the Council's ability to properly carry out its functions.

7.23 As highlighted this is a subjective test, however, in this instance the numerous narratives recorded all bear similarities as they, when combined, highlight that the continued course of conduct of Councillor Jones across the spectrum of witness and complainant indicate a clear fact that they believe that Councillor Jones' behaviour has reduced the public's confidence in him being able to fulfil his role and also adversely affected the reputation of members generally, an example being reference to the 'Circus already being in Town'.

7.24 We therefore consider that Councillor Jones has brought his position as a councillor into disrepute and has therefore breached the Council's Code of Conduct with regard to disrepute.

### *Bullying*

7.25 The term bullying is not defined within the code, however, bullying and intimidation is referred to in the standards Board Guidance Code issued in May 2007. It states on page 9 of the guidance that:

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*“Bullying may be characterised as offensive, intimidating, malicious, insulting or humiliating behaviour. Such behaviour may happen once or be part of a pattern of behaviour directed at a weaker person or a person over whom you have some actual or perceived influence. Bullying behaviour attempts to undermine an individual or a group of individuals, it is detrimental to their confidence and capability, and may adversely affect their health.*

*This can be contrasted with legitimate challenges which a member can make in challenging policy or scrutinising performance.”*

- 7.26 At question 22 on the same page, the Standards board advised that members could criticise officers:-

*“In some cases officers have been known to reject reasonable criticism appropriately made and describe it as bullying. The government did not intend the code of conduct to constrain members involvement in local governance, including the role of members to challenge performance. Members are able to question and probe poor performance provided it is done in an appropriate way. In the everyday running of a local authority, it is inevitable that members may have disagreements with officers from time to time.*

*This paragraph does not mean that members cannot express disagreement with officers. This disagreement might, in the appropriate content, manifest itself in criticism of the way in which an officer or officers handled particular matters.*

*It is important that members raise poor performance in the correct way and at the proper forum, such as in a private meeting with a senior manager, and not in a public meeting or through a published article in the media...”*

- 7.27 There is clear evidence within statements taken and also from the content that is contained within the attached statements and emails that the behaviour of Councillor Jones falls far below that of what is expected from a councillor.
- 7.28 The statements when read as a whole rather than individual statements, give a continuous account of relentless and confrontational behaviour delivered by Councillor Jones without remorse and in a consistent manner, whether to peers within the Council, Council staff or sub-contractors.
- 7.29 The extensive evidence considered in this field has supported the allegations that Councillor Jones has undertaken bullying behaviour, not only within the Council environment with relation to councillors and Council officers, but taking this behaviour to members of the public. In the case of Mr Dewi Jones, within his office space, and towards the contractors involved in the Memorial Park Project, his behaviour was both disruptive and bullying. His involvement at meetings of the Friends of the Memorial Park (FOMP) volunteers was such as to cause them to resign en mass due to his behaviour.
- 7.30 In light of this we consider Councillor Jones has breached the Council’s Code of Conduct with regard to bullying.

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### Respect

7.31 The Town Council Code states:-

*“Para 3(1) He/She shall behave in such a way that a reasonable person would regard as respectful”*

7.32 The term “respect” is not defined in the Code; however the requirement to treat others with respect must be viewed objectively. Account should be taken of the member’s intent and how their behaviour would reasonably be perceived.

7.33 The Standards Board for England Case Review 2010 provides guidance by indicating a ‘rule of thumb’ comparison. Q15 of the Case Review 2010 advises that:-

*“A very clear line has to be drawn between the Code of Conduct’s requirement of respect for others, including members of the authority with opposing views, and the freedom to disagree with the views and opinions of others. In a democracy, members of public bodies should be able to express disagreement publicly with each other.”*

7.34 A rule of thumb is expressed in this comparison:-

*“You’re talking drivell” is likely to be an acceptable expression of disagreement.*

*Calling someone an “incompetent moron”, on the other hand, is more likely to be a failure to comply with paragraph 3(1).*

*We can see that the first comment is aimed at the expression of an idea or argument. The second is aimed at the person and their personal characteristics”.*

7.35 Whilst some care must be taken in adopting wholesale a test applicable to a provision of the former national model code, it is the personalisation of comments that cause the user to breach the Code. The conduct must be unreasonable, unwarranted and personalised. In considering whether comments are disrespectful, regard must be had to the right to free speech in article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

7.36 We note the approach taken by the former Adjudication Panel in *Capon v Shepway District Council* [2008] APE 0399, conveniently summarised by the Standards Board’s Case Review 2010 (2011 edition) at page 32 as:-

*“A tribunal considered the threshold for a failure to treat others with respect. The councillor made comments about the town clerk at a parish meeting saying that an officer found her “difficult to get on with”. The councillor added that “this is also the view of many towns’ people who say that when they try to contact the town clerk, she is downright rude to them”.*

7.37 The Tribunal considered that the threshold for a failure to treat another with respect has to be set at a level that allows for the passion and frustration that often accompanies political debate and the discussion of the efficient running

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of a council. It should also be set within the context of who was involved in the exchange.

- 7.38 In that case, the comments were opinions of other individuals which the member honestly believed to be true. The member's conduct was not unfair, unreasonable or demeaning to the Town Clerk and not made in a malicious or bullying manner. The Town Clerk was very experienced in her dealings with councillors and given her seniority was entirely able to defend her position. Therefore, the tribunal decided that the threshold was not reached
- 7.39 The considerations in this example are significant in two respects. Firstly the actual conduct alleged, and, secondly the position of the individuals concerned, be it the Town Clerk, Council staff, members of the public or contractors.
- 7.40 In the present circumstances, the actual conduct alleged to have been disrespectful seems particularly pertinent. Much of such conduct is uniform across witness statements obtained and includes Councillor Jones using his physical presence and loud voice to carry out continuous and vexatious attacks and control over individuals, failing to show regard to others, irrespective of position or role.
- 7.41 Secondly, we refer to the role. It becomes apparent from accounts that Councilor Jones uses his role as an elected councilor to dominate conversations, meetings and any engagement.
- 7.42 We refer back to The Standards Board for England Case Review guidance by indicating a 'rule of thumb' comparison:-

*"A very clear line has to be drawn between the Code of Conduct's requirement of respect for others, including members of the authority with opposing views, and the freedom to disagree with the views and opinions of others. In a democracy, members of public bodies should be able to express disagreement publicly with each other."*

- 7.43 We have also had regard to the right to freedom of speech on political matters set out in Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) as considered in *Heesom v Public Services Ombudsman for Wales* [2014] EWHC 1504, where it was held:-
- Article 10 of ECHR protects not only the substance of political comment but the form in which it is conveyed;
  - a degree of the immoderate, offensive, shocking, disturbing, exaggerated, provocative, polemical, colourful, non rational and aggressive is to be tolerated;
  - political comment includes comment on public administration and the adequacy of the performance of public duties by others, but not gratuitous personal comments;
  - whilst civil servants are open to criticism, there is a public interest that they are not subject to unwarranted comments that disenable them from performing public duties and undermines public confidence;

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- there is a need to weigh up the public interest in protecting civil servants against enhanced protection for political comment.
- 7.44 Councillor Jones holds strong views. He clearly has an agenda, be it political or personal, and uses his persona to achieve this, irrespective of the reputational outcome to the Authority or damage to individuals with whom he has had contact. His conduct went beyond the legitimate, if robust criticism of public officials to so undermining them that they were disabled from performing public duties.
- 7.45 In light of the evidence obtained we consider that Councillor Jones has breached the Council's Code of Conduct with regard to respect.

### *Registration of Interests*

- 7.46 From information supplied in the form of registration of interest documents (attached at WC 27) provided by the Town Clerk it becomes apparent that Councillor Jones makes no reference to B46 Print in these documents.
- 7.47 Within statements, including that of Mr Ford-Terry, Chairman of the Coleshill Carnival Committee (Unsigned), reference is made to the provision of products to the Coleshill Carnival by B46 Print and Councillor Jones specifically.
- 7.48 Para 4 of the Code of Conduct gives clear direction regarding the requirements for councillors relating to disclosure of personal interests.
- 7.49 The statement of Mr Ford-Terry clearly and categorically identifies that remuneration was paid to Councillor Jones for services and products, namely flyers, banners and leaflets relating to the Coleshill Carnival.
- 7.50 In light of the information regarding the lack of disclosure of involvement in B46 Print and the receipt of remuneration we conclude that in this instance Councillor Jones has breached the Council's Code of Conduct with regard to registration of interests.

### *Disclosable Pecuniary Interest*

- 7.51 It is suggested that Councillor Jones sought to influence issues within which he had a disclosable pecuniary interest.
- 7.52 The only supporting evidence of this is where a number of the statements indicate a propensity to 'bluster' by Councillor Jones on how he could have things done cheaper or better elsewhere without specific reference to companies or individuals. The contents of the unsigned statement are included in this report but caution should be exercised in how much weight can be attached to that evidence.
- 7.53 As such without further investigation or input from Councillor Jones there is insufficient evidence to support this allegation.

## CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

### 8. Finding

- 8.1 Our finding is that there has been a breach of the Council's Code of Conduct by Councillor Jones.

Wilkin Chapman LLP  
**Investigating Solicitors**

29 September 2017



North Warwickshire  
Borough Council

**PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

Report of an investigation by Wilkin Chapman LLP, appointed by the Monitoring Officer for North Warwickshire Borough Council, into allegations concerning Councillor Jones, a Member of Coleshill Town Council.

29 September 2017

# **VOLUME 2**

# **SCHEDULE OF EVIDENCE**

wilkin chapman llp  
solicitors

Cartergate House,  
26 Chantry Lane,  
Grimsby  
DN31 2LJ

a limited liability partnership registered in England number OC343261  
authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority

**Appendix A**

**Schedule of evidence taken into account and list of unused material**

<b>Page</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Description</b>
4	WC 1	Members Code of Conduct
6	WC 2	Decision Notice
8	WC 3	Written questions put to Councillor Jones
15	WC 4	Complaints of Colin Greatorex 10.06.16, 04.07.16, 05.08.16, 24.08.16, 25.08.16, 09.09.16, 13.09.16, 14.09.16, 16.09.16 and 21.10.16
87	WC 5	Complaints of Councillor Farrell 10.06.16 and 28.06.16
89	WC 6	Complaint of Councillor Taylor 17.06.16
95	WC 7	Complaints of Councillor Richardson 18.08.16 and 20.10.16
99	WC 8	Complaints of Sue Moore 19.10.16 and 20.10.16
106	WC 9	Complaint of Dewi Jones 18.10.16
108	WC 10	Complaint of Zoe Hilcox 23.08.16
110	WC 11	Complaint of Kate Shtrezi 25.08.16
121	WC 12	Statement of Colin Greatorex
130	WC 13	Statement of Zoe Hilcox
135	WC 14	Statement of Helen Whittaker
140	WC 15	Statement of Kate Shtrezi

## CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

146	WC 16	Statement of Councillor Wootton
152	WC 17	Statement of Councillor Ferro
157	WC 18	Statement of Councillor Taylor
164	WC 19	Statement of Councillor Farrell
170	WC 20	Statement of Councillor Richardson
178	WC 21	Statement of Dewi Jones
183	WC 22	Statement of Sue Moore
189	WC 23	Statement of Declan Rooney
194	WC 24	Statement of Marie Brotheridge
199	WC 25	Statement of Julie Gregory
203	WC 26	Statement of Michael Ford-Terry
208	WC 27	Register of Interests, Councillor Mark Jones

### Appendix B

#### List of unused material

Investigator's notes, file correspondence and drafts.
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## 150616 Town Council – Code of Conduct - Appendix 4

## Members' Code of Conduct

### Summary

The Town Council has partly implemented a reporting of disclosable pecuniary interests but has not adopted a full Members' Code of Conduct which would particularly assist with procedures on declaration of interests.

### Recommendation

**To adopted a full Members' Code of Conduct to assist with procedures on Member obligations and declaration of interests.**

### Background

Coleshill Town Council has, for some while, encouraged members to comply with the declaration to the Borough Council's Monitoring Officer of "disclosable pecuniary interests". This subject was covered by the April Training evening by Mr. John Crossling, the WALC Officer.

The law is very specific on the categories that are included:-

Employment  
Sponsorship  
Contracts  
Land  
Licences  
Corporate tenancies and  
Securities.

In addition, since the Localism Act 2011, local government authorities have been expected to agree their own Code of Conduct. A Model Code was produced in 2007 and is still the recommended, latest LGA /NALC recognised template. Most parish /town councils have adopted or adapted that Model Code.

It appears that Coleshill Town Council did not adopt a full Members' Code of Conduct in 2011/12. Therefore, it cannot fully implement a policy on procedures for declaration of interests of a non-pecuniary basis.

Before the Localism Act 2011, local government authorities used a framework of "prejudicial" and personal interests. What is known as the "man on the Clapham Omnibus test was used", i.e. what would a total stranger make of a member's interest and how would that person expect a member to act.

Attached is the Model Members' Code of Conduct with clauses 1-15 unamended for potential adoption.

Clause 16 is a table that has been added by the Town Clerk to give clarification to the actions expected on Disclosable Pecuniary, Prejudicial and Personal interests in terms of when members are expected to declare interests and not discuss /vote on matters in hand.

**Finance and Value for Money**

There are no direct financial concerns with adopting a Members' Code of Conduct.

**Risk Management Issues**

There are no direct risk concerns to the Authority through adopting a Members' Code of Conduct. However, adoption of a code would avoid a potential loss of credibility of members in the eyes of the public through unclear or inadequate member obligations and declaration of interests.

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**This report has been prepared by the Town Clerk**



North Warwickshire Borough Council

# DECISION NOTICE: REFERRAL FOR INVESTIGATION

## Complaint

The Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Independent Person appointed by the Council pursuant to section 28 of the Localism Act 2011, considered several complaints concerning the alleged conduct of Councillor Mark Jones, a Member of the Coleshill Town Council ("the Council"). A summary of the complaint is set out below:

That Councillor Jones breached the Council's Code of Conduct for Members in that he:

- acts in an aggressive and rude manner. This is in respect of other Councillors, the Town Council's staff and contractors
- undermines and overly challenges the Clerk and the legitimate, general decision making process of the Town Council
- Councillor Jones is overly dominating and disruptive concerning various Town Council projects and issues
- Councillor Jones has breached the adopted Code of Conduct by seeking to influence an issue in which he has a pecuniary interest

**Decision**

The Monitoring Officer takes complaints about Councillors very seriously and carefully considers all matters in accordance with North Warwickshire Borough Council's adopted complaints procedure.

In accordance with section 28 of the Localism Act 2011 and the arrangements for dealing with complaints adopted by North Warwickshire Borough Council, the Monitoring Officer has decided that this complaint merits investigation.

**Reason for the decision**

The allegation discloses potential breaches of the Code which if proven are sufficiently serious to justify the cost of an investigation. The scope and continuing nature of the allegations are also material.

**SIGNED:**



**Monitoring Officer**

**DATED:** 4<sup>th</sup> November 2016

This decision notice is sent to the persons making the allegation and Councillor Jones

## Written questions for Councillor Mark Jones

1. Please indicate your career as a politician and the roles you undertake within the community of Coleshill and the Council?
2. Have you any other business interests?
3. Can you give me an initial response to these allegations?
4. Can you explain to me your understanding, if any, of the Nolan Principles?
5. Can you explain to me your knowledge of disclosable interests within the Council codes?
6. Can you clarify what, if any, disclosable interests have you registered since becoming a Councillor?
7. Can you describe to me your relationship with the Town Clerk, Colin Greatorex?
8. What is/was your role within the Coleshill Carnival?
9. At this time what was your role in B46 Print?
10. How would you comment regarding the perception that you deal with Council issues on behalf of the Committee?
11. Why did you take ownership of the damage issue on behalf of the Committee (ref 1 Aug 2016 email communication)?
12. Did you provide a quote for banners, fliers and leaflets for the 2016 Carnival from B46 print?
13. Did you provide these items?
14. At what cost was this?
15. Did you disclose this within the Council's disclosable interest process?
16. Can you give me an explanation of the Facebook interaction (09/10/16) relating to the firework display during Coleshill Carnival?
17. Did you post a response on behalf of the Carnival Committee?
18. Who sanctioned this posting and its content?
19. How would you describe Colin Greatorex?
20. Again, can you go into your relationship/interactions with Colin Greatorex? How would you describe them?
21. In paragraph 7 of his statement, Mr Greatorex states you show a continuous course of bullying behaviour towards him. Why do you think he feels this way?

## CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

22. In paragraph 10, he identifies, constant criticism, disrespectful wording, rubbishing Council decisions, challenging his professionalism. These are strong words. Why do you think he directs this at you?
23. In paragraph 11, he states you use your voice, position and stature to undermine confidence of him and his staff challenging decisions in open forum. Please provide your comments on this.
24. In paragraph 12, he highlights that you had prejudicial interest in the Carnival. What is your opinion?
25. In following paragraphs, he describes how you take ownership of issues relating to damage moving away from Council procedures. Please provide your comments on this.
26. In paragraph 18, he describes an incident where you challenged him in open forum. What do you feel about this account?
27. Did you shout at him in open forum?
28. Do you feel this is appropriate behaviour for a Councillor?
29. In paragraph 21, he describes you barging into his office irrespective of who is there or what he is doing. Is this true?
30. He describes a number of complaints where the core of these appears to be overbearing and inappropriate behaviour. Is this a true reflection of your interactions with these individuals?
31. In paragraph 24, he specifically attributes your behaviour to the resignation of the whole of the Friends of the Memorial Park (FOMP). Please provide your comments on this.
32. In paragraph 27, he relates to your lack of disclosure regarding receiving payment for fliers, posters and banners produced by B46 print. Can you explain this?
33. He describes your use of social media as reducing public confidence and damaging the reputation of the Council and its officers. Is this a true reflection of your behaviour?
34. He states you have affected his working practices and those of his staff, given him sleepless nights, damaged morale within the Council and relationships with Contractors. Do you agree this is not appropriate behaviour, if proved, for a Councillor to display?
35. What comments do you have regarding the statement of Colin Greatorex that appears to portray you as a bully?
36. How would you describe Zoe Hilcox?
37. What interaction have you had with Zoe Hilcox?
38. Can you describe the manner of your entrance into the Town Council Offices?

## CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

39. In paragraph 10, she describes an incident where she states you were shouting in the public space of the office. Is this true?
40. She describes your tone as loud and bullying. Is this appropriate?
41. In paragraph 13, she goes into detail about a FOMP meeting where she states you spent an hour shouting over the Chairman and “slagging off” the Council. Is this a true reflection?
42. What were you doing at this meeting?
43. Is this appropriate behaviour for a Councillor?
44. Your behaviour led to her stating she would never be sent to a meeting like that again. Can you express your feelings at being thought of in this way?
45. She states you are dismissive and force people to face a barrage of abuse from yourself. Again, is this appropriate behaviour for a Councillor?
46. Can you comment on the content of Zoe Hilcox’s statement in that it goes some way to support the allegation that your behaviours are overbearing and bullying?
47. How would you describe Helen Whittaker?
48. In paragraph 6, she states the women in the office are concerned regarding their safety and possible recrimination along with the fact you have allegedly stated “you have friends in the police”. Can you explain why they feel this way?
49. In paragraph 7, she highlights many areas of disrespect, rudeness in front of staff and the public. She outlines your presence on social media being inappropriate. Please provide your comments on this.
50. She explains in depth your involvement in an incident where it concluded with her going home in tears feeling disrespected and undermined. Do you recognise this incident?
51. She states you undermine other Councillors, and your behaviour has forced staff to ensure two are present when you go into the office. How do you feel about this?
52. She also states you go into the office shouting, identifying the issue of printing as an example. Is this true?
53. In paragraph 16, she states the ladies in the office have discussed leaving en masse if nothing is done about your behaviour. Are you aware of this?
54. What is your knowledge and description of Kate Shtrezi?
55. She describes interaction with you regarding IT issues and states that in meetings you dismiss her and forget her name on purpose as a tactic. Can you explain this?
56. In paragraph 11, she describes you attending the office and being very rude, talking about her as if she was not there and referring to her as ‘staff’. Again, she feels this put her in her place and undermined her. Are you aware of the impact you have on female members of staff?

## CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

57. She states you use your position, stature and presence to dominate people and make them feel like they serve you. Is this what you intend to do?
58. She corroborates other statements regarding your overbearing and bullying of the Town Clerk. Why do you think this is so?
59. She highlights that you constantly criticise work and are aggressive and intimidating making her and others not want to engage with you. Is this a truthful description of you and if so are you happy with this?
60. Would you make comment on the content of Kate's statement?
61. Can you describe your relationship with Kirsteen Wootton and how do you interact with her?
62. She states she challenged you when she saw that you had upset Kate Shtrezi. Do you think this challenge was justified?
63. She goes on to identify that her contact with staff has resulted in her saying your bullying behaviour is leaving staff vulnerable and susceptible and that your behaviour is inappropriate as an elected Councillor. Have you any comment?
64. She highlights that you show continued disdain for the Town Clerk. Is this true and a fair description?
65. She closes stating that the atmosphere created by you can only be described as poisonous. What do you have to say about this statement?
66. Do you have any comment regarding Councillor Wootton's statement?
67. As a fellow Councillor what is your interaction with Councillor Ferro and how would you describe him?
68. He immediately states you invariably attack him verbally and through social media. Why do you think he feels this way?
69. In paragraph 11, he states you called him 'Fatboy' and barged into him. Do you recollect the incident?
70. Can you explain this behaviour?
71. Do you think this is appropriate behaviour for an elected Councillor?
72. Can I ask for comment regarding Councillor Ferro's statement which indicates you bully Councillors as well as staff and act in a manner unbecoming that of a Councillor, at times bringing the role into disrepute?
73. As a Councillor can you describe your relationship with Councillor Taylor, what words would you use to describe him?
74. He identifies that you shout down the Town Clerk and dominate meetings you are attending. Again, why would someone describe you in this manner?

## CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

75. He states your fixation with the Town Clerk has made it increasingly difficult for anyone to get work done. Are you aware of this?
76. He highlights an extensive string of emails asking you to stop communicating with him. Can you explain this?
77. He covers in depth your use of social media and states that he feels your behaviour is leading the public to see the stature of councillor as having gone down the pan. Would you agree with this?
78. He closes by saying you attack everything and everyone you disagree with. Do you think this adequately reflects your character?
79. Would you like to comment on Councillor Taylor's statement and offer any reflection on why he feels you are as he describes?
80. Can you describe your interaction with Councillor Farrell?
81. How would you describe relations with Councillor Farrell?
82. He describes you as aggressive and fixated. What would your response be to this statement?
83. He describes your attendance at the Memorial Park indicating that you interfered and were in breach of protocols. What is your response?
84. What do you think of the project?
85. He again comments on your use of social media, stating you clearly identify yourself as a Councillor. Is this a true reflection?
86. He extensively describes you as a bully outlining a member who has crossed the floor and the Town Clerk as examples. Why do you feel he, as with others, believes you are displaying these character traits?
87. He identifies the content and aggressive nature of your emails. Why do you think people are repeatedly identifying this?
88. Can you outline your interaction and relationship with Councillor Richardson?
89. Councillor Richardson states your continued behaviour, aggression and intimidation has caused him to leave the Conservative Party and move over to Labour. Can you describe, in your words, why you think this happened?
90. He highlights many incidents including one in the public domain where you use your stature, presence and aggressive demeanour to belittle him. Why do you think he feels this way?
91. Is the description within the statement a true reflection of the incidents?
92. He describes you as pushing your chest out, demanding loyalty to yourself and threatening to make his life hell within the Council. Again, is there any semblance of truth in this and if so is it appropriate behaviour when balanced against the Codes of Conduct?

## CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

93. Would you like to respond to the content of Councillor Richardson's statement?
94. Dewi Jones indicates he has known you for a while and knows you through your running of B46 Print on the Blue Box Storage Solutions Complex. How would you describe your relationship with him?
95. Can you describe your interaction with him on Facebook?
96. Were you offended when he asked for an apology as he felt it had been proven you had lied on Facebook?
97. He states, in paragraph 14 to 16, that you attended his office, shouted at him, used vulgar and offensive language and put him in fear of you physically attacking him. Can you explain why he felt so intimidated?
98. In paragraph 17, he describes you using inappropriate language when describing Councillors. Do you have any comment?
99. As a member of the public Mr Jones' statement reflects much of what has been described internally. Would you like to reflect on this statement and make comment?
100. Declan Rooney is the coordinator for Moore Environment. Can you describe any interactions you have had with Mr Rooney?
101. Can you explain your attendance and interference in works on the Memorial Park project including under what authority or remit you have done so?
102. Are you aware of the delays that have been caused through your unsanctioned attendance and instruction at the Project?
103. Mr Jones describes your actions as having a negative impact on the process relating to the Memorial Park project. Was this action undertaken with the intention of frustrating the process in some manner?
104. Can you reflect on the content of Mr Rooney's statement and explain why you have behaved in this manner towards a community project?
105. Can you describe your knowledge and relationship with Marie Brotheridge?
106. From paragraph 8 onward, she describes you attending a meeting in her words as a Councillor and devastating this meeting to such an extent the whole panel resigned. Can you explain your actions and why you acted in this manner as per her narrative?
107. What did you see as your role at the meeting?
108. Do you feel your behaviour as a Councillor was appropriate towards members of the community?
109. Do you feel your actions upheld the Nolan principles and showed the Council in high repute?
110. Do you have any comments regarding the content of Marie Brotheridge's statement?

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111. Julie Gregory's statement reflects that of Marie Brotheridge and as such places your actions as directly responsible for the collapse of the FOMP. Please comment on this.
112. Sue Moore is the Director of Moore Environment. Can you describe your relationship and knowledge of Sue Moore?
113. Why were you not happy with the Project?
114. Why did you use disparaging comments about the management of the project when you were party to the decision making process?
115. Do you feel social media is the right forum to raise issues concerning the Council?
116. What are your comments regarding the statement of Sue Moore?
117. Staff, Councillors, members of the Community and Contractors all say similar things such as your behaviour can be construed as bullying, people are afraid of you and your actions are damaging the reputation of the Council. Please comment on this.

**Maxey, Steve**

---

**From:** Colin Greatorex <colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 10 June 2016 08:18  
**To:** Maxey, Steve  
**Subject:** FW: Member Conduct

Steve,

Please advise where you are with the matter of Member Conduct in relation to Cllr. Mark Jones?

Coleshill Town Council and, in some cases, myself personally have been the subject of:

1. Constant criticism for choice of supplier and spend level on items, despite purchases being within the Council's Financial Procedures (e.g. £300 on boulders)
2. Constant disrespectful wording in wide distribution email correspondence (e.g. "HELLO!! this is surely a simple decision")
3. Constant bullying and intimidating in relation to action demanded to his view of requirements even when in the minority of members (boulders example again)
4. Rubbishing of Council decisions in Facebook (I have a report from a contractor of derogatory comments By Cllr. Jones written regarding the Memorial Park).
5. Rubbishing of a Town Council supplier's reputation in public discussion ( I can provide details).
6. Speaking to interested parties about confidential meetings and revealing voting detail by member (Cllr. Taylor and the Coleshill FC matter).
7. Challenging my professionalism (e.g. claiming I failed to name Ms. Beth Robinson as a speaker on an agenda when the agenda was published before I was advised of the name).
8. Lack of apology /recognition of error (all of the above).

To add to the catalogue of issues, the Town Council is now being outwardly criticised for showing "*bias towards the Labour party that we currently have at the Town Council from staff*". See email chain (below) where a mistaken release of a surgery noticeboard poster onto the Council website has caused this accusation. My explanation is clearly not enough to allow a retraction of his claim of bias.

I have staff, elected members and suppliers all wanting to see something done. For that matter, I have staff, elected members and suppliers all prepared to speak to you about their concerns.

The whole issue of dealing with the constant stream of email criticism from one member is detracting from my ability to do the rest of my duties. I know that the Standards regime has limited powers but please advise what action you are able or intend to take?

Regards

**Colin Greatorex**

**Coleshill Town Clerk**

Tel: 01675 463326

Coleshill Town Council, 142 High Street, Coleshill, Warks. B46 3BG

[colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)

(Normal office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

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**From:** Mark Jones  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 9, 2016 11:29 AM  
**To:** Colin Greatorex; Colin Greatorex  
**Cc:** Stacey Ingram  
**Subject:** RE: Labour Leaflet - website

Well we certainly don't agree there.

It might have been a genuine mistake but bottom line a Political leaflet from the Labour party was put on the website and a mistake was made because there is not a system in place to safeguard against it.

I accept the explanation it was a mistake but I disagree there is not a need for a policy to be put in place to safeguard against it , not meant or not planned is irrelevant after the event , if there was a system in place to safeguard against it. Please note this is not Mark JONES being stroppy this is COUNCIL staff making a mistake and me highlighting it and trying to safeguard against it.

I didn't ask you to respond to my comment as I believe it to be true and I certainly do not retract it as it is my opinion. It is not your position to tell me what to comment on is it? You can rest assured that if I have concerns I will do just that . It depends what you mean about genuine concerns, first of all I don't like the word genuine as any concern from an individual is genuine, I accept a mistake has been made here and the point I make is we should be putting a system in place to remedy any future mistakes , you are disagreeing with that and I find that wrong. My opinion. If a mistake is made put it down to experience but ensure it doesn't happen again. I'm not sure that is being done.

I simply stated I was happy with the way you dealt with it because I was ? Now who is being sarcastic?

Please do not criticise me for my views I am fully entitled to them and please do not tell me to desist that is not your position to do so. Of course if you are unhappy with my responses you also have the recourse of the monitoring officer Steve Maxey at the Borough Council.

I am disappointed at your response I was genuinely trying to put an error by your staff right and work out a way that it didn't happen again.

Mark Jones  
Councillor  
Coleshill South

---

**From:** Colin Greatorex [<mailto:greatorexcolin7@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** 09 June 2016 11:08  
**To:** Mark Jones <[mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk](mailto:mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk)>; Colin Greatorex <[colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** Stacey Ingram <[stacey.ingram@conservatives.com](mailto:stacey.ingram@conservatives.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Labour Leaflet - website

Mark,

I have now had chance to check the detail with Kate.

This was a genuine mistake and not maliciously planned. Cllr. Farrell requested, by email, that Kate put the new Labour Councillor Surgery poster on the noticeboard. He did not request the website space. I will advise all staff to be exceptionally watchful of how Town Council communications are handled in relation to Councillor surgeries, Party political events etc.

Kate looks after noticeboards and the web. She does both on a 'batch' basis. Mistakenly, when she did the web updates (you will see a number all for the same date) she put the surgery poster on the web, along with the WI, sponsored walk, etc.

There is no therefore no need to have an all parties agreement or policy review as this was clearly not meant to or planned to have happened. I am pleased to see that you are "more than happy how I have dealt with this".

## CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

Having given the explanation, I do need to respond to your comment *"This shows the exact bias towards the Labour party that we currently have at the Town Council from staff and I find that wrong and disappointing. It cannot be denied .....*".

Given the explanation, I suggest you retract and desist from such statements. If you have genuine concerns about an individual member of staff, please let me know to investigate further. If you have genuine concerns about my bias, I know you have the contact details for Steve Maxey, Monitoring Officer at the Borough Council.

Colin Greatorex  
Town Clerk  
Coleshill Town Council, Town Hall, High Street, Coleshill B46 3BG  
[Colin@ColeshillTownCouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Colin@ColeshillTownCouncil.gov.uk)

---

**From:** [Mark Jones](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 9, 2016 10:12 AM  
**To:** [Colin Greatorex](#)  
**Cc:** [Stacey Ingram](#)  
**Subject:** Labour Leaflet - website

Hi Colin

Thanks for updating me slightly on the labour Leaflet episode yesterday. As you know I am rather annoyed about how this has happened and I think I need to put this on record and ask that after the investigation for an update on what steps are being taken and what future policies in respect of our website are going to be.

As I understand it and you have NOT confirmed this yet , a Labour Borough Councillor has requested a member of our staff at the Town Council to put this onto the website and she has simply agreed to that request? IF that is the case then I am astounded, I KNOW that if I had come into the office on the same day and given that member of staff or any member of staff a Conservative leaflet, it would NOT have been put on without you being asked to agree to it. This shows the exact bias towards the Labour party that we currently have at the Town Council from staff and I find that wrong and disappointing. It cannot be denied because I would challenge anyone to disagree with my statement of " if I had requested a conservative leaflet" Both yourself and others have asked me not to be political and I think I have really made inroads into not being political at all on the Town Council. However this activity is POLITICAL and it is not from the conservative party so I would like to know what happens now. I wonder if the same comments have been made to the Labour Party? A number of decisions lately have been political as named votes show.

Do we have a policy of who decides what goes on the website? If we do not then we now need one as this incident and I would ask that those permissions because of this Political interference that a member of all three parties need to agree.

I am so disappointed this has been allowed to happen and I hope that the member of staff is told in no uncertain terms that this was wrong.

Please keep me updated and by the way I am more than happy how you have dealt with this.

Regards

Mark Jones

CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

Version: 2016.0.7639 / Virus Database: 4598/12392 - Release Date: 06/09/16

**Maxey, Steve**

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**From:** Colin Greatorex <colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 05 July 2016 16:04  
**To:** Maxey, Steve  
**Subject:** Re: Cllr Jones  
**Attachments:** CTC Code of Conduct.docx

Steve,

This attached is the Coleshill Town Council Code of Conduct, adopted in June and based on the NALC standard one.

I think Cllr. Farrell may be referring to the "NALC Councillor and Clerk Protocol", which CTC adopted a few years ago. I sent you a copy of this on 11 May but can send it again if needed when next in the office (on Thursday)?

As the NALC Councillor and Clerk Protocol did not fully cover declarations of interest, I presented the Town Council Code of Conduct for approval, after we spoke about this earlier.

***Colin Greatorex***

***Town Clerk***

***Coleshill Town Council, Town Hall, High Street, Coleshill B46 3BG***

***Colin@ColeshillTownCouncil.gov.uk***

On 5 July 2016 at 14:48, Maxey, Steve <[SteveMaxey@northwarks.gov.uk](mailto:SteveMaxey@northwarks.gov.uk)> wrote:  
Hi Colin

When I spoke with Cllr Farrell he suggested that the Town Council did in fact adopt a Code of Conduct prior to the recent one.

Could you confirm definitively if this was the case or not? As mentioned this may be important. Could you forward the current one and details of its adoption, and the other one if there is one?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

Steve

**Website - [www.northwarks.gov.uk](http://www.northwarks.gov.uk)**

**Follow us on Twitter - [North Warks BC](#)**

**Like us on Facebook - [northwarksbc](#)**

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## Coleshill Town Council Code of Conduct

### Introduction

Pursuant to section 27 of the Localism Act 2011, **COLESHILL TOWN COUNCIL** ('the Council') has adopted this Code of Conduct to promote and maintain high standards of behaviour by its members and co-opted members whenever they conduct the business of the Council, including the business of the office to which they were elected or appointed, or when they claim to act or give the impression of acting as a representative of the Council.

This Code of Conduct is based on the principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, and leadership.

### Definitions

For the purposes of this Code, a 'co-opted member' is a person who is not a member of the Council but who is either a member of any committee or sub-committee of the Council, or a member of, and represents the Council on any joint committee or joint sub-committee of the Council, and who is entitled to vote on any question that falls to be decided at any meeting of that committee or sub-committee.

For the purposes of this Code, a 'meeting' is a meeting of the Council, any of its committees, sub-committees, joint committees or joint sub-committees.

For the purposes of this Code, and unless otherwise expressed, a reference to a member of the Council includes a co-opted member of the Council.

### Member obligations

When a member of the Council acts, claims to act or gives the impression of acting as a representative of the Council, he/she has the following obligations.

1. He/she shall behave in such a way that a reasonable person would regard as respectful.
2. He/she shall not act in a way which a reasonable person would regard as bullying or intimidatory.
3. He/she shall not seek to improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person.
4. He/she shall use the resources of the Council in accordance with its requirements.
5. He/she shall not disclose information which is confidential or where disclosure is prohibited by law.

### Registration of interests

6. Within 28 days of this Code being adopted by the Council, or the member's election or the co-opted member's appointment (where that is later), he/she shall register with the Monitoring Officer the interests which fall within the categories set out in Appendices A and B.
7. Upon the re-election of a member or the re-appointment of a co-opted member, he/she shall within 28 days re-register with the Monitoring Officer any interests in Appendices A and B.
8. A member shall register with the Monitoring Officer any change to interests or new interests in Appendices A and B within 28 days of becoming aware of it.
9. A member need only declare the existence but not the details of any interest which the Monitoring Officer agrees is a 'sensitive interest'. A sensitive interest is one which, if disclosed on a public

register, could lead the member or a person connected with the member to be subject to violence or intimidation.

**Declaration of interests at meetings**

10. Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to an interest in Appendix A the member shall not participate in a discussion or vote on the matter. He/she only has to declare what his/her interest is if it is not already entered in the member’s register of interests or if he/she has not notified the Monitoring Officer of it.

11. Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to an interest in Appendix A which is a sensitive interest, the member shall not participate in a discussion or vote on the matter. If it is a sensitive interest which has not already been disclosed to the Monitoring Officer, the member shall disclose he/she has an interest but not the nature of it.

12. Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to an interest in Appendix B, the member shall not vote on the matter. He/she may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting.

13. A member only has to declare his/her interest in Appendix B if it is not already entered in his/her register of interests or he/she has not notified the Monitoring Officer of it or if he/she speaks on the matter. If he/she holds an interest in Appendix B which is a sensitive interest not already disclosed to the Monitoring Officer, he/she shall declare the interest but not the nature of the interest.

14. Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to a financial interest of a friend, relative or close associate (other than an interest in Appendix A), the member shall disclose the nature of the interest and not vote on the matter. He/she may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. If it is a ‘sensitive interest’ the member shall declare the interest but not the nature of the interest.

**Dispensations**

15. On a written request made to the Council’s proper officer, the Council may grant a member a dispensation to participate in a discussion and vote on a matter at a meeting even if he/she has an interest in Appendices A and B if the Council believes that the number of members otherwise prohibited from taking part in the meeting would impede the transaction of the business; or it is in the interests of the inhabitants in the Council’s area to allow the member to take part or it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.

**Types of Interest and Action Required**

16. There are three types of interests:

Type	Appendix	Description	Action at a meeting
Disclosable Pecuniary	A	Legally defined and generally business interests that <b>must</b> be declared #	Leave the room. Not discuss /vote in the matter.
Prejudicial	A & B	Suggestion that the member might be subject to influence **, which could offer or allow personal gain.	Leave the room. Not discuss /vote in the matter.
Personal	n/a	The member might personally know of someone or something without influence and wish to publically record this in the minutes.	Can stay in the room and discuss /vote in the matter.

# or else the member could be subject to fine or imprisonment if found to have not declared such interest.  
 \*\* Sometimes known as “the man on Clapham Omnibus test”.

**Appendix A**

Interests described in the table below.

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Description</i>
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain. *
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the Council) made to the member during the 12 month period ending on the latest date referred to in paragraph 6 above for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a member, or towards his/her election expenses. *
	<i>* This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.</i>
Contracts	Any contract made between the member or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the member is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of) and the Council  (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the Council. 'Land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the member or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the member is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the Council for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the member's knowledge) — (a) the landlord is the Council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the member, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the member is living as if they were spouses/civil partners is a partner of or a director of or has a beneficial interest in the securities of.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body <b>where</b> — (a) that body (to the member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the Council; and (b) either — (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the member, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the member is living as if they were spouses/civil partners has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

**Appendix B**

An interest which relates to or is likely to affect:

- (i) any body of which the member is in a position of general control or management and to which he/she is appointed or nominated by the Council;
- (ii) any body—
  - (a) exercising functions of a public nature;
  - (b) directed to charitable purposes; or
  - (c) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which the member of the Council is a member or in a position of general control or management;
- (iii) any gifts or hospitality worth more than an estimated value of £50 which the member has received by virtue of his or her office.

**Maxey, Steve**

---

**From:** Colin Greatorex <colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 05 August 2016 15:07  
**To:** Maxey, Steve  
**Subject:** FW: Carnival vehicles

Steve,

The instruction re Cllr. Jones request to be the contact for the Carnival Committee.

Regards

*Colin Greatorex*  
*Coleshill Town Clerk*

Tel: 01675 463326

Coleshill Town Council, 142 High Street, Coleshill, Warks. B46 3BG

[colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)

(Normal office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

---

**From:** Mark Jones [<mailto:mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk>]  
**Sent:** 4 July, 2016 6:10 PM  
**To:** Colin Greatorex; Michael Ford-Terry  
**Cc:** Councillor Adam Farrell; Zoe Hillcox; Cllr. Kirsteen Wootton (CTC)  
**Subject:** RE: Carnival vehicles

Hi Colin

For information I will be dealing with any Funfair issues in respect of the Carnival.

To be honest I expected some minor problems with the funfair and so did they as the vehicles are heavy. I have the assurance of the owners that all of these situations will be either put right or dealt with correctly on departure and I will ensure they are. Kayes Events are very reliable and pride themselves with ensuring all is fine by the time they leave. I will of course ensure that the Town Council is not out of pocket in respect of the Carnival.

May I suggest instead of highlighting things now we literally collate any issues and at the end of the Carnival we can agree a state of repairs required and Ill ensure all is sorted with them. The park of course must be left immaculate at the end of the Carnival which all of the committee are determined to ensure it is.

Please can we copy the Mayor in on this email as she is aware of the professionalism of the company and I think she needs to be aware of this as well.

I will pop a copy of both insurances into you tomorrow

Thank You

Mark Jones

**CONFIDENTIAL REPORT**

**From:** [greatorexcolin7@gmail.com](mailto:greatorexcolin7@gmail.com) [mailto:[greatorexcolin7@gmail.com](mailto:greatorexcolin7@gmail.com)] **On Behalf Of** Colin Greatorex  
**Sent:** 04 July 2016 17:38  
**To:** Michael Ford-Terry <[mjfordterry@aol.com](mailto:mjfordterry@aol.com)>  
**Cc:** Mark Jones <[mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk](mailto:mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk)>; Councillor Adam Farrell <[adamfarrell@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:adamfarrell@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)>; Zoe Hillcox <[zoe@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:zoe@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)>; Cllr. Kirsteen Wootton (CTC) <[kirsteenwootton@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:kirsteenwootton@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Carnival vehicles

Michael,

I am sorry to have to pass this on but the arrival of the funfair at the Memorial Park has caused a few problems today.

The upper football pitch has been churned up a little at the Wilmot Avenue end. In addition, picture 1 attached shows the curb in front of No. 1 Wilmot Avenue as you turn the bend near the garages. The curb has been broken up and will need repair. Similarly, in picture 2 and 3, the curb in front of No. 2 Wilmot Avenue has sunk with heavy vehicles driving over the pavement.

This damage is to Warks CC highways land but I wanted to alert you so that you can discuss this while Kayes is on site as there may be a claim. Can you please send a copy of the Carnival Committee's public liability insurance and also that for Kayes Funfairs Ltd.?

***Colin Greatorex***

***Town Clerk***

***Coleshill Town Council, Town Hall, High Street, Coleshill B46 3BG***

***[Colin@ColeshillTownCouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Colin@ColeshillTownCouncil.gov.uk)***

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Colin Greatorex <[greatorexcolin7@gmail.com](mailto:greatorexcolin7@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** 4 July 2016 at 15:07  
**Subject:** Carnival vehicles  
**To:** Colin Greatorex <[colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)>

Sent from my iPhone

No virus found in this message.

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Version: 2016.0.7640 / Virus Database: 4613/12567 - Release Date: 07/06/16

No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

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**Maxey, Steve**

---

**From:** Colin Greatorex <colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 05 August 2016 15:07  
**To:** Maxey, Steve  
**Subject:** FW: Carnival vehicles

Steve,

The instruction re Cllr. Jones request to be the contact for the Carnival Committee.

Regards

*Colin Greatorex*

*Coleshill Town Clerk*

Tel: 01675 463326

Coleshill Town Council, 142 High Street, Coleshill, Warks. B46 3BG

[colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)

(Normal office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

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I will pop a copy of both insurances into you tomorrow

Thank You

Mark Jones

## CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

**From:** [greatorexcolin7@gmail.com](mailto:greatorexcolin7@gmail.com) [mailto:[greatorexcolin7@gmail.com](mailto:greatorexcolin7@gmail.com)] **On Behalf Of** Colin Greatorex  
**Sent:** 04 July 2016 17:38  
**To:** Michael Ford-Terry <[mjfordterry@aol.com](mailto:mjfordterry@aol.com)>  
**Cc:** Mark Jones <[mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk](mailto:mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk)>; Councillor Adam Farrell <[adamfarrell@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:adamfarrell@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)>; Zoe Hillcox <[zoe@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:zoe@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)>; Cllr. Kirsteen Wootton (CTC) <[kirsteenwootton@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:kirsteenwootton@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Carnival vehicles

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***Colin Greatorex***

***Town Clerk***

***Coleshill Town Council, Town Hall, High Street, Coleshill B46 3BG***

***[Colin@ColeshillTownCouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Colin@ColeshillTownCouncil.gov.uk)***

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**To:** Colin Greatorex <[colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)>

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Checked by AVG - [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

Version: 2016.0.7640 / Virus Database: 4613/12567 - Release Date: 07/06/16

**Maxey, Steve**

---

**From:** Colin Greatorex <colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 05 August 2016 15:14  
**To:** Maxey, Steve  
**Subject:** FW: Memorial Park - football pitches

Steve,

Further instruction from Cllr. Jones re him being the contact for Carnival Committee and funfair damage "I am dealing with anything at the memorial park"

Please pass on to the investigating solicitor.

Regards

*Colin Greatorex*  
*Coleshill Town Clerk*

Tel: 01675 463326  
Coleshill Town Council, 142 High Street, Coleshill, Warks. B46 3BG  
[colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)  
(Normal office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

---

**From:** Mark Jones [<mailto:mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk>]  
**Sent:** 1 August, 2016 3:55 PM  
**To:** Colin Greatorex; 'Michael Ford-Terry'  
**Cc:** 'Cllr. Mark Jones (CTC)'; 'Zoe Hillcox'  
**Subject:** RE: Memorial Park - football pitches

Hi Colin

Can we just be clear of our conversation this morning which I have relayed to Michael Ford Terry as well as I am dealing with anything at the memorial park .

I went with Zoe to the memorial park along with Alan & Co. I agree totally it needs some work doing and I think Alan agrees it needs top soil and a roller which I believe you are trying for.

Can as soon as we know what we are doing to it estimate costs and let us know what they are, I don't want them spiralling out of control without us knowing, so if you can just let us know that would be great.

We always have been happy to ensure things are put right and I am sure they can be quite quickly.

Also you stated previously that you were getting a price from JML for the repair of the path at Wilmott Avenue (The one on CTC ground not the larger one) ? If you let us know what it is and we can sort that out as well.

And if you can order some rain that would be good and help...

Mark Jones

---

**From:** Colin Greatorex [<mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 1, 2016 3:35 PM  
**To:** 'Michael Ford-Terry' <[mjfordterry@aol.com](mailto:mjfordterry@aol.com)>

**CONFIDENTIAL REPORT**

**Cc:** 'Cllr. Mark Jones (CTC)' <[markjones@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:markjones@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)>; 'Zoe Hillcox' <[zoe@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:zoe@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: Memorial Park - football pitches

Michael,

The two Grounds people are trying to acquire top soil from a supplier and assistance with water and the roller from the Cricket Club.

Regards

**Colin Greateorex**

**Coleshill Town Clerk**

Tel: 01675 463326

Coleshill Town Council, 142 High Street, Coleshill, Warks. B46 3BG

[colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)

(Normal office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

---

**From:** Michael Ford-Terry [<mailto:mjfordterry@aol.com>]

**Sent:** 1 August, 2016 11:20 AM

**To:** Colin Greateorex

**Cc:** Cllr. Mark Jones (CTC); Zoe Hillcox

**Subject:** Re: Memorial Park - football pitches

Good morning Colin

Apologies for the rut not been sorted out sooner, if you could please get the grounds men to sort it out that would be appreciated by the committee, Mark is calling in to see you later so if you could please liaise with him about costs etc that would be good

Kind regards

Michael

---

Sent from my iPhone

On 1 Aug 2016, at 9:35 am, Colin Greateorex <[colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)> wrote:

Michael,

The football teams will be back training this week and the grounds team have said there are ruts in the hard, dry ground that will make it unplayable. This is an issue from the funfair last month. The picture attached also shows the deep trough created where the vehicles entered the pitch area.

Please advise if this is something the Coleshill Carnival Committee will rectify or should the Town Council do so and charge onward to the committee?

I would guess the ground needs a lot of water on it to soften the ground and then a heavy roller across the ruts to flatten them out. Time is quite short with training sessions starting later this month.

**Colin Greateorex**

**Town Clerk**

**Coleshill Town Council, Town Hall, High Street, Coleshill B46 3BG**

[Colin@ColeshillTownCouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Colin@ColeshillTownCouncil.gov.uk)

<Damage to MP from Funfair 2016.JPG>

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Version: 2016.0.7690 / Virus Database: 4627/12722 - Release Date: 08/01/16

**Maxey, Steve**

---

**From:** Colin Greatorex <colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 05 August 2016 15:45  
**To:** Maxey, Steve  
**Subject:** FW: Declaration Form  
**Attachments:** CTC Declaration of Interest Apps A B.docx; Cllr Jones NWBC website dec unsigned and undated.pdf

Steve,

Please pass to the investigating solicitor re. Cllr. Jones to consider the two attachments:

**Form on NWBC Website**

No mention of B46 Print or any other company name.

Inconsistency of Director and Self-Employed IT Consultant between the forms (and no company names).

No reference to property but resident in Mornington Court, Coleshill.

Ownership Computamate Ltd, a Registered Company – features on CTC Dec of Interest for but not the NWBC website one.

Undated (easy to deny ownership).

Unsigned (easy to deny ownership).

No interests at all for partner (I understand some interests may have been registered in his wife's name?). \*

**CTC Dec of Interest Form**

No mention of B46 Print or any other company name.

Inconsistency of Director and Self-Employed IT Consultant between the forms (and no company names).

No reference to property but resident in Mornington Court, Coleshill.

Only completed 5<sup>th</sup> August but Council agreed completion by a date in June.

Electronic signature (easy to deny ownership).

No interests at all for partner (I understand some interests may have been registered in his wife's name?). \*

\* If there are business interests for a partner they are Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

Regards

**Colin Greatorex**

**Coleshill Town Clerk**

Tel: 01675 463326

Coleshill Town Council, 142 High Street, Coleshill, Warks. B46 3BG

[colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)

(Normal office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

---

**From:** Mark Jones [<mailto:mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk>]

**Sent:** 5 August, 2016 2:14 PM

**To:** Colin Greatorex

**Subject:** RE: Declaration Form

Yes I'm sure I did but please find attached a copy anyway.

Regards

Mark Jones

---

**From:** Colin Greatorex [<mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 5, 2016 1:53 PM  
**To:** Cllr. Mark Jones (CTC) <[markjones@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:markjones@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Declaration Form

Mark,

Can you please advise if you have filled out a CTC declaration of interest form and sent it back? I do not seem to have a copy?

Regards

***Colin Greatorex***  
***Coleshill Town Clerk***  
Tel: 01675 463326  
Coleshill Town Council, 142 High Street, Coleshill, Warks. B46 3BG  
[colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)  
(Normal office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

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Version: 2016.0.7690 / Virus Database: 4627/12750 - Release Date: 08/05/16

COLESHILL TOWN COUNCIL

Register of Member's Disclosable Pecuniary Interests  
Required under Section 30 of the Localism Act 2011

Name Mark Jones

Appendix A

<p><b>1. Employment, Office, Trade, Profession or Vocation</b></p> <p>Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.</p> <p><b>Details of Employment (s)</b></p> <p><b>Director</b></p>	<p>State whether this entry is for self or partner</p> <p><b>SELF</b></p>
<p><b>2. Sponsorship</b></p> <p>Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit made or provided within the relevant period (in the last 12 months) in respect of any expenses incurred by me or my partner in carrying out duties as a Member towards my election expenses.</p> <p><b>Details of party, person or body making payment (s)</b></p> <p><b>NONE</b></p>	<p>Whether made to yourself or your partner</p>

<p><b>3. Contract</b></p> <p>Any contract which is made between me or my partner (or a body in which I or my partner have a beneficial interest) and any Partner Authority – (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.</p> <p><b>Description of Contract (s)</b></p> <p><b>NONE</b></p>	<p>Whether made to yourself or your partner</p>
<p><b>4. Land</b></p> <p>Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of any Partner Authority.</p> <p><b>Address of Land</b></p> <p><b>NONE</b></p>	<p>Nature of Interest (including if for self or partner)</p>
<p><b>5. Licences</b></p> <p>Any Licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of any Partner Authority for a month or longer.</p> <p><b>Address of Land</b></p> <p><b>NONE</b></p>	<p>Details of Licence (including if self or partner)</p>

<p><b>6. Corporate Tenancies</b></p> <p>Any tenancy where (to my knowledge – (a) the landlord is any Partner Authority; and (b) the tenant is a body in which I or my partner have a beneficial interest.</p> <p><b>Address of Land</b></p> <p>NONE</p>	<p>Detail of Tenancy (including if for self or Partner)</p>
<p><b>7. Securities</b></p> <p>Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where – (a) that body (to my knowledge) has a place of business or land in the parish (Town) boundary ; and (b) either – (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which I or my partner have a beneficial interest. Interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.</p> <p><b>Name of Body or Company</b></p> <p>I own Computamate Ltd a Registered Company</p>	<p>Whether this entry is for yourself or your partner</p> <p>SELF</p>

**Appendix B**

An interest which relates to or is likely to affect:

(i) any body of which the member is in a position of general control or management and to which he/she is appointed or nominated by the Council;

I am a member of Coleshill in Bloom  
 I am also the Town Council Elected Representative for Coleshill in Bloom

(ii) any body—

(a) exercising functions of a public nature;

(b) directed to charitable purposes; or

(c) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which the member of the Council is a member or in a position of general control or management;

I am Group Scout Leader for Coleshill Scout Group

I am a Member of Coleshill Carnival Committee

(iii) any gifts or hospitality worth more than an estimated value of £50 which the member has received by virtue of his or her office.

I confirm that I have set out above next to the appropriate headings my interests which I am required to declare under the localism Act 2011 and that I have put "None" where I have no such interests.

I recognise that it can be a breach of the Code of Conduct for Members to:

- omit information that ought to be given in this notice;
- provide information that is materially false or misleading;
- fail to give further notices in order to:
  - bring up to date information given in this notice
  - declare an interest that I acquire after the date of this notice and have to declare.

I note that I must within 28 days of becoming aware of any changes to the interests specified above, provide written notification to the Monitoring Officer and Town Clerk of that change.

Signed *Mark Jones*

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> August 2016

RECEIVED

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Town Clerk and Proper Officer of Coleshill Town Council

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Notification by a Member of  
Parish/Town Council of disclosable pecuniary  
interests (2012)**

I (print full name)

MARK EDWARD JONES

A Member of COLESHILL Parish/Town Council, give notice that I have the following disclosable pecuniary interests under sections 29-34 of Localism Act 2011.

These disclosable pecuniary interests apply to myself or my partner (which means spouse or civil partner, a person with whom I am living as husband or wife, or a person with whom I am living as though we are civil partners).

Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried out for profit or gain.

Self

SELF EMPLOYED IT CONSULTANT

Partner

N/A

Sponsorship received in respect of carrying out duties as a member of the authority, or towards my election expenses

Self

~~N/A~~ NORTH WARWICKSHIRE CONSERVATIVES

Partner

N/A

Contracts between myself (or body in which I have a beneficial interest) and the North Warwickshire Borough Council (or organisation contracted to carry out business on its behalf)

Self

N/A

Partner

N/A

Address of property or land in the Borough of North Warwickshire in which I have a beneficial interest

Self

N/A

Partner

N/A

Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the Borough of North Warwickshire for a month or longer

Self

N/A

Partner

N/A

Any tenancy where (a) the landlord is North Warwickshire Borough Council; and (b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest

Self

N/A

Partner

N/A

Any beneficial interest in securities (stocks, shares, bonds etc) of a body where (a) that body has a place of business or land in the Borough of North Warwickshire; and (B) either (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) of the share capital is of more than one class, the total nominal value of any one class in which I have a relevant interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class

Self

N/A

Partner

N/A

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** A Member must, within 28 days of becoming aware of any change to the interests specified above, provide written notification to the authority's monitoring officer of that change.

**Sensitive Information**

Where you consider that disclosure of the details of an interest could lead you, or a person connected to you, or a person connected with you, being subject to violence or intimidation, and the Monitoring Officer agrees, any published version of the register will exclude details of the interest but may state that you have an interest, the details of which are withheld.

**Maxey, Steve**

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**From:** Colin Greatorex <colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 24 August 2016 15:42  
**To:** Maxey, Steve  
**Subject:** Member behaviour - evidence  
**Attachments:** Cllr Jones Evidence Request.docx

Steve,

I was under the impression that you /the solicitor would contact me /other staff/ other elected members /suppliers when you had commenced the investigation and were ready for evidence. Clearly, it now appears that you are ready for evidence and so am sending it.

As communicated before, as well as the declarations of interest matters, the wider issues relating to Councillor Jones are, in my opinion, summarised as follows:

- Bullying (self and others)
- Intimidation (self and others)
- Harassment (self and others)
- Non-acceptance of this council's committee structure and its provisions
- Non-acceptance of council agreed Standing Order restrictions
- Non-acceptance of Financial Regulation provisions
- Criticising staff in public meetings
- Criticising staff for member-led decisions taken
- Negative comments about Council decisions and supplier reputations in social media

It is clearly difficult to demonstrate some issues that happened 'in person' and so I attach an electronic summary of email correspondence. This illustrates some written evidence to support my ensuring you that the bullying, intimidation, harassment, non-acceptance of council agreed policies and criticising of me /other staff has happened in public meetings and in the offices as well as in writing. Some of my staff have witnessed the 'in office' instances as I have taken to only now meeting him when there are witnesses present. Members of staff will support my evidence and are writing separately.

As indicated before, you can rest assured that this is not a personal matter as there are Councillors, staff and suppliers all prepared to give evidence to whomever, on request. Since the people named on my summary to you have not been asked for their evidence by you or the solicitor, please advise if you will now do this or whether you would rather that I ask them to forward the same to you directly?

Regards

**Colin Greatorex**  
**Coleshill Town Clerk**

Tel: 01675 463326  
Coleshill Town Council, 142 High Street, Coleshill, Warks. B46 3BG  
[colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)  
(Normal office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

**Cllr. Jones – Member Behaviour, Evidence Request**

<b>Issue Raised - Regular text in bold</b>
<i>Evidence - Italics</i>
<p><b>Failure to accept that he was not entitled to attend a Working Group of which he was not a member and a bullying, inaccurate response to my officer advice. The inaccurate aspect being that my advice is "made up" (when actually it was checked with WALC and the Borough Council Monitoring Officer) and that it was undemocratic (a Working Group, complement of which was agreed by Town Council).</b></p> <p><i>"Total semantics this is a sub committee and undemocratic I disagree with you, it is also being led as you have stated only yesterday by cllr Farrell who is acting as a leader and putting suggestions up. Disgusting." 13.10.15</i></p> <p><i>As discussed with the Mayor and yourself on Wednesday evening can you forward me the exact Standing order that bars me from attending the Memorial Park working group on Tuesday 21st please. Can you also state HO is barring me from the meeting and why? 17.06.16</i></p> <p><i>"This is incorrect and you are just finding an excuse as far as this informal bit is concerned and made up Colin. Show me where legally it states that an elected representative cannot attend. This is an insult EVERY meeting by law should have the opportunity of all elected representative to attend.</i></p> <p><i>So is this YOU making the decision and under what authority. As I have asked if it is not you who is it. Have you copied this to the Mayor and what are her views. I do not agree with this at all Item 19 does not state that people cannot attend and I definitely challenge this in its entirety. Please record is as a challenge. I am so annoyed about this. This is undemocratic when an elected representative cannot attend a "Secret Meeting" of a Town Council he is on. Especially when I have grave concerns about certain areas, is this why I am not being allowed to attend I certainly hope not." 20.06.16</i></p> <p><i>"I wish to put on record that I DISAGREE with YOUR decision (It is not a decision made by the Town Council and that it is disgusting that this Town Council is now holding "secret" meetings in respect of important areas of council and elected representatives are not allowed to attend." 21.06.16</i></p> <p><b>Failure to accept that he was not on the Grants Committee but bullying insistence with other members and me to see the applications before they were considered by that committee. (The Adam is Cllr. Richardson, Chairman of the Grants Committee).</b></p> <p><i>"No argument there Adam at all, however you will of course agree that ALL elected representatives are entitled to view the reports especially when</i></p>

<p>constituents ask them what the money has been spent on, it doesn't make the Grants board a ruling body it makes them an advisory body to Full Council. " 06.05.16</p>
<p><b>Constant criticism for choice of supplier and spend level on items, despite purchases being within the Council's Financial Procedures for me to make purchases up to £1,000.</b></p>
<p>"for info I have just been quoted £200 for a boulder twice the size! Of the one quoted here so not sure where the £450 is coming from" 05.04.16</p>
<p>"We also need to look at our purchasing I have identified savings in the hundreds in certain areas and this concerns me." 07.04.16</p>
<p>"The Hog Roast was expensive at £600 They are normally at LEAST supplied free of charge and the person doing them takes the money . I have some contacts next time we need one let me know and I'll give you them." 06.05.16</p>
<p>"The Commibus Charge basically gave us some power from a generator and a very poor PA which no one could hear! I had a number of people who commented when the speakers were speaking. It also gave us a pop up marquee which was basic. I think with a bit more liaison with the church we could have got the power from there at very little cost. I think this was expensive but I also note you did do very well with the little amount of time to organise." 06.05.16</p>
<p><b>Request for verbatim minute quoting of comments made by him at meetings (not custom and practice and not relevant to the decision recorded).</b></p>
<p>"In the item on Procurement where Cllr Farrell mentions using the Borough to purchase the benches you have omitted my comment " Cllr Jones raised the point that he had mentioned this twice before at Council meetings and via email to the Clerk and he considers that we should look at the procurement system in earnest and we could save a lot of money" 01.08.16</p>
<p><b>Assertively not accepting the majority vote of members (quoted below as 30% support based on 7 vs. 3 but actually <u>only one</u> in favour of barriers being installed rather than boulders).</b></p>
<p>"A saving of probably £1500 is of course irrelevant then if we could have made it and of course that's 30% support of the council. I am somewhat disappointed and disgusted with this email but eh oh." 06.05.16</p>
<p><b>Constant disrespectful and discrediting wording and stance in wide distribution email correspondence. This, below to all members, disputing the use of boulders when he insisted a barrier solution was a better option.</b></p>
<p>"HELLO!! this is surely a simple decision". 07.04.16</p>
<p><b>Constant bullying, harrying and intimidating in relation to action demanded to support his view of the action required (even when his view is in the minority with other members).</b></p>

<p>Boulders example again (above – minority of one of 10) and container movement and “I will require the exact LAW or Standing order that states ….”). 05.04.16 I accept that the 8 councillors made a decision to support the “Keep Arley Sports centre Open” campaign but 8 councillors is hardly Coleshill is it? I think some residents of Coleshill may be offended that the Town Council is taking this stance and I’m not sure in reality that they will be that bothered. 15.04.16</p>
<p><b>Rubbishing of Council decisions in Facebook.</b> I have received a complaint for action required from a contractor regarding derogatory comments by Cllr. Jones on Moore Environment (written regarding the Memorial Park project). Circa April /May 2016.</p>
<p><b>Rubbishing of a Town Council supplier’s reputation in public discussion regarding a commemorative event.</b> I have received a complaint from a supplier (Commibus) for derogatory comments by Cllr. Jones (written regarding the Queen’s Birthday Beacon lighting at the Croft). Circa April /May 2016.</p>
<p><b>Speaking to interested parties about confidential meetings and revealing voting detail by member, damaging the reputation of the Council (Cllr. Taylor’s registered complaint).</b> Request for funding by Coleshill FC matter) and revealing For’s and Against’s voting, member by member. After 16.12.15 confidential meeting.</p>
<p><b>Challenging /criticising my professionalism and honesty in a public full Town Council meeting.</b> Claiming I failed to name Ms. Beth Robinson as a speaker on an agenda, when in fact the agenda was published and distributed on Friday 13 May (before I was advised of the speaker’s name on the following Monday 16 May): “Please find attached a short presentation which will be presented on Wednesday evening by Beth Robinson from the Coleshill Hotel in respect of the Carnival Funding application.” 16.05.16</p>
<p><b>Outwardly criticising myself (and others) by email for showing political bias in our actions.</b> “This shows the exact bias towards the Labour party that we currently have at the Town Council from staff and I find that wrong and disappoointing”. 05.06.18</p>
<p><b>Aggressive, bullying insistence that Coleshill South Borough Councillors are relayed all complaints /comments related to Borough Council matters, even though CTC staff are not employed to be involved in such a process. (The easier and more professional option adopted by Coleshill North Borough members is for CTC to email or web-contact the Borough contact centre at Atherstone.)</b> “Thank You for your detailed synopsis of a simple challenge. In my opinion your reply is biased to your opinion hence my response here.</p>

<p>Firstly in respect of option 1 if you added to item 1 the simple cc to the correct borough officers then that would be fine AND WOULD SOLVE THIS ISSUE. My gripe has always been that as the elected Borough Councillor I have often been unaware of incidents because CTC have failed to notify me or my colleague. This is so simple and in fact you agreed if you recall that this would be done but have failed to implement it. It is simply a cc to the borough councillor. In respect of comments regarding training they are all irrelevant if you cc the councillor in.</p> <p>Yes you have failed to convince me of option 1 the same way as I have obviously failed to convince you of a simple cc option which you previously agreed I JUST WANT TO BE INFORMED . I certainly do not think it is appropriate to start discussing what you apparently have seen in apparent different authorities. I have also seen communication methods in many large corporates. It is irrelevant i just want to be informed .</p> <p>I think the word presumably shows your bias towards option 2 and does not show a balanced view. As I have said , but you have failed to acknowledge I am happy with option 1 WITH A SIMPLE CC.</p> <p>I have no idea what you are talking about in relation to Land ownership Colin you confuse the issue. It is irrelevant if CTC councillors know about a borough issue unless it is necessary. I deal with matters that CTC don't know about but thats obvious. I do not understand your point here at all.</p> <p>I am more than happy if you continue with option 1 but I would request added to it is the simple option that staff just cc Coleshill South Councillors in on those issues so they are aware of what is happening on their areas. This improves the service to customers as had been proved today.</p> <p>In respect of your comments and YOUR OPINION that my comments were tactless how dare you, since when has it been your job to comment on opinion of a councillor. I was not attacking the messenger as you put it. I was stating a fact that the opinion that they were disappointed with the service of NWBC was unnecessary and I stick by it. The email states that no communication had taken place with the resident - that was because she gave the wrong number. She complained that the job needed to be done - It had been done over a week ago! The NWBC officers were very annoyed also at this criticism and as you say they are also remarkably good at tactfully handling these areas also and are NO DIFFERENT to CTC staff of course. They also deserve a voice. I suggest you try to modify your comments towards myself and identify that my long suggested remedy of a cc to local councillors would solve these issues. I solved this issue within 10 minutes of being informed of it.</p> <p>I would like to point out here that you have complicated a simple issue here and have failed to respect the views of myself and consider the opinion of other officers of NWBC. I also am offended by your criticising my opinion. There is a simple option cc us in on issues in our area. Hardly a corporate decision is it?"</p> <p>28.06.16</p>	<p><b>Ignoring a clear conflict of interest in relation to discussing the arrangements for the Carnival Committee to use the Council's Park as a member of Council and also a representative of the Carnival Committee.</b></p> <p><i>For information I will be dealing with any Funfair issues in respect of the Carnival. 04.07.16</i></p> <p><i>To be honest I expected some minor problems with the funfair and so did they as the vehicles are heavy. I have the assurance of the owners that all of these situations will be either put right or dealt with correctly on departure and I will ensure they are. 04.07.16</i></p> <p><i>Can we just be clear of our conversation this morning which I have relayed to Michael Ford Terry as well as I am dealing with anything at the memorial park. 01.08.16</i></p> <p><i>I do not consider myself conflicted at all. For your information I am not agreeing financial details the committee agrees all details not me. I just put the facts to the committee. As far as we are concerned as the Carnival Committee we just need to get the matter sorted out. 05.08.16</i></p>
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*(Further emails from 05.08.16 still negotiating matters on the park repairs cost).*

**Initial failure to accept a conflict of interest in relation to discussing the charge for football pitch repair whilst a member of Council and also a Vice Chairman of the Carnival Committee. Also, an abusive and accusative attitude in person and by email as a follow up, despite eventually agreeing to the conflict of interest (with Monitoring Officer guidance).**

*Further to our discussion about an hour ago. I would like to register my disdain in your attitude to me as a Councillor and your inability to listen when I was trying to get a solution and your frequent statements of "I don't want to debate it with you" It seems you make a decision and no one else's opinion matters. However moving on I disagree with your opinion on conflict but for the record I will now withdraw from dealing on behalf of the Carnival committee in respect of the memorial park due to my being a Councillor. However I do expect to be copied in on all emails as a Councillor. Michael Ford Terry will deal with it from now on.*

*I wish now , as a councillor , to register my complaint on how this has been allowed to proceed and would like to know what the heck is going on in the organisation and control of JML at the Memorial Park Centre .....*

*..... So we end up with a set of contractors undertaking work at a price that is not acceptable on Town Council Land and when they had no go ahead at all from anyone. You stated that you were investigating this. I should think you are as the Responsible officer for the Memorial Park this does not seem very responsible at all. It seems JML are pleasing themselves at the memorial park?*

*This and together with other areas I have previously highlighted makes me think it is time we had some explanations on this. The Carnival Committee have done everything possible to deal with these areas as fast as possible and the work is only hindered by your delays and contractors poking their noses in. 05.08.16.*

*Do you have a result of your investigation in respect of the pricing of the Memorial Parks repairs following the Carnival and also the reason why contractors JML were working without authorisation on this project? 16.08.16*

*Can I say first of all that of course, as has been pointed out by the Town Clerk, I have a Conflict of Interests here as I am a member of the Carnival Committee.*

*However as a Councillor I am of course allowed to comment. First of all the Carnival Committee as always stated will ensure the Memorial Park is returned to good and its stance is still the same.*

*The reason that the work was too much for our own staff was that they had Holiday commitments and were not available to do it as they were away which is understandable. At no time did the Carnival Committee ask for quotes from anyone and the quote is totally down to the Town Clerk and no one else. JML are far too expensive for this type of job and if the breakdown is looked at, which I notice is omitted from this email, the charges are outrageous. Far too much topsoil, the hiring of double rollers NOT needed and huge Labour costs. It is amazing that their quote has reduced by 33% since it was queried this imho does not show good will at all and shows that we are being overcharged by JML or Moore environment. (continues) 18.06.16*

<p>Accusing me of taking decisions where I am merely communicating an elected member decision. The example here is to cancel a meeting, largely because the full Carnival Committee (including Cllr. Jones) was due to attend when only the Chairman was invited. (This is also a further example of failure to accept a conflict of interest in relation to being a member of Council and also a Vice Chairman of the Carnival Committee).</p> <p><i>I also had made arrangements to attend this meeting and it costs me money too. Apparently the Town Clerk has mentioned to Michael that it was only for him and Councillor Farrell No one else could attend. I think this is getting absolutely ridiculous the meeting is for all to attend and have a chat about a great event. The Town Clerk is NOT authorised to make these decisions and this meeting should be going ahead. I am told that the Mayor does not even know about this meeting and is not being kept informed. I would like to know what is going on here. 18.08.16</i></p>
<p><b>Challenging my decision (as a paid officer responsible for assessing the communication to members) to not report every piece of resident correspondence to full Town Council meetings. Comments in a disrespectful, sarcastic, bullying manner.</b></p> <p><i>Oh right so if we get a letter from a resident you may decide to not tell the council about it hmmm. Which Standing order for reference please? 27.06.16</i></p>
<p><b>Criticising me, as an independent officer, for undertaking a member's decision with which he did not agree, even when informed it was a Chairman member decision under Financial Regulation limits (e.g. moving a container for the Carnival Committee).</b></p> <p><i>I told you we could get it moved with a person fully insured for nothing and at no cost to the ratepayer of Coleshill of which you totally ignored and apparently at the direction of Councillor Wooten(Your words not mine) went ahead and wasted £150 of Ratepayers money in moving it. IJ find this disappointing. 15.07.16</i></p>
<p><b>Vexatious level of questioning (e.g. of part numbers on a £200k+ project being managed by a contractor project manager, sub-managing another contractor that is working to an agreed Bill of Quantities register, under the supervision of 3 other elected members on the Working Group and controlled as an overall project spend by a Town Council agreed budget).</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Which model Broxapp Post and Rail fence are Moore Using please. This is in relation to 4.1.6 and 4.1.7</i></li> <li>2. <i>Which Broxapp Removable Bollard are Moore Using please 4.1.9</i></li> <li>3. <i>Which Fixed Bollards are they using 4.1.8</i></li> <li>4. <i>Please explain this Trip rail for the Cricket field What is it and where is it going?</i></li> <li>5. <i>What is this Chicane Feature?</i></li> </ol> <p><i>AT the point of receiving this then I will comment. 22.07.16</i></p>

<p><i>If I wish to speak to the External Auditor. What are the rules am I allowed to? Are there deadlines and what period is she auditing and how do I contact her please. 27.07.16</i></p>
<p><b>Harassing response to my attempt to advise and consult with the Mayor and the Chairman of the committee responsible for audit in response to his request to speak to the External Auditor, as above.</b></p>
<p><i>First of all can you tell me why my private emails are being copied and forwarded to other councillors without me being asked before they are. This was a polite request for information on what the situation as with speaking to the external auditor and you certainly did not have my permission to forward to anyone. Can you tell me what Councillor Wooten has to do with this subject please? No criticism on her but she has nothing to do with this subject. I don't really see what the Mayor has to do with it yet either as it was a simple question which imho you are making a mountain out of a molehill. 29.07.16</i></p>
<p><b>Bullying disregard of the Council agreed committee structure, task groups and delegated authorities according to Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.</b></p>
<p><i>In my opinion we already have too many decisions made by lone councillors when other representatives know nothing about it is for the Full Town Council to make those decisions surely but here we have a simple request which is really a 10 minute job.. This frustrates me as does the Memorial Party Working group secret meetings where other elected representatives are not allowed to attend. You not allowing this information has prevented me from commenting on the Security item properly. I as a member know very little about the workings at the memorial park as I suspect a lot of others don't. I would like to know more ? 27.07.15</i></p>
<p><b>Failure to complete a declaration of interest form by the Council agreed 15.07.16 deadline and responding with a(n electronically signed) form when reminded it was outstanding.</b></p>
<p><i>Yes I'm sure I did but please find attached a copy anyway. 05.08.16</i></p>

**Maxey, Steve**

---

**From:** Colin Greatorex <colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 24 August 2016 16:32  
**To:** Maxey, Steve  
**Cc:** Cllr. Adam Farrell (CTC); Cllr. Kirsteen Wootton (CTC)  
**Subject:** FW: A few matters

Steve,

Please add this to the list of issues sent earlier. JML are the Park contractors on site, project managed by Moore Environment.

Regards

*Colin Greatorex*

*Coleshill Town Clerk*

Tel: 01675 463326

Coleshill Town Council, 142 High Street, Coleshill, Warks. B46 3BG

[colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)

(Normal office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

---

**From:** Sue Moore [<mailto:S.Moore@moore-environment.co.uk>]

**Sent:** 24 August, 2016 11:21 AM

**To:** Colin Greatorex

**Cc:** declan rooney; Zoe Hillcox; Councillor Adam Farrell

**Subject:** RE: A few matters

Colin

I have just had a report from Declan that Cllr Jones has been down on site talking to JML. He is criticising everything about the works apparently, and asking who approved any of it – that the play/ trim trail/ gym equipment will never get used and is a complete waste of money, that the locations of the trim trail equipment is ridiculous etc etc.

JML just listen and make no comment.

Just thought you should be aware.

Kind regards

Sue Moore

Director/Landscape Architect/Environmental Coordinator

Moore Environment

Griffin House 9 Coventry Road Coleshill Birmingham B46 3BB

T.01675 466877 F.01675 466899

[s.moore@moore-environment.co.uk](mailto:s.moore@moore-environment.co.uk)

[www.moore-environment.co.uk](http://www.moore-environment.co.uk)



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Moore Environment Ltd Registration No 4514803

**From:** [greatorexcolin7@gmail.com](mailto:greatorexcolin7@gmail.com) [mailto:[greatorexcolin7@gmail.com](mailto:greatorexcolin7@gmail.com)] **On Behalf Of** Colin Greatorex  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2016 4:54 PM  
**To:** Sue Moore  
**Cc:** declan rooney; Zoe Hillcox  
**Subject:** A few matters

Sue,

I have just tried your number but it went to a/m. A few separate matters to mention:

The 'arisings' our Outside Services people will use if it is left on site.  
The upper football pitch is still unplayable. There are other smaller sections away from the JML big repair that are big enough or deep enough that refs will not allow the games to go ahead. I spoke to Cllr. Farrell who has said we need to get it sorted.

I will also speak about a Community Centre play area job. Possibly a JML quote?

***Colin Greatorex***  
***Town Clerk***  
***Coleshill Town Council, Town Hall, High Street, Coleshill B46 3BG***  
***[Colin@ColeshillTownCouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Colin@ColeshillTownCouncil.gov.uk)***

No virus found in this message.  
Checked by AVG - [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)  
Version: 2016.0.7752 / Virus Database: 4647/12870 - Release Date: 08/24/16

**Maxey, Steve**

---

**From:** Colin Greatorex <colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 25 August 2016 10:13  
**To:** Maxey, Steve  
**Subject:** FW: Carnival Meeting

Steve,

Please add this to the file. Despite the acceptance by Cllr. Jones that he has a conflict of interest as a Town councillor and as the Vice Chairman of the Coleshill Carnival Committee, I am still receiving questions, wrongful accusations and abuse.

For information, the meeting referred to was cancelled by Cllr. Farrell as he was not prepared to meet the whole Coleshill Carnival Committee, including Cllr. Jones.

Regards

*Colin Greatorex*

*Coleshill Town Clerk*

Tel: 01675 463326

Coleshill Town Council, 142 High Street, Coleshill, Warks. B46 3BG

[colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)

(Normal office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

---

**From:** Mark Jones [<mailto:mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk>]

**Sent:** 25 August, 2016 9:13 AM

**To:** Colin Greatorex

**Subject:** Carnival Meeting

HARD COPY TO MAYOR

Hi Colin

Please can you tell me the following facts in relation to the meeting arranged for 1pm today in respect of the Bonfire.

1. Who actually cancelled the meeting
2. Why was it cancelled so late
3. Under whose instructions was it cancelled
4. Under whose instructions did you inform Michael Ford Terry that only himself and Cllr Farrell was allowed to attend . Whose instructions were they?

I am deeply disappointed in this and I have expressed in no uncertain terms my annoyance to the Mayor.

Michael Ford Terry is a very genuine person and does not operate with the incompetence shown by the Town Council in this cancellation. He has a business to run and I happen to know that at the moment he has a lot on and actually cancelled business to attend this meeting.

I also as a councillor and elected representative was not even informed of this meeting which I should have been, I heard from Michael , you are fully aware of my involvement in the Carnival and Bonfire. I also cancelled business so I may attend a simple meeting. I find the conduct of our council, the attitude when speaking to a member of the public by yourself to Michael, and your blunt emails extremely unprofessional and wish to register those views

## CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

which have also been registered by Michael as a member of the Public. Please note this is not me this is a member of the public.

I think a number of areas at the current Council are being dealt with by people who are not qualified to deal with them and are not being communicated to the elected representatives as they should be.

The Town Mayor also tells me she has recently written yesterday a letter with some concerns and addressed it to Cllrs Farrell and Cllr Wooten and yourself. She quite openly accepts that she is more than happy that any elected representative can see it. Please forward me a copy ASAP.

Please also take this as a formal request that any letters between elected representatives and yourself as Town Clerk be made available to all elected representatives in the future. If this is in your opinion not possible please tell me where I send the FOI requests.

I have requested as you are aware a number of items in respect of codes for the Memorial Park and Moore Environment costs which you have refused to supply. Please confirm you are unable to supply so I may submit an FOI request for that information. This is in my opinion absolutely disgraceful and a waste of peoples time and taxpayers money but you give me no alternative.

I await a response.

Mark Jones  
Coleshill Town Council  
Coleshill South

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Version: 2016.0.7752 / Virus Database: 4647/12875 - Release Date: 08/24/16

**Maxey, Steve**

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**From:** Maxey, Steve  
**Sent:** 09 September 2016 08:46  
**To:** 'Colin Greatorex'  
**Cc:** Cllr. Kirsteen Wootton (CTC)  
**Subject:** RE: Press Releases

Colin

1. Yes – its as a result of being paid for work by the Carnival Committee (not per your new Code as he hasn't been appointed by the Town Council per our discussion in July)
2. I have spoken to him about this and as such it is not in writing to him but I have a record of the conversation. I would not be able to disclose that to you.
3. N/A

I doubt however that his interest stops him from commenting on a press release.

By way of update, thank you for confirming that the Town Council had no Code in place until your recent adoption of a Code. I need to check this with the investigator but the effect is that none of the complaints before the recent Code was adopted can be considered. I therefore will now have to go through every piece of correspondence to pick out those complaint since the Code was adopted. This will take some time.

Finally, you do not need to remind me of the dates in May and July as we discussed this in our exchange of emails of 24<sup>th</sup> August. Please let me know if you didn't received that. As you've involved a third party in this I set out below the text of my email so that Cllr Wootton doesn't get a partial account of matters:

*I have to express a great deal of surprise concerning your statement about how the investigation is progressing. You were fully aware of the attempts that were made to address this matter before the complainants decided that they wanted to invoke the formal process. To go back to May therefore is unfair. You have been kept up-to-date, at the frequency you asked for, since July and were aware of why no progress would be made for 4 weeks due to holidays. A quicker route might well have been available had you agreed to try the informal route but clearly that is a decision for you. In addition, the investigator could have started moved on from "the first stage" had there not been a problem with the adoption of the Code – I would take exception to you blaming me for that.*

*On the issue of not having been contacted, you were aware that this wouldn't happen between 25th July and 22nd August for the reasons explained above. Its now the 24th August.*

*I have a good deal of evidence from you and this has been passed onto the investigator. I have repeatedly said however that if there is anything else that you should send me that as soon as possible. I am therefore very surprised that you state here that you have material that you haven't sent me. Could this now be forwarded to me without any further delay?*

I am pleased to confirm that you have now sent the evidence through and finally last week confirmed the position regarding the 2007 code.

Regards

Steve Maxey  
Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council

Tel: 01827 719438  
Mob: 07814494211

[www.northwarks.gov.uk](http://www.northwarks.gov.uk)

**From:** Colin Greatorex [mailto:[colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)]  
**Sent:** 09 September 2016 08:18  
**To:** Maxey, Steve  
**Cc:** Cllr. Kirsteen Wootton (CTC)  
**Subject:** FW: Press Releases

Steve,

Cllr. Mark Jones continues to correspond in relation to arrangements involving the Coleshill Carnival Committee (as Vice Chairman) and Coleshill Town Council (as a Town Councillor). Please see the email below from yesterday. Can you please confirm to me that:

1. He has a conflict of interest in this regard?
2. If he has already been advised by you that he has a conflict of interest in relation to matters relating to Coleshill Carnival Committee (as Vice Chairman) and Coleshill Town Council (as a Town Councillor) and, if so, when this was communicated? (Can I have a copy of this advice to him, please?)
3. If he has not already been advised by you that he has a conflict of interest, when this can be communicated to him by you?

Please advise on the latest update on the Cllr. Jones matters. Can I please remind you I have an email to you going back to 11 May 2016 which was a follow up to a telephone call we had previously held just before I sent it. In addition, it was my understanding that Cllr. Farrell made this complaint 'official' with you to commence a process on or around 7 July.

Regards

**Colin Greatorex**  
**Coleshill Town Clerk**  
Tel: 01675 483326  
Coleshill Town Council, 142 High Street, Coleshill, Warks. B46 3BG  
[colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)  
(Normal office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Mark Jones <[mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk](mailto:mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk)>  
**Date:** 8 September 2016 at 11:00  
**Subject:** Press Releases  
**To:** Colin Greatorex <[colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** Michael Coleshill In Bloom <[mjfordterry@aol.com](mailto:mjfordterry@aol.com)>, "juliefordterry@aol.com" <[juliefordterry@aol.com](mailto:juliefordterry@aol.com)>, "jwendywoo@aol.com" <[jwendywoo@aol.com](mailto:jwendywoo@aol.com)>, "tony.battle@armacgroup.co.uk" <[tony.battle@armacgroup.co.uk](mailto:tony.battle@armacgroup.co.uk)>, "Cllr. Tony Battle (CTC)" <[tonybattle@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:tonybattle@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)>, "Cllr. Richard Mason (CTC)" <[richardmason@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:richardmason@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)>, Beth Robinson <[bethicarob@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bethicarob@hotmail.co.uk)>, "samjonerinlexie\_5@hotmail.co.uk" <[samjonerinlexie\\_5@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:samjonerinlexie_5@hotmail.co.uk)>, Gill Jones <[gill@simplycanvasprints.co.uk](mailto:gill@simplycanvasprints.co.uk)>

**COPY to Councillor Wallace as Mayor for Information**

Hi Colin

## CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

*As Town Clerk Can you tell me please which Standing Order relates to press releases by the Council. I can't see one so if there isn't then please tell me the Policies of the Council in relation to them and when they were made?*

*I am not happy with the statement made by Councillor Farrell in relation to the closing of the Football Pitches and the Carnival being at fault and the omission of several other VERY important factors in relation to the damage to the pitch and in particular the incompetence of a number of parties that have dealt with this damage. This is certainly not my view as an elected representative and part of the Council and from speaking to a number of other Councillors they have not been consulted either. I wish to place my concern on record.*

*The press statement is a statement to the Residents of Coleshill and should not be made by an individual without a resolution of the council. If they are going to comment as an individual Councillor then please let them do so on their own and not associated with the Council without resolution.*

*Standing Order 25 sort of deals with the issue but not very well.*

*"25. Restrictions on councillor activities*

*a. Unless authorised by a resolution, no councillor shall: i. inspect any land and/or premises which the council has a right or duty to inspect; or ii. issue orders, instructions or directions."*

*I have also forwarded a copy of this to Cllr Wallace as the Mayor to register my annoyance at such a statement.*

*I have also copied in the Carnival Committee into this email so that they are aware at my dissatisfaction and that the Press release does not involve my views.*

*Thank You*

**Mark Jones,**

**Coleshill Town Council Coleshill South**

• Mobile 07814640522

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Version: 2016.0.7752 / Virus Database: 4649/12961 - Release Date: 09/07/16

**Maxey, Steve**

---

**From:** Colin Greatorex <colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 13 September 2016 14:30  
**To:** Maxey, Steve; Cllr. Kirsteen Wootton (CTC)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Park comments  
**Attachments:** IMG\_6521.PNG; IMG\_6522.PNG; IMG\_6523.PNG; IMG\_6524.PNG; IMG\_6525.PNG

Steve /Kirsteen,

Please add this to the complaints file - Steve Maxey who is undertaking the general complaints investigation as Monitoring Officer at the Borough Council and also the Cllr. Kirsteen Wootton who is looking at a process within the Town Council.

***Colin Greatorex***

***Town Clerk***

***Coleshill Town Council, Town Hall, High Street, Coleshill B46 3BG***

***Colin@ColeshillTownCouncil.gov.uk***

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Harry Taylor <harrytgt@me.com>

**Date:** 13 September 2016 at 10:32

**Subject:** Park comments

**To:** Adam Farrell <adamfarrell@me.com>, Colin Greatorex <colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>

Apparently Cllr Jones has not been involved in any discussions to do with this project and it is all one big surprise. This is making us all look like complete idiots.

Sent from my iPhone

Councillor Farrell and have visited the site and Rob Munday Please make sure I am copied on any correspondence Thanks

Yesterday at 09:06 · Like ·  1 · Reply



Write a reply...



**Mark Jones**

Hi Kate Clayton and Rob Munday I have to agree with you in respect of the equipment that is close to your Windows. It needs to be moved and I have reported this to the Council and it will be discussed at one of the forthcoming meetings. Everything in the Park DID NOT come from Residents ideas and in my opinion it was not well advertised at all and we could have done a lot better with communication. Even I as a Councillor am not fully aware of all that is going on which is disappointing to say the least.

Yesterday at 09:37 · Like ·  1 · Reply



**Dominic Ferro**

I thought you were on the working group that made decisions on what was happening in the park. All the info was online months ago!

Yesterday at 19:38 · Like ·  1 · Reply



**Mark Jones**

As normal Dominic you are incorrect on the working group and incorrect on that information being online. You know what thought did I am not on the working group suggest you check with colleagues who removed me because I was highlighting areas! Also the working group has hardly met?

8 hours ago · Like · Reply



**Kate Clayton**

So.... if Councillors are not fully aware what is going on in the

Park, what chance do the rest of us have? !  
Looking forward to tomorrow's meeting!

Yesterday at 10:25 · Edited · Like · Reply



**Mark Jones**

Exactly my point Kate but I do hope we can sort and be positive which is my aim

Yesterday at 10:27 · Like · 2 · Reply



**Rob Munday**

Its 10 digby rd

Yesterday at 18:16 · Like · Reply



**Rob Munday**

Mark i had no idea it was going to be rite outside my gate

Yesterday at 18:17 · Like · 1 · Reply



**Carol Nicholl**

I dont blame you being upset about it I would be as well

Yesterday at 18:48 · Like · Reply



**Mark Jones**

I agree with you Rob Munday it should NOT be there and that is what I will fight against

8 hours ago · Like · Reply



**Rob Munday**

Thank you

3 hours ago · Like · Reply



**Rob Munday**

CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

Mark i had no idea it was going to be rite outside my gate

Yesterday at 18:17 · Like · 1 · Reply



**Carol Nicholl**

I dont blame you being upset about it I would be as well

Yesterday at 18:48 · Like · Reply



**Mark Jones**

I agree with you Rob Munday it should NOT be there and that is what I will fight against

8 hours ago · Like · Reply



**Rob Munday**

Thank you

3 hours ago · Like · Reply



Write a reply...



**Steve Graham**

Surely ALL councillors should know EVERYTHING that is going on with the memorial park?

Yesterday at 18:47 · Edited · Like · 3 · Reply



**Mark Jones**

Yes they should Steve but they don't and I was refused information until I threatened Freedom of Information I find it Sad because the overall idea is spot on BUT it needs to be monitored etc Let's hope we can sort it which I am sure we can

8 hours ago · Like · Reply



Write a reply...



**Adam Farrell** CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

I said it was important. Lighting and CCTV came bottom of the list when we carried out the consultation with the public. We have however installed two new cameras and lights in the park, one in the infant play area and one at the back of the Memorial Park Center. I'd hope we can install new street lighting on all the paths and in the car park in the next few months, I met with the County Council to discuss this on Tuesday. In terms of the security, we're not using properties to become the park boundary, they are already on the boundary of the park. What we are doing is installing some security measures to stop unauthorised access on to the park which in turn causes thousands of pounds worth of damage. The fencing you are referring to is actually only a meter or so wide and is going either side of the footpaths that lead into the park to stop cars driving down to the skate park which has been reported by numerous residents over the last few weeks. The boundary to the park is actually the other side of the path, at the edge of the football pitches. Security appeared in the consultation heavily and the plans that have been published with security features on have been available for many months.

Thursday at 12:27 · Edited · Like · Reply



**Mark Jones**

None of this has been discussed at Council at all at any great length and I too am disappointed it hasn't been. Lighting and CCTV are important as are a number of other areas. I doubt we can ever stop access to the park in full tbh The plans have been available for months Have they? WHEN were they sent to Councillors I certainly haven't seen them so

over the last few weeks. The boundary to the park is actually the other side of the path, at the edge of the football pitches. Security appeared in the consultation heavily and the plans that have been published with security features on have been available for many months.

Thursday at 12:27 · Edited · Like · Reply



**Mark Jones**

None of this has been discussed at Council at all at any great length and I too am disappointed it hasn't been. Lighting and CCTV are important as are a number of other areas. I doubt we can ever stop access to the park in full tbh The plans have been available for months Have they? WHEN were they sent to Councillors I certainly haven't seen them so where have they been available?. So if they haven't been available to Councillors how are Residents supposed to know about them! All of the information has been scarce and last minute we could improve it and our communication. I am trying to be positive in relation to the park where great things are being done. However there are both financial concerns and now major challenges in relation to Drainage which need to be examined. I really hope we can sort this out and I would encourage people to attend the EGM on Wednesday at the Town Hall if they have queries although the Drainage is what is on the Agenda.

Yesterday at 09:34 · Like ·  2 · Reply



Write a reply...

**Maxey, Steve**

---

**From:** Colin Greatorex <colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 13 September 2016 14:32  
**To:** Maxey, Steve; Cllr. Kirsteen Wootton (CTC)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Issues with Mark Jones

Steve /Kirsteen,

Please add this to the complaints file - Steve Maxey who is undertaking the general complaints investigation as Monitoring Officer at the Borough Council and also Cllr. Kirsteen Wootton who is looking at a process within the Town Council.

**Colin Greatorex**

**Town Clerk**

*Coleshill Town Council, Town Hall, High Street, Coleshill B46 3BG*  
[Colin@ColeshillTownCouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Colin@ColeshillTownCouncil.gov.uk)

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Dominic Ferro** <[dljj.ferro@gmail.com](mailto:dljj.ferro@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** 13 September 2016 at 10:16  
**Subject:** Issues with Mark Jones  
**To:** Colin Greatorex <[colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)>

Morning Colin,

I am writing this because I am furious that Cllr Jones is blatantly lying on Facebook. First of all I saw the following post by him:

Hi Kate Clayton and Rob Munday I have to agree with you in respect of the equipment that is close to your Windows. It needs to be moved and I have reported this to the Council and it will be discussed at one of the forthcoming meetings. Everything in the Park DID NOT come from Residents ideas and in my opinion it was not well advertised at all and we could have done a lot better with communication. Even I as a Councillor am not fully aware of all that is going on which is disappointing to say the least.

So I replied with this:

I thought you were on the working group that made decisions on what was happening in the park. All the info was online months ago!

He then came back with;

As normal Dominic you are incorrect on the working group and incorrect on that information being online. You know what thought did I am not on the working group suggest you check with colleagues who removed me because I was highlighting areas! Also the working group has hardly met?

I do not think that a Cllr should be lying just to benefit himself and mislead those he is representing. I know he was on the working group and in my response I said that all Cllrs would have the information on what was happening at the park. Especially as they have to ratify decisions at full council. He seems to be stirring it up with residents and that is unacceptable. Cllr Jones needs to be made aware that he is wrong and learn how councils actually work. He is deliberately causing problems and bringing the council into disrepute. Please except this as a formal complaint!

Yours  
Dom Ferro

Dominic Ferro  
Sent from my iPhone

**Maxey, Steve**

---

**From:** Colin Greatorex <colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 14 September 2016 09:00  
**To:** Maxey, Steve; Cllr. Kirsteen Wootton (CTC)  
**Subject:** FW: Correspondence

Both,

More evidence for the files.

Regards

Colin Greatorex  
Coleshill Town Clerk  
Tel: 01675 463326  
Coleshill Town Council, 142 High Street, Coleshill, Warks. B46 3BG colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk (Normal office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

-----Original Message-----

From: harrytaylor@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk [mailto:harrytaylor@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk]  
Sent: 13 September, 2016 5:31 PM  
To: Mark Jones  
Cc: colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk; tonybattle@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk;  
clairebreeze@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk; janefarrow@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk;  
richardmason@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk; adamfarrell@me.com; adamrichardson@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk;  
kirsteenwootton@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk  
Subject: Correspondence

Hard Copy to the Mayor

Dear Mark,

I have now made two polite requests that you refrain from contacting me in an aggressive and rude manner. This is because I find your aggressive and condescending approach to dealing with fellow colleagues counterproductive to getting things done at the council. I thought after a year or so on the council you may have realised that being polite to your colleagues and dealing in facts, not personal attacks, is the way to achieve progress. Continual rudeness, aggression, and personal attacks in emails to your colleagues only serves to further bad relations and frustrate the running of the council to the point where it appears to the public that this council no longer functions efficiently. Of course, if this is your real goal, which I hope it is not, then you are getting some way towards succeeding.

You have responded twice to my polite requests now. Once with an aggressive and personal email and a second highlighting that you require some form of official directive to tell you not to send aggressive and rude emails. I'm not sure why you require an official council directive informing you to send emails to a fellow councillor in a professional and courteous manner.

I am therefore unwilling to grant your request that I obtain an official council directive asking you to strip the personal attacks, aggression, and rudeness from your emails to me and colleagues. This is because (a) I cannot believe that you actually require an official notification of how to behave in a professional manner (b) this council's staff are already up to their eyeballs dealing with requests for information and I don't want to add to that burden (c) It is much easier to simply block your email account.

## CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

Henceforth your email address will be blocked from contacting mine so I will no longer receive emails you send to me. I'm told they will either bounce back to you or go straight to my trash folder; either way they won't be read. If you do wish to contact me please send written statements to the office where I will collect them. If I see fit to contact you I will also similarly leave any correspondence at the office for you to collect at your leisure.

Several colleagues, including Independent and Conservative councillors, have also raised concerns with me and others that they are deeply unhappy with the unprofessional manner and tone with which you contact them. I have copied them in to demonstrate my approach to this shared ordeal. I encourage them not to feel bullied and to stand up for decency and for themselves.

Please do not contact me on any other email address or phone number.

Kind Regards

Cllr Harry Taylor

On 2016-09-10 21:49, Mark Jones wrote:

> Read the email Harry Your emails and complaints are also aggressive .  
> At the point of me getting a directive from the council I will copy  
> your official council email in to official emails until then I will  
> copy as normal.  
>  
> Mark  
>  
> Get Outlook for iOS [1]  
>  
> \_\_\_\_\_  
> From: harrytaylor@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk  
> Sent: Saturday, September 10, 2016 9:42 pm  
> Subject: Re: Drainage at Memorial Park  
> To: Mark Jones <mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk>  
> Cc: Councillor Adam Farrell <adamfarrell@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>,  
> Cllr. Richard Mason (CTC) <richardmason@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>,  
> Cllr. Kirsteen Wootton (CTC)  
> <kirsteenwootton@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>, Cllr. Jane Farrow (CTC)  
> <janefarrow@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>, Cllr. Adam Richardson (CTC)  
> <adamrichardson@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>, Cllr. Claire Breeze  
> (CTC) <clairebreeze@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>, Cllr. Tony Battle  
> (CTC) <tonybattle@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>  
>  
> I've asked you to stop emailing me messages of this nature and tone,  
> Mark. Please refrain from doing so in future.  
>  
> Harry  
>  
> On 2016-09-10 11:53, Mark Jones wrote:  
>> Hard Copy to the MAYOR  
>>  
>> Harry  
>>  
>> The email is not aggressive and it is not confrontational it is true  
> .  
>> Please tell me where it is rude? I actually state that I aim to be  
>> positive Harry something Ive never seen you do for sure. The truth

>> often hurts doesn't it and I find your actions aggressive too. You  
> are  
>> a Town Councillor and should be copied in as all others are. Your  
>> opinion that it is aggressive is not a general opinion and if you  
> dont  
>> want it copied in then make an application to the council. Maybe you  
>> should look at the truth and I wonder if you have made the same  
> points  
>> about the other emails I doubt that at all and are you aware of the  
>> same opinion of other people who are residents not councillors. I  
>> understand you must back your leader but you can be assured he is  
> not  
>> mine and I do not . I will continue to copy in your official email  
>> until I get an official directive to do different. You are fully  
> aware  
>> you are just as aggressive with the unfounded complaints you have  
> made  
>> which are still being investigated and are unfounded and one other  
>> councillors are unaware of.  
>>  
>> I will be positive about the challenges we have you must do as you  
> see  
>> fit.  
>>  
>> Mark  
>>  
>> Get Outlook for iOS [1]  
>>  
>> \_\_\_\_\_  
>> From: harrytaylor@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk  
>> Sent: Saturday, September 10, 2016 11:12 am  
>> Subject: RE: Drainage at Memorial Park  
>> To: Mark Jones <mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk>  
>> Cc: Councillor Adam Farrell  
> <adamfarrell@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>,  
>> Colin Greatorex <colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>, Cllr. Tony  
> Battle  
>> (CTC) <tonybattle@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>, Cllr. Claire Breeze  
>> (CTC) <clairebreeze@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>, Cllr. Jane Farrow  
>> (CTC) <janefarrow@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>, Cllr. Mark Jones  
> (CTC)  
>> <markjones@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>, Cllr. Richard Mason (CTC)  
>> <richardmason@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>, Adam Joseph Farrell  
>> <adamfarrell@me.com>, Cllr. Adam Richardson (CTC)  
>> <adamrichardson@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>, Cllr. Kirsteen Wootton  
>> (CTC) <kirsteenwootton@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>  
>>  
>> Mark, please don't copy me in to anymore of your emails of this  
>> nature.  
>> They're aggressive, rude and confrontational in tone and there's no  
>> need for it.  
>>  
>> Harry  
>>  
>> On 2016-09-09 12:34, Mark Jones wrote:  
>>> HARD COPY TO MAYOR

>>>  
>>> Apology accepted Adam.  
>>>  
>>> However I do think you need to think before you put these  
> statements  
>>> out as it has wound up a number of members of the public and  
>> Residents  
>>> and caused embarrassment to the Carnival committee. An opinion of  
>> the  
>>> Town Council should be an opinion of just that THE TOWN COUNCIL if  
>> you  
>>> wish to put your opinion out then you should put it out on your  
>> letter  
>>> not OURS as a Town Council.  
>>>  
>>> Your definition of a Topographic survey is well googled lol. It is  
>>> irrelevant that "full survey" you mention relates to it, IMHO,  
>> it  
>>> doesn't but that doesn't matter as long as we know the full details  
>>> before the meeting.  
>>>  
>>> I am not sure that our grounds people are really qualified to  
>> comment  
>>> on Drainage and sunken pipes . I, like all of us, think they are  
>> great  
>>> at the job they do, however they are not drainage experts otherwise  
>>> they wouldn't be working for us would they? It is correct  
>>> professional and expert advice we need Adam not a chat with the  
>>> groundsman. The point you make about the "Dip" that's been  
>> there  
>>> for years! It may be a broken pipe I have no idea but it isn't  
> one  
>>> from the Carnival.  
>>>  
>>> Finally in response to your "Blaming" paragraph you do actually  
>>> quite clearly highlight the Carnival to blame and I and a number of  
>>> other people disagree with you and it certainly has not been  
>> discussed  
>>> by the Town Council and therefore is NOT the opinion of the  
> Council.  
>>> I and I am sure all other councillors are not stupid Adam and we  
> are  
>>> fully aware that this is a piece of Town Council land and I think  
> it  
>>> was unnecessary to provide the "Context" as you call it as no  
>> one  
>>> was asking for it? These pitches for many years have not been good  
>>> and the condition of both of them has always been a matter for  
>>> discussion over those years. I think the release of your comments  
>> was  
>>> unnecessary and not required and was your opinion no one else's  
>> and  
>>> should have been released as such IMHO. You also omit to comment on  
>>> the damage caused by JML and the unauthorised so called repair work  
>>> that they have completed at a ridiculous cost. Maybe that should  
>> have

## CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

>>> been mentioned in this press release to provide more correct  
>>> "Context"  
>>>  
>>> I think we need to move on now Adam I intend to be objective in  
>>> relation to these challenges so let's see what happens next week.  
>>> The main target is sorting this out.  
>>>  
>>> Regards  
>>>  
>>> Mark Jones  
>>>  
>>> FROM: Adam Joseph Farrell [mailto:adamfarrell@me.com]  
>>> SENT: 9 September, 2016 11:45  
>>> TO: Mark Jones <mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk>  
>>> CC: Colin Greatorex <colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>; Cllr. Tony  
>>> Battle (CTC) <tonybattle@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>; Cllr. Claire  
>>> Breeze (CTC) <clairebreeze@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>; Councillor  
>>> Adam Farrell <adamfarrell@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>; Cllr. Jane  
>>> Farrow (CTC) <janefarrow@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>; Cllr. Mark  
>>> Jones (CTC) <markjones@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>; Cllr. Richard  
>>> Mason (CTC) <richardmason@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>; Cllr. Adam  
>>> Richardson (CTC) <adamrichardson@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>;  
> Cllr.  
>>> Harry Taylor (CTC) <harrytaylor@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>; Cllr.  
>>> Kirsteen Wootton (CTC)  
> <kirsteenwootton@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>  
>>> SUBJECT: Re: Drainage at Memorial Park  
>>>  
>>> Dear all,  
>>>  
>>> I apologise for any misunderstanding that has been caused. As Colin  
>> as  
>>> stated, it was a topographical survey that was carried out. To  
>>> clarify, a topographical survey is defined as:  
>>>  
>>> \_Topographic Surveys are used to identify and map the contours of  
>> the  
>>> ground and existing features on the surface of the earth or  
> slightly  
>>> above or below the earth's surface (i.e. trees, buildings, streets,  
>>> walkways, manholes, utility poles, retaining walls, etc.). If the  
>>> purpose of the survey is to serve as a base map for the design of a  
>>> residence or building of some type, or design a road or driveway,  
> it  
>>> may be necessary to show perimeter boundary lines and the lines of  
>>> easements on or crossing the property being surveyed, in order for  
> a  
>>> designer to accurately show zoning and other agency required  
>>> setbacks.\_  
>>>  
>>> \_Topographic Surveys require "bench marks" to which ground contours  
>>> are related, information regarding surface and underground  
>> utilities,  
>>> determination of required setbacks, etc.\_  
>>>  
>>> You will understand from the above that my term 'full survey'

>>> relates to this topographical survey that was commissioned by the  
>>> Council in August 2014.  
>>>  
>>> In terms of the drainage pipe, it is the opinion of our grounds  
>> staff,  
>>> that the pipe has sunk. It is also pretty obvious when you visit  
> the  
>>> park that the big dip along the middle of the football is above  
>> where  
>>> the drainage pipe sits.  
>>>  
>>> Finally, In terms of who is to blame, no one is blaming anyone. The  
>>> statement released to the press does not blame anyone in particular  
>>> but simply provides some context to the reason for closing our  
>>> football pitches. This is a Town Council piece of land that is  
> being  
>>> closed to our sports teams after damage occurred following the  
>> recent  
>>> carnival. In fact, my first email to all Council members on this  
>> issue  
>>> said:  
>>>  
>>> "This damage is not purely down to the recent Carnival. The pitch  
>> was  
>>> already in a bad state and although it would have been playable had  
>>> there not been a carnival, there is still existing damage that  
> would  
>>> needed to have been addressed."  
>>>  
>>> Best wishes,  
>>>  
>>> Adam Farrell  
>>>  
>>> 07539 196 114  
>>>  
>>> adamfarrell@me.com  
>>>  
>>>> On 9 Sep 2016, at 09:47, Mark Jones  
>>>> <mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk> wrote:  
>>>>  
>>>> HARD COPY TO THE MAYOR  
>>>>  
>>>> Yes there is a clear misunderstanding. This was not what  
> Councillor  
>>>> Farrell stated to me he quite clearly told me a survey had been  
>>>> completed? In fact I refer you to his email of 1st September 2016  
>> at  
>>>> 1605hrs which states in his own words  
>>>>  
>>>> \_"FIRSTLY IT IS IMPORTANT TO POINT OUT THAT ON THE ISSUE OF  
>>>> DRAINAGE A FULL SURVEY WAS UNDERTAKEN AS PART OF THE MASTER  
>> PLANNING  
>>>> PART OF THIS PROJECT. IT IDENTIFIED NO SERIOUS CONCERNS. SINCE  
> THAT  
>>>> TIME WE HAVE HAD A INCIDENT WITH TRAVELLERS AND A CARNIVAL. THE  
>>>> HEAVY MACHINERY GOING OVER THE MAIN DRAINAGE PIPE HAVE CAUSED IT

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> TO

>>>> SINK. IT WAS NOT SOMETHING THAT SHOWED ON THE SURVEY BECAUSE IT

> DID

>>>> NOT EXIST THEN. “\_

>>>>

>>>> I think you will find the Mayor is under the impression there was

>>>> one as well?

>>>>

>>>> Can you please tell me how we are aware that the pipe has sunk as

>>>> Cllr Farrell is telling us IN WRITING AS ABOVE or are you not in

>>>> touch with him as the person in charge of the memorial park

>>>> workings. Where does this advice that it has sunk come from?

>>>>

>>>> You are telling us there is nothing to report and Councillor

>> Farrell

>>>> is as you can see from his own email is telling us that there are

>>>> problems. Maybe you can tell us WHO is correct?

>>>>

>>>> Is all that is required here is for the information for the EGM is

>>>> correct and does not conflict as it does now. This is not my

>>>> opinion it is FACT as you can see from the above “QUOTED”

>>>> statements.

>>>>

>>>> I believe and it is my opinion that the Carnival is being blamed

>> for

>>>> the damage here and this is incorrect. I have photographic

> evidence

>>>> of the pitch BEFORE the UNAUTHORISED work carried out by JML and

>>>> after and the damage is worse AFTER. So this needs to be looked at

>>>> as to who is liable .

>>>>

>>>> I am very annoyed and I have copied all of the Carnival committee

>>>> into this email as I feel that they should be aware of these

>>>> situations as they are being held responsible in my opinion

>>>> incorrectly.

>>>>

>>>> You also in emails to other people have intimated that the

> Carnival

>>>> is responsible and without the situation being examined.

>>>>

>>>> Regards

>>>>

>>>> Mark Jones

>>>>

>>>> FROM: Colin Greatorax [mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk]

>>>> SENT: 9 September, 2016 08:27

>>>> TO: Cllr. Tony Battle (CTC)

>>>> <tonybattle@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>; Cllr. Claire Breeze

> (CTC)

>>>> <clairebreeze@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>; Cllr. Adam Farrell

>> (CTC)

>>>> <adamfarrell@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>; Cllr. Jane Farrow (CTC)

>>>> <janefarrow@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>; Cllr. Mark Jones (CTC)

>>>> <markjones@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>; Cllr. Richard Mason (CTC)

>>>> <richardmason@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>; Cllr. Adam Richardson

>>>> (CTC) <adamrichardson@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>; Cllr. Harry

>>>> Taylor (CTC) <harrytaylor@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>; Cllr.  
>>>> Kirsteen Wootton (CTC)  
>> <kirsteenwootton@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>  
>>>> SUBJECT: Drainage at Memorial Park  
>>>>  
>>>> Hard copy to the Mayor  
>>>>  
>>>> Dear All,  
>>>>  
>>>> A number of members have enquired about a drainage survey  
> completed  
>>>> on the Memorial Park at the beginning of the improvements project.  
>>>> I think there may have been a misunderstanding? The Town Council  
>>>> has not commissioned such a report and I have checked with Moore  
>>>> Environment which has not conducted or requested one either.  
>>>>  
>>>> The only external studies has been a topographical survey carried  
>>>> out to provide the digital base plan and levels for the park  
> (right  
>>>> at the beginning of the project – August 14) and a tree expert  
>> was  
>>>> requested to look at some that might have been affected by the  
>> work.  
>>>>  
>>>>  
>>>> Once JML were appointed, that company was asked to look at the  
>>>> natural spring or water that appears to gather at the corner of  
> the  
>>>> field near to the boulders. They have found nothing untoward to  
>>>> date.  
>>>>  
>>>> There is no report specifically commissioned to look at drainage  
>>>> issues on the park.  
>>>>  
>>>> Regards  
>>>>  
>>>> \_COLIN GREATOREX\_  
>>>>  
>>>> \_Coleshill Town Clerk\_  
>>>>  
>>>> Tel: 01675 463326  
>>>>  
>>>> Coleshill Town Council, 142 High Street, Coleshill, Warks. B46 3BG  
>>>>  
>>>> colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk  
>>>>  
>>>> (Normal office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)  
>>  
>>  
>>  
>> Links:  
>> -----  
>> [1] <https://aka.ms/o0Ukef> [1]  
>  
>  
>

> Links:

> -----

> [1] <https://aka.ms/o0ukef>

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**Maxey, Steve**

---

**From:** Colin Greatorex <colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 14 September 2016 10:51  
**To:** Maxey, Steve; Cllr. Kirsteen Wootton (CTC)  
**Subject:** FW: FRIENDS MEETING

Both,

Please add these to the Cllr. Mark Jones files. I understand that 10 people attended a "Friends of Memorial Park" meeting with Cllr. Jones, in order to complain about the park that they are supposed to be befriending.

As the Secretary of the Friends Group writes, the Group is not there for Councillors to complain about the project the Council has undertaken.

Regards

*Colin Greatorex*

*Coleshill Town Clerk*

Tel: 01675 463326

Coleshill Town Council, 142 High Street, Coleshill, Warks. B46 3BG

[colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)

(Normal office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

---

**From:** Marie Brotheridge [<mailto:marie.brotheridge@sertec.co.uk>]  
**Sent:** 14 September, 2016 9:53 AM  
**To:** [S.Moore@moore-environment.co.uk](mailto:S.Moore@moore-environment.co.uk); [colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)  
**Subject:** FRIENDS MEETING

Good morning Sue and Colin

I hope you are both keeping well? The Friends meeting was very well attended and I think the poster and Facebook campaign did work well. However, I really have serious concerns. Councillor Mark Jones attended and to be blunt, totally monopolised the meeting. He was being negative about how Phase 1 has been managed. Someone asked about the plans and he was negative about that, something along the lines of he is a councillor and even he is not able to get hold of up to date plans. I feel the only purpose he served was to encourage negativity and took the meeting away from the direction where it should have gone. When anyone tried to take control he talked over them and in my opinion was totally rude.

However, my main concern is that the idea of a café was talked about and he suggested that the Pavilion was an ideal place to have it. Obviously from where I sit as secretary to the Cricket Club, this would be detrimental to them and is something I could not support as there is a conflict of interest. I am now really seriously considering my position on the Friends committee. I know this is just an idea that is being banded around but I really am questioning if I want to be a part of the Friends. It is my personal opinion that Mark Jones has another agenda and I do not want to be a puppet in disagreements town councillors may have between themselves. I do question if it is right that he should attend these meetings in his capacity as a councillor.

This is my personal opinion but I feel totally frustrated and to be honest very angry.

Kind regards

Marie Brotheridge

\*\*\*\*\*

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**Maxey, Steve**

---

**From:** Colin Greatorex <colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 14 September 2016 18:23  
**To:** Maxey, Steve; Cllr. Kirsteen Wootton (CTC)  
**Subject:** FW: FRIENDS MEETING

Both,

Supplier comments to add to the Cllr. Jones file.

Regards

*Colin Greatorex*  
*Coleshill Town Clerk*

Tel: 01675 463326

Coleshill Town Council, 142 High Street, Coleshill, Warks. B46 3EG

[colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)

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---

**From:** Sue Moore [mailto:S.Moore@moore-environment.co.uk]  
**Sent:** 14 September, 2016 4:01 PM  
**To:** Colin Greatorex; 'Marie Brotheridge'  
**Subject:** RE: FRIENDS MEETING

Hi Marie

Thank you all for your efforts and I hope Colin has reassured you on a couple of points.

Unfortunately Cllr Jones, for reasons of his own, appears to be stirring up very negative attitudes about the Park Improvements, despite having had a very key role in the approval process – which he doesn't seem to remember. Hopefully he will not continue with this behaviour for much longer – the Group is definitely not a forum for Cllrs to air their views - if they have points to make they should take them back through the appropriate channels in the Council.

I trust you managed to get some business done in terms of progressing the community planting day despite the rude interruptions?

Kind regards

Sue Moore  
Director/Landscape Architect/Environmental Coordinator  
Moore Environment  
Griffin House 9 Coventry Road Coleshill Birmingham B46 3EG  
T.01675 466877 F.01675 466899  
[s.moore@moore-environment.co.uk](mailto:s.moore@moore-environment.co.uk)  
[www.moore-environment.co.uk](http://www.moore-environment.co.uk)



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**From:** Colin Greateorex [<mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 14, 2016 10:46 AM  
**To:** 'Marie Brotheridge'  
**Cc:** Sue Moore  
**Subject:** RE: FRIENDS MEETING

Marie,

Thank you so much for sharing this information. I know that Julie Gregory told you quietly last night that there are complaints and processes in place in relation to Cllr. Jones.

I wholeheartedly agree the Friends Group is for non-Councillors and will pass your complaint onto the powers that need to know. As regards the café, that is for the Council to agree, possibly in liaison with the cricket club and not for the Friends or one member to decide, rest assured.

Regards

*Colin Greateorex*  
*Coleshill Town Clerk*  
Tel: 01675 463326  
Coleshill Town Council, 142 High Street, Coleshill, Warks. B46 3BG  
[colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)  
(Normal office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

---

**From:** Marie Brotheridge [<mailto:marie.brotheridge@sertec.co.uk>]  
**Sent:** 14 September, 2016 9:53 AM  
**To:** [S.Moore@moore-environment.co.uk](mailto:S.Moore@moore-environment.co.uk); [colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)  
**Subject:** FRIENDS MEETING

Good morning Sue and Colin

I hope you are both keeping well? The Friends meeting was very well attended and I think the poster and Facebook campaign did work well. However, I really have serious concerns. Councillor Mark Jones attended and to be blunt, totally monopolised the meeting. He was being negative about how Phase 1 has been managed. Someone asked about the plans and he was negative about that, something along the lines of he is a councillor and even he is not able to get hold of up to date plans. I feel the only purpose he served was to encourage negativity and took the meeting away from the direction where it should have gone. When anyone tried to take control he talked over them and in my opinion was totally rude.

However, my main concern is that the idea of a café was talked about and he suggested that the Pavilion was an ideal place to have it. Obviously from where I sit as secretary to the Cricket Club, this would be detrimental to them and is something I could not support as there is a conflict of interest. I am now really seriously considering my position on the Friends committee. I know this is just an idea that is being banded around but I really am questioning if I want to be a part of the Friends. It is my personal opinion that Mark Jones has another agenda and I do not want to be a puppet in disagreements town councillors may have between themselves. I do question if it is right that he should attend these meetings in his capacity as a councillor.

This is my personal opinion but I feel totally frustrated and to be honest very angry.

Kind regards

Marie Brotheridge

\*\*\*\*\*

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**Maxey, Steve**

---

**From:** Colin Greatorex <colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 16 September 2016 08:20  
**To:** Maxey, Steve; Cllr. Kirsteen Wootton (CTC)  
**Subject:** FW: FOMP

Steve /Kirsteen,

Further comment from a supplier about the behaviour of Cllr. Jones for the file.

Regards

*Colin Greatorex*  
*Coleshill Town Clerk*

Tel: 01675 463326

Coleshill Town Council, 142 High Street, Coleshill, Warks. B46 3BG

[colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)

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---

**From:** Sue Moore [<mailto:S.Moore@moore-environment.co.uk>]  
**Sent:** 14 September, 2016 5:30 PM  
**To:** Colin Greatorex ([colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)); 'Councillor Adam Farrell'  
**Cc:** declan rooney  
**Subject:** FOMP

I understand from a couple of sources that FOMP want me to attend their next meeting and run through the plans – a reasonable request and one I would normally be happy to agree to.

However – I will not be able to attend any such meeting until some action is taken to manage Cllr Jones appalling behaviour – at least as far as all matters Memorial Park are concerned.

Kind regards

Sue Moore  
Director/Landscape Architect/Environmental Coordinator  
Moore Environment  
Griffin House 9 Coventry Road Coleshill Birmingham B46 3BB  
T.01675 466877 F.01675 466899  
[s.moore@moore-environment.co.uk](mailto:s.moore@moore-environment.co.uk)  
[www.moore-environment.co.uk](http://www.moore-environment.co.uk)



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**Maxey, Steve**

---

**From:** Colin Greatorex <colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 16 September 2016 08:28  
**To:** Maxey, Steve; Cllr. Kirsteen Wootton (CTC)  
**Subject:** FW: C&E EGM  
**Attachments:** C&E\_Statement\_1409.pdf

Steve /Kirsteen,

Further for your files as evidence of bullying and intimidation of myself and disrespect for the independent role of a local government officer.

This is not the first time that Cllr. Jones has sought to influence the minutes at draft stage. Needless to say, I will be adopting the normal local government approach of recording the decisions and any background to them and not a verbatim record and certainly not a "points score" record of personal abuse between members or a pre-written and read out statement such as this.

These particular draft minutes will of course, in any case, be for members to agree rather than me or one member.

Regards

*Colin Greatorex*  
*Coleshill Town Clerk*

Tel: 01675 463326  
Coleshill Town Council, 142 High Street, Coleshill, Warks. B46 3BG  
[colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)  
(Normal office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

---

**From:** Mark Jones [<mailto:mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk>]  
**Sent:** 15 September, 2016 11:01 AM  
**To:** Colin Greatorex  
**Subject:** C&E EGM

Hi Colin

First of all, Colin This is NOT a criticism of you this is simply a formal request to record TRUE and accurate records of something that has taken place.

With reference to last night's EGM of the C&E I would like to place on record my request to ensure the following items are included and not omitted from the minutes and that they are a matter of record please.

1. Please find attached my statement as stated at the meeting
2. AT the meeting Councillor Farrell stated that the comments by Councillor Wallace on the LTA subject were "Rude" and "Naive" using those exact words and of course witnessed by all person's present including 10 members of the public. As Councillor Farrell is currently accusing me of being rude, aggressive and confrontational. I would like to complain regarding those use of words on a public platform by him with him doing exactly that. Councillor Wallace is an experienced and respected Councillor and whilst I often disagree with some of her points of view I MOST CERTAINLY would not call her rude and definitely not Naive. This was extremely rude , aggressive and confrontational of Councillor Farrell.
3. I am very keen to ensure there is not a rule for one and not the other of course which I am sure you will agree.

Regards

Cllr Mark Jones

Coleshill South

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Version: 2016.0.7752 / Virus Database: 4649/13025 - Release Date: 09/15/16

Thanks for your report Adam. I would like to make some observations in respect of some of the content, however please be assured that my comments are not rude, aggressive or confrontational as you have accused me of today they are just simply to the point, correct and transparent. Please let me know if they upset you. I have received some stark Criticism in relation to being transparent and asking Questions from you but you can be assured I will continue to be transparent and do not accept that criticism in any form.

Now to more important things The football pitch. I agree did receive some damage in the summer as a result of the Gypsy and Traveller incident and the Carnival event. However, the damage is not from just those 2 areas at all. The work completed by JML did not work and in fact in my opinion caused more harm where it became dry with the weather, was not fenced off, not watered in very dry weather and was not dug in or planted correctly and was never going to work.

My observations show very clearly that the damage was far worse AFTER this work than before it. The work from our own staff was genuinely intentioned but was not even dug in when laid and was a last ditch attempt at trying to sort the area out.

As for the cost of £1000 this was ill spent and not authorised by any person from Town Council as per The Town Clerks email and should not have been undertaken.

I agree that the pitches were not fit for the teams to play on and that they should have been removed from services for this year. I do not agree with your press release which has now been removed which were your views not the Town Councils as to the causes. The Football pitches have always for the last 40 years been of bad condition and the rut that you talk about and wrongly diagnose as a broken pipe caused by heavy vehicles as been there for the last 40 years!

I would also like to point out that The Mayor Councillor Wallace very clearly stated at the start of Phase 1 of the Memorial Park that the main problem we have with the Park was one of drainage and she was totally ignored. As we can now see that was a major mistake and the survey that keeps being mentioned apparently is now irrelevant and not a survey but a topographical report.

I agree with you that there is now no urgency to make any drastic decisions and a decision as large as this is one for the Full Council anyway. It is right to start a debate about what we should be doing but VERY wrong in making any decision tonight in delegating powers. I would question the decision of delegating powers to the Town Clerk and I think that this should be dealt with by the Full Council. With respect the Town Clerk is far from an expert in relation to this subject as we are not also. I also question the need for secrecy in respect of who is giving the advice which you document in this report. WHO is making that decision? To make an informed decision the council need to be aware of the company making these recommendations and their ability to do so and this should not be "SECRET" to the council as a whole. I am fully aware of commercial sensitivity but this does not relate to this at this stage.

Your paragraph in relation to "RIDGE AND FURROW" ploughing again makes me question the supplier. I am by no means an expert for sure, however to blame this on ploughing of land many decades ago, IF in fact it has ever been ploughed is to my mind beyond belief. I am 57 years of age and it has never been ploughed in that time and I would suggest it hasn't been ploughed for many years before that if indeed it ever was. I for one would like to examine the ability of each company chosen and check the advice given is correct. I would like to see a lot more detail and not allow this area to become a situation where ALL councillors are not aware of what is going on. This has already happened with the Memorial Park and we should learn from this. We must be totally clear, totally

informed and all aware of what is going on as the public must be as well. Transparency is of utmost importance.

I propose that we do not delegate any powers and that we accept our responsibilities and we delegate ALL decisions to the Community and environment Board for ratification at Full council and allow that board as a whole to examine our options.

As I see it and from expert advice I have received are very simple anyway;

1. To solve the drainage problem completely lay Drains in the relevant areas of the pitches
2. To aerate the pitch which I think is similar to what is being recommended by the secret supplier with a method called Hollow Tine Aeration which injects air into the ground and fixes the drainage problems.

This of course needs to be confirmed as I am definitely not an expert but that advice was given to me by an expert and a local company.

To give an idea and that is all it is and needs to be confirmed Option 1 would cost in excess of £30,000 whereas Option 2 would cost approximately £1 -2000 dependent on the number of visits so they are distinctly 2 different options.

Thank You

**Maxey, Steve**

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**From:** Colin Greatorex <colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 21 October 2016 12:24  
**To:** Maxey, Steve; Cllr. Kirsteen Wootton (CTC)  
**Subject:** FW: Clarification

Both,

Further evidence of Cllr. Jones' bullying, rude and disrespectful nature, below.

Regards

*Colin Greatorex*  
*Coleshill Town Clerk*

Tel: 01675 463326  
Coleshill Town Council, 142 High Street, Coleshill, Warks. B46 3BG  
[colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)  
(Normal office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

---

**From:** Mark Jones [<mailto:mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk>]  
**Sent:** 21 October, 2016 11:33 AM  
**To:** Colin Greatorex  
**Subject:** RE: Clarification

Thank You only took 2 years got something right!

Mark

---

**From:** Colin Greatorex [<mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>]  
**Sent:** 21 October, 2016 11:13  
**To:** Mark Jones <[mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk](mailto:mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Clarification

Mark,

That is correct.

Regards

*Colin Greatorex*  
*Coleshill Town Clerk*

Tel: 01675 463326  
Coleshill Town Council, 142 High Street, Coleshill, Warks. B46 3BG  
[colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)  
(Normal office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

---

**From:** Mark Jones [<mailto:mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk>]  
**Sent:** 21 October, 2016 10:23 AM  
**To:** Colin Greatorex  
**Subject:** Clarification

Hi Colin

## CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

Can you just clarify for me. If I attend a committee which I am not a member of am I allowed to speak officially. I THINK I am correct that I can attend, speak on items on the agenda but not vote. Am I correct please?

Thank You

Mark Jones

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Version: 2016.0.7859 / Virus Database: 4664/13246 - Release Date: 10/20/16

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Checked by AVG - [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

Version: 2016.0.7859 / Virus Database: 4664/13246 - Release Date: 10/20/16

**Maxey, Steve**

---

**From:** Farrell, Adam  
**Sent:** 16 June 2016 12:20  
**To:** Maxey, Steve  
**Subject:** Formal Compalint

Hi Steve

I wish to make a formal complaint under the Code of Conduct in relation to Councillor Mark Jones of Coleshill Town Council.

You will be aware that over the past few months I have had a number of concerns about the attitude of Mark Jones both in Town Council meetings and on social media.

Councillor Jones continues to behaviour in a manner which I believe fails to meet the Nolan principles. He continues to operate in an aggressive, obstructive and intimidating manner which have a major impact on the Council and the services we offer.

He also fails to abide by Council decisions and standing orders. Most recently he has breached the standing order that prohibits members from inspecting Council land without prior delegation. Councillor Jones has been down to the Memorial Park and informed contractors of his position and tried to question the works being carried out etc.

Look forward to hearing from you

Best wishes

Adam

Best wishes,

Adam Farrell  
Leader of the Labour Group  
Coleshill North Borough Councillor

07539 196 114

**Maxey, Steve**

---

**From:** Farrell, Adam  
**Sent:** 28 June 2016 22:06  
**To:** Maxey, Steve  
**Subject:** RE: Cllr Jones

Hi Steve

The view of everyone I have spoken to is that they would like a formal investigation. There has been a further incident this week where Cllr Jones has acted in an aggressive and rude manner to an officer who simply copied him in on an email reporting an issue to NWBC.

Confidentially, Colin has also submitted a complaint as an employee to the Town Councils complaints panel. This will mean we have an internal process on the issue of staff bullying/ intimidation etc. This will be in relation to the officer/ member protocol we adopted as a Council.

Please let me know what you will need from us and what the next steps will be

Best wishes

Adam

Best wishes,

Adam Farrell  
Leader of the Labour Group  
Coleshill North Borough Councillor

07539 196 114

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Maxey, Steve  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 28, 2016 08:38 PM GMT Standard Time  
**To:** Farrell, Adam  
**Subject:** Cllr Jones

Hi Adam

I'm meeting with Cllr Jones tomorrow afternoon – have you been able to speak to the others regarding how you want to proceed with the complaints?

Regards

Steve Maxey  
Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council

Tel: 01827 719438  
Mob: 07814494211

**Maxey, Steve**

---

**From:** Harry Taylor <harrytgt@me.com>  
**Sent:** 17 June 2016 13:38  
**To:** Maxey, Steve  
**Subject:** Re: Emails

Hi Steve,

I've attached the email at the bottom of this message. We have received complaints from Moore Environment who are project managing the Memorial Park project for us. They are furious that Mark Jones has taken to social media to criticise their business and how they have carried out their work for the CTC. At the full council meeting on Wednesday Labour and Independent members voted to remove Cllr Jones from the Memorial Park Working Group. This action was taken because Cllr Jones has consistently attempted to undermine the project at every level. You will see from the pink leaflet I sent you previously that Cllr Jones referred to this project as "a Labour vanity project" and used false figures to criticise the project. When Cllr Jones joined the council we all agreed that if he was on the lead group for the project then he may take a more responsible and professional view of this massive project. Unfortunately this has not happened. We have also had complaints from the contractor that he had been down to the site throwing his weight around with the workers.

His behaviour on Wednesday night was fine until the members of the public left after the public participation section. He then descended into his usual behaviour of shouting, bullying, speaking over other councillors and objecting to anything put forward and arguing the toss over minor points of which he had no idea. At first, last year, we thought that he would understand after a month or two how meetings work and how councils operate. He doesn't, and if anything it's getting worse. His public and private rudeness towards the town clerk, who has spent more time accommodating and helping Cllr Jones than the rest of the council and its projects put together, is disgusting and I'm surprised he hasn't resigned after the way he is being treated.

I spoke to Councillor Richardson on Wednesday and he told me that he was still receiving bullying phone calls from Cllr Jones in which he tells him that he has to vote as he votes or Jones won't support anything Cllr Richardson wants to do. I've explained to Richardson that this not right and no other grouping on the council operates in this manner. Every member is free to vote as they see fit.

His posts on Facebook criticising the council are becoming more numerous. After a bungled attempt by an outside committee, advised (wrongly, as with the football club) by Cllr Jones, to get council funding failed, he attacked other councillors as "self-serving" and "pathetic". He also shouted out that the council as a whole was "pathetic", in front of members of the public, at our May full council.

These are all things that have happened since our meeting so I can't see how things are getting better in any way. Other members will no doubt have their own separate stories and instances of grievance with Cllr Jones' behaviour in recent months, but these are mine.

Best wishes

Harry

Colin

After yesterday's Political decision by the labour Party as a whole to remove me from the Memorial Party Working Group I would like to reiterate my comment that was made in your presence and in the presence of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor after the meeting. I WILL BE attending the working party group meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> June as an elected representative of this town and as requested by a number of my constituents who are also very concerned regarding these areas. If you believe that this is not possible I will require the exact LAW or Standing order that states that I am not allowed to attend. I would also point you to the fact that when we discussed the changes to committees this was a item that was discussed and the Council made the decision that all councillors would be able to attend all meetings unless it was a delicate staffing matter which this is not and it was agreed by all present and stated by Councillor Farrell at that meeting. This working party group is now Politically biased as can be seen FACT and the membership.

You are aware that I have grave concerns in respect of the irregularities that keep appearing in relation to the Memorial Park finances and how much we have to spend and what is budgeted where. You are often a stickler for ensuring budgets are adhered to Colin then maybe you can do the same for this. This current situation is NOT transparent enough in my opinion and we are most definitely not keeping the general public aware of the situation in the manner that we should be in my humble opinion. Whilst you are the designated officer to liaise with Moore and JML that is exactly what you are a liaison officer. All of the situation needs to be reported back for the information of all elected representatives not just the chosen few. You can be assured I will keeping a very close eye on all of this whether I am a member of the working party group or not.

I would officially request copies of all of the minutes of these group meetings to be available to all and to be notified of all dates of all meetings. In the meeting last night Councillor Farrell made some comment about Councillors not going to the park and liaising with JML. Who does he think he is. For information that park is my property as a resident of Coleshill and Any resident , be them a councillor or not and they are entitled to do as they see fit in the park as long as legal of course. I think we have forgotten that the Town Council do NOT own the park they manage it as custodians for the residents of Coleshill like a letting agent. As for liaising with JML I won't be telling them what to do but if I want to know anything then I will ask.

I have now arranged a meeting with the Mayor and will let you know the result of that meeting as and when.

Please in future do not ask me not to be political I have tried extremely hard, a matter recognised by a number of councillors, as far as I am concerned Coleshill Town Council is now voting political as was seen yesterday and the meeting before FACT I will be reporting publicly on this from this date forward.

CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

Mark Jones

Coleshill South

On 16 Jun 2016, at 13:50, Maxey, Steve <[SteveMaxey@NorthWarks.gov.uk](mailto:SteveMaxey@NorthWarks.gov.uk)> wrote:

Harry

Can you provide me with as much detail as possible - what the behaviour was, the email if you have it and any of the other complaints.

I've suggested a way forward but if he hasn't taken it then we may go to a formal investigation.

Please treat all this as confidential

Steve

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Harry Taylor [[harrytgt@me.com](mailto:harrytgt@me.com)]

**Sent:** Thursday, June 16, 2016 01:22 PM GMT Standard Time

**To:** Maxey, Steve

**Subject:** Re: Emails

Dear Steve,

After further aggressive behaviour from Cllr Jones at last night's full council meeting of Coleshill Town Council and an email he has written today I would like to know what remedial actions are being taken against him? As I suggested to you at our meeting two months ago, he is becoming increasingly unhinged and we have now as a council received complaints about his behaviour from an outside contractor. I also had a further complaint from Cllr Richardson (Conservative) that he is still being harassed outside of council meetings to vote in accordance with Cllr Jones' wishes.

I realise you are a busy man but the reputation and working of our council and the willingness of the community to engage with us is being jeopardised by the actions and behaviour of Cllr Jones. It is also clear that some of our staff, including our town clerk, are finding it very difficult to carry out even basic tasks without the vexatious interference of Cllr Jones.

Best wishes

Harry Taylor

Sent from my iPhone

On 27 Apr 2016, at 18:07, Maxey, Steve <[SteveMaxey@NorthWarks.gov.uk](mailto:SteveMaxey@NorthWarks.gov.uk)> wrote:

I didn't get any headed clippings

Steve

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Harry Taylor [[harrytgt@me.com](mailto:harrytgt@me.com)]

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 27, 2016 04:43 PM GMT Standard Time

**To:** Maxey, Steve

**Subject:** Re: Emails

If there's one or two called clippings then that's fine. Bill get more stuff to you in next few days.

Have a good break.

Harry

Sent from my iPhone

On 27 Apr 2016, at 15:01, Maxey, Steve  
<[SteveMaxey@NorthWarks.gov.uk](mailto:SteveMaxey@NorthWarks.gov.uk)> wrote:

Hi Harry

I'm on leave - I've had 7 emails from you today. Does that accord with the number you've sent?

Thanks

Steve

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Harry Taylor [[harrytgt@hotmail.com](mailto:harrytgt@hotmail.com)]

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 27, 2016 11:00 AM GMT Standard Time

**To:** Maxey, Steve

**Subject:** Emails

Hi Steve, let me know if you receive two emails of newspaper clippings. I've tried a couple of times but they've bounced back.

If not I'll do you a hard copy.

Harry



Atherstone, start of the Warwickshire stage of the Aviva Women's professional cycle Tour, 16th June  
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**Maxey, Steve**

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**From:** Adam Richardson <adamrichardson8344@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** 18 August 2016 20:03  
**To:** Maxey, Steve  
**Subject:** Cllr Mark Jones Complaint

Dear Mr Maxey,

I would like to put a complaint in about the conduct of Cllr Mark Jones. I am a Conservative Town Councillor at Coleshill Town Council. I have been having a few problems with him since I became a councillor in May 2015. Since the beginning he has been brash and frankly bullying in his behaviour towards me. For example, he has been trying to tell me which way to vote. When I have not voted 'his' way he has phoned me to have a go at me and has been stand-offish. He says that I have to vote the way he says because it is most certainly the Conservative way, however I believe this is not the case when looking closely at the items he wants to object to. I have spoken to members of the Conservative party who have told me that I am not whipped but this has not affected his behaviour. He is still having a dig at me over items voted for on our first ever Full Town Council meeting. On one occasion at a full town council meeting, when it came to a vote about the Coleshill Hub which was divided on party lines and I did not vote against the motion with him and the other Conservative town councillor, he called my name out and I had to reply that I was abstaining from the vote. When he spoke to me about it afterwards he said that I was completely in the wrong and I should be voting conservatively and with him, not against him. I had told him I would love to run for Deputy Mayor & he said "What makes you think I'm going to vote for you when you don't vote with me?" He has continued to have digs at me over my wanting to become Mayor (obviously after a term as Deputy Mayor of course) and keeps telling me how I haven't done anything for him so why should he do this for me? The phone calls have carried on so I decided I needed to ask for help. I have spoken to both Cllrs Stacey Ingram and David Wright and have told them what is happening but these things have not stopped. In fact he phones to say "I've just been told I'm a naughty boy, how silly." and laughs at it that the party have told him to behave.

I would also like to bring to your attention an incident that happened on the 6th of August at Midday on Coleshill High Street in full view of the public and I have a witness to his behaviour towards me. Cllr Jones was enquiring about the Coleshill Star Awards, an awards evening for people in Coleshill who voluntarily give up their time to help others. The Town Council has given delegated powers to a sub-committee (2 Labour, 1 Conservative, 1 Independent) to organise everything, from how the money should be spent to picking the judging panels, which we have done. The people we have picked for these panels are prolific people in Coleshill and fine upstanding people that are known to many. Cllr Jones asked who they were and at the time I did not have the list with me, but knew 2 as I had mentioned them and their names had been put down, so I told him them as they are not private. He then asked rather abruptly "Who picked these?" I told him the sub-committee had to which he cut me off saying we were wrong it had to come to Full Town Council. I remained calm and told him it didn't, again rather brashly he said "I'm bringing it up." I told him fine if you want but its delegated so nothing can come of it and again rather loudly he said "I'm GOING to do it." As this was before the public I felt it was not right and pretty much belittling, with the raising of his voice and trying to tower over myself.

I do not believe this to be correct behaviour or right so I wanted it brought to someone higher up as I would like this intimidating behaviour to stop. If you have any questions I would be happy to speak to you on [07772747602](tel:07772747602).

Many thanks,

Clr Adam Richardson,  
Coleshill Town Council

**Maxey, Steve**

---

**From:** Maxey, Steve  
**Sent:** 21 October 2016 15:15  
**To:** 'Adam Richardson'; Colin Greatorex  
**Subject:** RE: For your file

Adam

Thank you for your email. I will pass this onto our investigator, who will be in touch shortly.

Regards

Steve Maxey  
Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council

Tel: 01827 719438  
Mob: 07814494211

[www.northwarks.gov.uk](http://www.northwarks.gov.uk)

-----Original Message-----

From: Adam Richardson [<mailto:adamrichardson8344@yahoo.com>]  
Sent: 20 October 2016 13:00  
To: Maxey, Steve; Colin Greatorex  
Subject: RE: For your file

Dear Mr. Maxey,

I want to start off by saying I hope you do not mind that I include our Town Clerk into this email but he knows the contents of this email anyway & I have spoken to him about this matter.

I am emailing you to inform you that I have handed in my resignation with the Conservative party, it has come to a point where I could no longer work with Cllr Jones, he has been a bully, derogative, degrading & a few other choice words I could use but that is not the point,

I have spoken to people about his demeanour & manner, but he just laughs it off & says "Oh I'll just get a slap on the wrist & told I'm a naughty boy." Then continues to be the same disrespectful person,

I made the decision to resign from the party as I find that he is nothing shy of a schoolyard bully, which to me I left behind a long time ago, unfortunately none of this has been done via email or texts or I would gladly show you, it has always been telephonically, one such call came about 2 weeks before the Coleshill Star Awards, when talking about a few things, I told him I was loyal to the people of Coleshill his response to myself was "You show no loyalty to myself, which is the first person you need to respect, you have no balls & are spineless." This to me is not ok.

I have informed David Wright, but have had no communications back, when I spoke to Stacey Ingram about him she told me to try to talk to him but when I had he interjected, quite abruptly before I could get a few words in, laughed it off & said its the way he was to "Get used to it, its politics, grow a pair."

So for those reasons I found I could take no more & have removed myself from the party, I am saddened it has come to this, I was rather hoping I would not have to, I get on well, as far as I am aware, I have not asked their opinions, with my fellow Cllrs, in fact I would probably state my reputation on it, but this has driven a wedge between me & the party to the point as I said I resigned from them, with nothing seeming to be done & not being informed on

## CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

things just giving in report after report on how he has treated me it was my choice & now I am working with the other Cllrs.

I want to do good for Coleshill & will continue to do as such, just no longer with the Conservative party, but I will be crossing the floor & joining the Labour party who have shown me nothing but respect, manners & courtesy since becoming a Cllr, outside of Council chambers & even before the fact.

I wish the party well, but Cllr Jones is going to tear them apart & in my opinion is a liability, he is brash & puts people like myself off from wanting to be a Cllr, but I will NOT be beaten by that man & will stand my ground, just no longer in the same camp as him.

Many Thanks

Cllr Adam Richardson

**Maxey, Steve**

---

**From:** Colin Greatorex <colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 24 August 2016 16:32  
**To:** Maxey, Steve  
**Cc:** Cllr. Adam Farrell (CTC); Cllr. Kirsteen Wootton (CTC)  
**Subject:** FW: A few matters

Steve,

Please add this to the list of issues sent earlier. JML are the Park contractors on site, project managed by Moore Environment.

Regards

*Colin Greatorex*

*Coleshill Town Clerk*

Tel: 01675 463326

Coleshill Town Council, 142 High Street, Coleshill, Warks. B46 3BG

[colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)

(Normal office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

---

**From:** Sue Moore [<mailto:S.Moore@moore-environment.co.uk>]

**Sent:** 24 August, 2016 11:21 AM

**To:** Colin Greatorex

**Cc:** declan rooney; Zoe Hillcox; Councillor Adam Farrell

**Subject:** RE: A few matters

Colin

I have just had a report from Declan that Cllr Jones has been down on site talking to JML. He is criticising everything about the works apparently, and asking who approved any of it – that the play/ trim trail/ gym equipment will never get used and is a complete waste of money, that the locations of the trim trail equipment is ridiculous etc etc.

JML just listen and make no comment.

Just thought you should be aware.

Kind regards

Sue Moore

Director/Landscape Architect/Environmental Coordinator

Moore Environment

Griffin House 9 Coventry Road Coleshill Birmingham B46 3BB

T.01675 466877 F.01675 466899

[s.moore@moore-environment.co.uk](mailto:s.moore@moore-environment.co.uk)

[www.moore-environment.co.uk](http://www.moore-environment.co.uk)



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**From:** [greatorexcolin7@gmail.com](mailto:greatorexcolin7@gmail.com) [mailto:[greatorexcolin7@gmail.com](mailto:greatorexcolin7@gmail.com)] **On Behalf Of** Colin Greatorex  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2016 4:54 PM  
**To:** Sue Moore  
**Cc:** declan rooney; Zoe Hillcox  
**Subject:** A few matters

Sue,

I have just tried your number but it went to a/m. A few separate matters to mention:

The 'arisings' our Outside Services people will use if it is left on site.  
The upper football pitch is still unplayable. There are other smaller sections away from the JML big repair that are big enough or deep enough that refs will not allow the games to go ahead. I spoke to Cllr. Farrell who has said we need to get it sorted.

I will also speak about a Community Centre play area job. Possibly a JML quote?

***Colin Greatorex***  
***Town Clerk***  
***Coleshill Town Council, Town Hall, High Street, Coleshill B46 3BG***  
***[Colin@ColeshillTownCouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Colin@ColeshillTownCouncil.gov.uk)***

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Version: 2016.0.7752 / Virus Database: 4647/12870 - Release Date: 08/24/16

**Maxey, Steve**

---

**From:** Colin Greatorex <colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 14 September 2016 18:23  
**To:** Maxey, Steve; Cllr. Kirsteen Wootton (CTC)  
**Subject:** FW: FRIENDS MEETING

Both,

Supplier comments to add to the Cllr. Jones file.

Regards

*Colin Greatorex*  
*Coleshill Town Clerk*

Tel: 01675 463326  
Coleshill Town Council, 142 High Street, Coleshill, Warks. B46 3EG  
[colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)  
(Normal office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

---

**From:** Sue Moore [<mailto:S.Moore@moore-environment.co.uk>]  
**Sent:** 14 September, 2016 4:01 PM  
**To:** Colin Greatorex; 'Marie Brotheridge'  
**Subject:** RE: FRIENDS MEETING

Hi Marie

Thank you all for your efforts and I hope Colin has reassured you on a couple of points.

Unfortunately Cllr Jones, for reasons of his own, appears to be stirring up very negative attitudes about the Park Improvements, despite having had a very key role in the approval process – which he doesn't seem to remember. Hopefully he will not continue with this behaviour for much longer – the Group is definitely not a forum for Cllrs to air their views - if they have points to make they should take them back through the appropriate channels in the Council.

I trust you managed to get some business done in terms of progressing the community planting day despite the rude interruptions?

Kind regards

Sue Moore  
Director/Landscape Architect/Environmental Coordinator  
Moore Environment  
Griffin House 9 Coventry Road Coleshill Birmingham B46 3EB  
T.01675 466877 F.01675 466899  
[s.moore@moore-environment.co.uk](mailto:s.moore@moore-environment.co.uk)  
[www.moore-environment.co.uk](http://www.moore-environment.co.uk)



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Moore Environment Ltd Registration No 4514803

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**From:** Colin Greateorex [<mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 14, 2016 10:46 AM  
**To:** 'Marie Brotheridge'  
**Cc:** Sue Moore  
**Subject:** RE: FRIENDS MEETING

Marie,

Thank you so much for sharing this information. I know that Julie Gregory told you quietly last night that there are complaints and processes in place in relation to Cllr. Jones.

I wholeheartedly agree the Friends Group is for non-Councillors and will pass your complaint onto the powers that need to know. As regards the café, that is for the Council to agree, possibly in liaison with the cricket club and not for the Friends or one member to decide, rest assured.

Regards

*Colin Greateorex*  
*Coleshill Town Clerk*  
Tel: 01675 463326  
Coleshill Town Council, 142 High Street, Coleshill, Warks. B46 3BG  
[colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)  
(Normal office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

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**From:** Marie Brotheridge [<mailto:marie.brotheridge@sertec.co.uk>]  
**Sent:** 14 September, 2016 9:53 AM  
**To:** [S.Moore@moore-environment.co.uk](mailto:S.Moore@moore-environment.co.uk); [colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)  
**Subject:** FRIENDS MEETING

Good morning Sue and Colin

I hope you are both keeping well? The Friends meeting was very well attended and I think the poster and Facebook campaign did work well. However, I really have serious concerns. Councillor Mark Jones attended and to be blunt, totally monopolised the meeting. He was being negative about how Phase 1 has been managed. Someone asked about the plans and he was negative about that, something along the lines of he is a councillor and even he is not able to get hold of up to date plans. I feel the only purpose he served was to encourage negativity and took the meeting away from the direction where it should have gone. When anyone tried to take control he talked over them and in my opinion was totally rude.

However, my main concern is that the idea of a café was talked about and he suggested that the Pavilion was an ideal place to have it. Obviously from where I sit as secretary to the Cricket Club, this would be detrimental to them and is something I could not support as there is a conflict of interest. I am now really seriously considering my position on the Friends committee. I know this is just an idea that is being banded around but I really am questioning if I want to be a part of the Friends. It is my personal opinion that Mark Jones has another agenda and I do not want to be a puppet in disagreements town councillors may have between themselves. I do question if it is right that he should attend these meetings in his capacity as a councillor.

This is my personal opinion but I feel totally frustrated and to be honest very angry.

Kind regards

Marie Brotheridge

\*\*\*\*\*

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Version: 2016.0.7752 / Virus Database: 4649/13014 - Release Date: 09/13/16

**Maxey, Steve**

---

**From:** Colin Greatorex <colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 16 September 2016 08:20  
**To:** Maxey, Steve; Cllr. Kirsteen Wootton (CTC)  
**Subject:** FW: FOMP

Steve /Kirsteen,

Further comment from a supplier about the behaviour of Cllr. Jones for the file.

Regards

*Colin Greatorex*  
*Coleshill Town Clerk*

Tel: 01675 463326  
Coleshill Town Council, 142 High Street, Coleshill, Warks. B46 3BG  
[colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)  
(Normal office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

---

**From:** Sue Moore [<mailto:S.Moore@moore-environment.co.uk>]  
**Sent:** 14 September, 2016 5:30 PM  
**To:** Colin Greatorex ([colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)); 'Councillor Adam Farrell'  
**Cc:** declan rooney  
**Subject:** FOMP

I understand from a couple of sources that FOMP want me to attend their next meeting and run through the plans – a reasonable request and one I would normally be happy to agree to.

However – I will not be able to attend any such meeting until some action is taken to manage Cllr Jones appalling behaviour – at least as far as all matters Memorial Park are concerned.

Kind regards

Sue Moore  
Director/Landscape Architect/Environmental Coordinator  
Moore Environment  
Griffin House 9 Coventry Road Coleshill Birmingham B46 3BB  
T.01675 466877 F.01675 466899  
[s.moore@moore-environment.co.uk](mailto:s.moore@moore-environment.co.uk)  
[www.moore-environment.co.uk](http://www.moore-environment.co.uk)



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**Maxey, Steve**

---

**From:** Maxey, Steve  
**Sent:** 19 October 2016 09:43  
**To:** 'dewimjones'  
**Subject:** RE: Cllr Mark Jones

Dewi

Many thanks for your email. I will take this further and I, or my appointed investigator Jonathan Gooiden, will be in touch.

Could you possibly print or do a screen grab of the comments on the Facebook page please? if it's a closed group I wont be able to look at it?

Many thanks

Steve Maxey  
Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council

Tel: 01827 719438  
Mob: 07814494211

[www.northwarks.gov.uk](http://www.northwarks.gov.uk)

---

**From:** dewimjones [<mailto:dewimjones@btinternet.com>]  
**Sent:** 18 October 2016 23:28  
**To:** Maxey, Steve  
**Subject:** Cllr Mark Jones

Dear Steve

I wish to raise a formal complaint regarding the above person who burst into my office this afternoon ( 18.10.2016 approx 4.45pm) and began a very abusive and loud tirade at me, accusing me of making a discussion conducted on a community page, personal.

He demanded that if I had anything to say to him to say it to his face which I must admit I found confusing. I was offering my opinion on a community Facebook page regarding an event he was involved with which had made derogatory public comments about Coleshill Town Council. It was proved via council minutes to be untrue and I suggested the committee offer an apology to the Council.

This suggestion was supported by many other residents of Coleshill (it's a resident only community site) via comments and "like" indicators for all to see.

I work in a location with multiple occupancy offices where Mark Jones conducts his print business and we often stop and discuss local matters quite amicably.

I do not expect a representative of the council to storm into my work place and release a tirade of abusive and foul language in such a threatening manner.

The matter was regarding the local bonfire and firework display which as of 9th October 2016 was cancelled by the committee which he is part of. They blamed circumstances beyond their control and the fact that Coleshill Town Council had refused permission to hold the event on the Memorial Park. With the publication of the minutes of the Council meeting it was clear this was untrue.

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I challenged the event committee's version and suggested they publically apologise to the Town Council. This did not happen and the Coleshill Town Council issued a statement with the correct sequence of events and their expression of shock that the Coleshill Carnival Committee sought to lay blame at the Council for the cancellation of the event.

I think that my request as a member of the community page but more importantly as a concerned resident for the CCC to apologise for the public statement pushed Mark over the top in his reaction. He took it personally as a criticism of his conduct and I was the closest objector to him. I felt intimidated and threatened by his actions and after demanding he leave my office he refused. I got up and showed him the door and told him in no uncertain terms to get out.

I trust you will investigate this matter further and take what ever action you deem necessary to curb his aggressive nature.

Dewi M Jones  
Managing Director  
Greensleeves Lawncare  
07900092242

Sent from my Samsung device

**Maxey, Steve**

---

**From:** Zoe Hilcox <zoe@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 23 August 2016 14:17  
**To:** Maxey, Steve  
**Subject:** Coleshill Town Council  
**Attachments:** statement.docx

Dear Steve,

I have been asked to submit a statement to you concerning Councillor Mark Jones and Coleshill Town Council.  
Please find it attached.

Date: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2016

A resident of Coleshill had come into the main Town Council offices to make a complaint about a Borough issue. Cllr. Jones, who was also in the office, assisted in dealing with this complaint and I left the two of them talking returning to my office but leaving the door ajar (the door to the main office was wedged open).

A few minutes later I became aware of Cllr. Jones' raised voice and returned to the main office where I witnessed Cllr. Jones shouting at Colin Greatorex. The topic of discussion was the damage caused to Memorial Park by the Fun Fair; Cllr. Jones was unhappy about the bill for repair but upon being told by Colin that he could not discuss this matter with him as he had a prejudicial interest as he was a member of the carnival committee Cllr. Jones kept shouting 'in your opinion'. Believing that this shouldn't be a conversation held in public domain I closed the door to the main office and, as with previous instances that Cllr. Jones has been into the offices, all members of staff stayed present to bear witness.

Colin stayed calm throughout the conversation.

The flippant nature with which Cllr. Jones discusses the roles of town council staff is beginning to have a detrimental effect on staff morale; our jobs and the value with which he gives the work that we do has left members of staff feeling undervalued. For instance on a site visit to the Memorial Park, re the funfair damage, staff were told that the damage wasn't much and would only cost £7.50 in overtime.

Zoe Hillcox

18<sup>th</sup> August 2016

**Maxey, Steve**

---

**From:** Kate Shtrezi <kate@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 25 August 2016 12:40  
**To:** Maxey, Steve  
**Subject:** Statement Attached  
**Attachments:** MJ.docx

Dear Steve,

I have been asked to forward a statement to you regarding the misconduct of one of our Town Councillors.

Kind Regards,

Kate Shtrezi  
Records Assistant

Coleshill Town Hall  
High Street Coleshill  
Warwickshire  
B46 3BG  
01675 453 326

[kate@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:kate@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)

Office opening hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am-1:00pm

Working hours: Tuesday 9:00am-4:30pm, Thursday 9:00am-4:30pm, Friday 9:00am-3:00pm



Coleshill Town Council

Statement regarding unprofessional / intimidating behaviour of Councillor Mark Jones

As the officer who deals with the website / Facebook pages I was asked to attend meetings last year to discuss the 'new' website. I was barely allowed to speak at the meetings and Cllr. Jones repeatedly got my first name incorrect. It must have been so noticeable that after the meetings other councillors stopped to advise me to ignore his behaviour as it was just one of his tactics.

He fails to listen to any point I have raised in a meeting to the point that I now no longer speak in a meeting because it is not worth it. He often speaks at length about IT issues yet has displayed no real knowledge or aptitude for the matters. He refuses to let officers carry out their jobs as he feels he knows best and must be involved. He also does not think we should employ or pay anyone but him or someone he recommends to help with the IT issues despite there not being enough knowledge in the office or seemingly by the councillors so we have been stuck in limbo on many website issues.

When Cllr. Jones was elected he was very concerned about e-mails at the Town Council being confidential and that no one should have access to other councillor's emails. He didn't trust the current set up with HCI data and asked to get the domain changed and that he would do this

Last August he requested CTC purchase a reseller account (something I was later told by heart internet was not required) and this was done at a cost of approx. £400 for a 12 month period. He was repeatedly asked by myself and the Town Clerk for the paperwork to put in our invoice file as we have to show receipts for all payments. This has never been received. It took 8/9 months to obtain the username and password from Cllr. Jones again after repeated requests and at this point it was discovered by liaising with Heart Internet that there was no need to change domain or have a reseller account so the account and the direct debit was then cancelled.

Cllr. Jones asked early on in these meetings how to get something on the Coleshill Town Council website, I advised him to e-mail me with anything he wanted to go onto the website and I would put it on.

He has never emailed anything to me to put on the website yet has come in and said that I am politically biased and that I don't put anything on the website or Facebook from him. When I said I had not received anything from him to upload he said that it is my job to look on Facebook and find things that might be relevant. I advised that this isn't my job and that the hours I work and tasks I have do not allow for me to spend time scouring Facebook and that in fact I often do this work in my spare time. I have still not received any information to put on the website / Facebook from him.

When he comes into the office he has often stormed straight into the back office to speak with the Town Clerk without invitation. It is incredible difficult to stop him from doing so even though the Town Clerk is often dealing with telephone conversations or in meetings with others.

Cllr Jones demeanour is aggressive and intimidating he constantly criticises the work being done without having full knowledge of the demands placed upon us. I work incredibly hard for Coleshill Town Council and have nothing but respect for our Town Councillors who work voluntarily for the good of the community. It has however become an increasingly difficult place to work and the constant visits and negative jibes have made the work atmosphere very low. I do not feel at all comfortable dealing with Cllr. Jones, especially in person. I would prefer to deal with his requests in writing so that there is evidence of what has been said on both sides and he cannot use his size and loud voice to intimidate officers.

Kate Shtrezi.

## CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

**From:** Councillor Jones [mailto:[mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk](mailto:mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk)]  
**Sent:** 19 February, 2016 1:17 PM  
**To:** Colin Greatorex; Cllr. Adam Farrell (CTC)  
**Subject:** Heart Internet and CTC Website

Hi All

Just thought I would confirm what we have agreed this morning in respect of the websites and Heart Internet Account.

Despite my offer of completing the transfer for you FOC Colin wishes to take control of the account, which belongs to Coleshill Town Council anyway, immediately and wishes to do the transfers himself!

I have now transferred the login to Colin using the email [colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk) so Colin if you go to google type in heart internet, then go to their site click login and click forgot password and then it will email you a new password at your email address.

I do NOT now have access as you have requested so my responsibility for all passes to you. I sincerely hope we do not have to spend any money on this with external people and if we do can you inform me please...

Just to confirm what we have now agreed between Cllr Farrell, myself and yourself that you will complete the following

1. You will request the transfer of the domain from HCIData to Heart Internet
2. You will create a website wordpress compatible on a domain for [coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](http://coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)
3. You will alter the DNS settings to point the website to that domain
4. You will create a sub domain for Matt to upload the new website for development and create FTP details for the same for him and forward them to him and create user access within wordpress for Kate to start to add data.
5. You will create DNS settings for the domain for the email accounts at [outitgoes.com](http://outitgoes.com)
6. For yourself and office staff you will create PST backup files for outlook and then add the outitgoes email with that backup so you have continuity of access and pre email content
7. You will create email accounts on Heart Internet for as many as you wish. Remember once you have transferred the domain No email until you have done this.

As mentioned by Adam our target date is 5 weeks and to move into the new council with a new website and all.

We also agreed that you would source a new Broadband connection with BT Infinity checking it does not seem available on the internet but from experience if you call them it suddenly becomes available ! Let me know if it is not available as I would like to take this up with CSW Broadband at Borough as Coleshill should be now covered and you are pretty central.

Out of interest what are we paying mainstream for our Telephone system?

Look forward to seeing the results.

Mark

Mark Jones | Cllr NWBC and Coleshill Town

Coleshill South | [markjones@northwarks.gov.uk](mailto:markjones@northwarks.gov.uk)

[mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk](mailto:mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk)

Mob: 07814640522

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Version: 2016.0.7442 / Virus Database: 4533/11658 - Release Date: 02/19/16

Cllr,

Pleased to be back – disappointed in the lack of balloons for the occasion though...☺

Can you ask Cllr. Jones to forward any emails he has had from Heart Internet to us, including log in details (username and password for the heart internet website)

I am sure we have already asked Cllr. Jones for this but I can't see anything on my emails to show we asked.

We still have no documentation for the payment made on 21/08/15 for £431.89 (£359.90 net, £71.99 VAT) the descriptor on this was e-mail domain costs and it was set up as a Direct Debit as they require this payment annually?

Again I can pay the £25 to Heart Internet but I am not entirely happy to do this without any documentation. Cllr. Jones needs to be ensuring that we as a council have full access to the facilities that this payment allows and it is our role and responsibility as officers of the council to manage and administer the website and e-mail domains.

I am concerned about such a vital part of our operations (email accounts) being transferred without full consultation from Cllr Jones and the Heart Internet team to advise us of what this entails.

For example will moving them risk losing any of our past e-mails or the way they are stored – I think this is unlikely and has probably been discussed but it would be good to have an electronic copy of all the documentation including contracts / invoices and service expectations. I feel completely in the dark on this, I don't know whether you have received more information than me on this, as I know we have been busy with other stuff!

Kind Regards,

Kate Shtrezi

Records Assistant

Coleshill Town Council



CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

**From:** Colin Greatorex [<mailto:greatorexcolin7@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** 21 January 2016 09:45  
**To:** Kate Shtrezi <[kate@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:kate@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** Helen Whittaker <[helen@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:helen@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Heart Internet

Glad to hear you are back! See below. We need to pay £25 to same payee as you did before but I think Mark wants to be in at the time. C

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Colin Greatorex <[greatorexcolin7@gmail.com](mailto:greatorexcolin7@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** 21 January 2016 08:57:58 GMT  
**To:** Councillor Jones <[mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk](mailto:mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: Heart Internet

Mark,

I have not paid the previous provider.

If you can get Heart's payee details, we can pay by cheque, credit card or direct debit (Monday probably for the latter as Kate is still off).

Colin

Sent from my iPhone

On 21 Jan 2016, at 07:09, Councillor Jones <[mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk](mailto:mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk)> wrote:

Hi Colin

I would like to get this paid so we can move forward How do we do that. Once we have done this and the domain is in our control I can back up the website and re host it on this account and set up the new email as discussed. But we do need to pay this before that happens.

I trust you haven't paid the previous domain provider as discussed ?

Mark Jones

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Councillor Jones** <[mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk](mailto:mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk)>

Date: Monday, 18 January 2016

Subject: Heart Internet

To: Colin Greateorex <[colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)>

The full reseller account is what we purchased in August Colin which was clearly explained. The costs here £25 are for a domain transfer which is what you get each year , nothing to do with hosting, and quite normal. In fact that is exactly what you have from the previous supplier which we do not pay as discussed and this replaces it with the change of supplier.

Any queries I will pop in tomorrow

Mark

On Mon, Jan 18, 2016 at 3:52 PM, Colin Greateorex <[colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)> wrote:

Mark,

We have already paid £431.89 + VAT in August which I assumed was everything required? If they need something else paying, can they send a VAT invoice?

As regards having the current website ready to go, I am not sure what this means. Does that mean having all the content ready to migrate across automatically or do we have to have everything saved to a directory and then have to start again building a new site?

Regards

***Colin Greateorex***

***Coleshill Town Clerk***

Tel: 01675 463326

Coleshill Town Council, 142 High Street, Coleshill, Warks. B46 3BG

[colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:colin@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)

(Normal office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

## CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

**From:** Councillor Jones [mailto:[mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk](mailto:mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk)]  
**Sent:** 18 January 2016 15:27  
**To:** Colin Greatorax  
**Subject:** Heart Internet

Hi Colin

I have finally had a response from Heart regarding the transfer of the domain

There is a cost of £25 ( see their response below) for the transfer and they advise we pay for it and then request the transfer. I suggest we do that and then I will set a plan of action which we can agree to get everything transferred over. Including the current website ready to go BEFORE i press the button

Any queries please speak but how do we pay ?

Mark Jones

Reply from Heart

We can transfer these domains in however it would come at a cost of £25 + VAT (a payment link would be sent through this ticket) and then you would email either [JA.NET](mailto:JA.NET) or your current domain holder (likely the best option) to ask them to transfer to us after payment is taken.

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Version: 2016.0.7303 / Virus Database: 4489/11428 - Release Date: 01/18/16

Facebook post on B46 Updates a closed group for residents of Coleshill which currently has approximately 2,700 members.

Mark Jones

August 3 at 11:52pm · Coleshill

Thank You to all the Residents that attended the Town Planning meeting tonight it is great to see people taking an interest. As i stated at the meeting I certainly have not yet given up on the School Crossing and will be seeking clarification on the decision and requesting a visit to explain to Residents why? The fight is not over yet and we must push for as much support for our kids safety . I will report further as I hear news. Well done all who attended!

Like

Comment

55

Comments



Wendy Jones Good meeting and well represented by local residents..

Like · Reply · 2 · August 4 at 12:00am



Mark Jones Yes great participation

Like · Reply · 2 · August 4 at 12:01am



Wendy Jones One thing...these meetings must be publicized more ...

Like · Reply · 2 · August 4 at 12:02am



Mark Jones Yes agreed i have today asked the Town Clerk to add to the Agenda for next full council to add these meetings to have to be publicised as they should be. Currently only the Full council needs to be publicised which is stupid imho

Like · Reply · 1 · August 4 at 12:05am



Adam Jak Richardson I think it would be a waste of paper to print & advertise the planning meeting since literally 3 minutes in everyone left, maybe more people would be interested in C&E or R&A but planning people only care when it was a big agenda item like it was, which maybe for that I can understand it being advertised.

Like · Reply · August 4 at 12:09am



Mark Jones Firstly Adam Jak Richardson i haven't said to print and advertise it if you read Standing Orders then FTC is simply advertised in the correct media I am just asking that committees should do the same which would take little effort. It is for residents to consider whether important Adam and you should encourage not discourage as Chairman. We have

some very important planning decisions over the next few years and residents views are of paramount importance . Simple advertising on CTC website and noticeboards should be encouraged I am surprised you don't want to?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [2](#) · [August 4 at 12:16am](#)



[Wendy Jones](#) We as residents hv a right to be there and voice our opinions..please remember Adam the residents voted you in...

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [2](#) · [August 4 at 12:19am](#)



[Adam Jak Richardson](#) I believe they are on the CTC website, I'm not dissuading anyone, Plus I also believe a full list IS in the main notice board at the TH, yes they do Wendy, as I have stated when like tonight a big item comes in we agreed that residents could have 15 minutes, or as there was a few people 3 minutes, but at a meeting like this we do not have to have let this happen, so I will say that it is because of what it was that I as chair allowed residents participation, so we got to hear off the people who voted all of us in.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [August 4 at 12:23am](#)



[Mark Jones](#) Im sorry Adam but I THINK it is not you as a chair that allows Public participation it is Standing Orders ? And Public should be able to participate. Is ALL that I am asking is that they are publicised as FTC is and make it better If it is on the website I couldn't find it so we simply need to do it a little better on that side of things. As far as I am concerned Public can come to everything we as councillors are there for them and we should be totally transparent. Public Meetings are public meetings Adam and I'm not sure what you are going on about lol you have public participation you don't have any power as chair you simply run the meeting. Incidentally I think you handled it very well tonight well done .

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [August 4 at 12:39am](#)



[Adam Jak Richardson](#) FTC has public participation, nowhere in the agendas for Planning, R&A or C&E does it state public participation, this is the discretion of the chairs of those committees.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [August 4 at 12:41am](#)



[Mark Jones](#) Yes it does and Agendas are irrelevant it is Standing Orders and if it is at the chairs discretion and they refused it would be an utter disgrace. I am sure you wouldn't want yo refuse it? Would you?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [August 4 at 12:45am](#)



[Adam Jak Richardson](#) Where do you get that I'd refuse? Plus are agendas irrelevant really? If this is the case then we'll just discuss everything at a meeting we wish? I agreed the public would like to discuss & allowed such discussion even though it got a bit disjointed, but what it proved was the Council are willing to listen & we did indeed, as you yourself saw tonight, in my opinion this is fine, if residents wish to come then fine, I am sure they will again when the next big item arrives, I welcome them, but as I stated it IS advertised people are welcome to attend, however like the Daw Mill Planning evening it was only open to people who had asked previously to discuss, it was NOT thrown open for all who had turned up to discuss,

which is what we decided, which I hope residents will be happy they got to at least say a few words & had their voices heard, after all we were all elected to be the voice of these people.

Like · Reply · 1 · August 4 at 12:55am



Mark Jones I didn't say you would refuse read the post. And i said you did well thats what Well Done means! I didn't think it was disjointed I thought it was excellent.. Not sure you sure reading the same posts Adam but eh oh I'm off to bed Speak later.

**STATEMENT  
FRONT COVER**

Case Ref:	1052611/3
Name:	Colin Greatorex
Position Held	Town Clerk, Coleshill

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solicitors

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## STATEMENT of: Colin Greatorex

1. I am the Town Clerk for Coleshill Town Council. I have worked as the Town Clerk since October 2012. Prior to this I worked within local government at Parish and District level since 1999. Within Coleshill Town Council my role includes responsibility for ten members of staff, members' training, minutes of meetings, advisor to Councillors on all matters relating to Council protocols and other process related issues. I also have responsibility and authority to sanction spending up to £1000 if within the Council's budget.
2. As a direct result of my role within the Town Council I have first point of contact with admin staff, Council members and external contractors with responsibility in many instances as a conduit for communication and in some instances challenges between all parties.
3. On 9 January 2017 I was contacted by Wilkin Chapman LLP regarding complaints I had raised with the Monitoring Officer (MO) of North Warwickshire Borough Council who deals with complaints of alleged breaches of Codes of Conduct applying to local government councillors in its area.
4. I have raised, along with others, a number of complaints that Councillor Jones has or may have failed to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct. As a result of my complaints along with those of other complainants I outline that Councillor Jones:
  - Acts in an aggressive and rude manner. This is in respect of other Councillors, the Town Council's staff and contractors;
  - undermines and overly challenges myself and the legitimate, general decision making process of the Town Council;
  - is overly dominating and disruptive concerning various Town Council projects and issues; and

- he has sought to influence an issue in which he has a pecuniary interest.
5. I have provided Wilkin Chapman LLP through the Monitoring Officer a series of emails and communications between myself, The MO, Councillor Jones and others. Also on 9 January 2017 I undertook a telephone interview with Mr Ball a Consultant with Wilkin Chapman LLP; and from this Interview and the provided documents, this statement has been compiled.
  6. I am aware the terms of reference for the investigation focus on issues post 15 June 2016 when Coleshill Town Council adopted a Code of Conduct that aligns with the guidance from the Localism Act 2011 and therefore the Nolan Principles relating to ethical standards of public office holders. Prior to the Code of Conduct being adopted at the full Town Council meeting in June 2016 the Town Council and I were of the belief that it conformed to the guidance, in that it adopted and followed the NALC Councillor and Clerk Protocols (Post July 2012) and as such training was given to Councillors against this Protocol.
  7. My reasoning for mentioning the protocol is that the guidance within these documents gives a backdrop of the standards and behaviours that are expected of Coleshill Town Councillors and shows evidence of a continuous course of inappropriate and bullying behaviour undertaken by Councillor Jones towards myself and others, prior to and post adoption, of a formal Code of Conduct by the Town Council on 15 June 2016.
  8. Councillor Jones joined the Town Council in May 2015 and since then he has acted in a manner that I have not encountered in any other authority. I was of the belief that he would settle in to the role and behave in a manner that was in line with that which I would expect of an elected member. I had arranged training for Councillors at the end of the first year after their election, against the protocols I have mentioned in order to assist in the development of new councillors. This was circulated to Councillors, including Councillor Jones, on 12 February 2016, 10:48, by email and included:
    - The statutory duties of Members and Councils (Declarations of interests, statutes covered in the NALC Good Councillor Guide);

- How a Council operates (Working with the new structure, remit for each Committee, process for developing agendas, monitoring budgets, monitoring projects etc);
  - Councillor & Staff Co-operation (How to work with staff and what processes are in place);
  - The budget process (and how it can be improved).
9. It is significant to note that Councillor Jones did not receive this training as he gave apologies on the morning of the training session itself.
10. To emphasise these historic background behaviours and incidents I bring attention to an email from myself to Steve Maxey dated 10 June 2016 08:18 whilst operating under the members Protocols, where I highlight and paraphrase: *'Constant criticism for choice of suppliers and spend level on items, despite purchases being within the Council's Financial Procedures. Constant disrespectful wording in wide distribution email correspondence, constant bullying and intimidation in relation to action demanded to his view of requirements, Rubbishing of Council decisions, Challenging my professionalism and lack of apology/recognition of error. I have staff, elected members and suppliers wanting to see something done. The whole issue of dealing with a constant stream of email criticism from one member is distracting from my ability to do the rest of my duties'*.
11. Since the adoption of the Code of Conduct, Councillor Jones' behaviour has continued in this similar vein. He is of large stature and has a loud and booming voice. He uses his physical presence in a manner that is rude and aggressive. For example, he will challenge my decisions in open forum across the office in clear hearing and sight of the Town Council admin staff. His level of questioning and demand for additional information both in person and by email (which he invariably and unnecessarily circulates widely) is relentless and of such a nature that I would class it as vexatious. His continuous abuse of his authority as a councillor is such that he undermines not only my confidence but that of my staff.
12. I would like to draw attention to an incident where I am of the belief that Councillor Jones has a prejudicial interest. On 4 July 2016 at 17:38 I sent an email to Michael

Ford-Terry, Chairman of the Carnival Committee. This email had a number of relevant recipients copied into it. This email related to damage caused by vehicles involved in the funfair and was requesting detail relating to public liability insurance.

13. I sent a further email to Michael Ford-Terry on 4 August 2016 at 18:04 indicating that the repairs were not something that the Town Council could repair and included costs quoted by JML for repair work.
14. I received an email from Councillor Jones at 18:10 the same day with a headline, *'For information I will be dealing with any Funfair issues in respect of the Carnival'*. It concluded with the statement, *'I will pop a copy of both insurances into you tomorrow'*.
15. Further email correspondence then ensued with a flurry of emails. At 18:43 I received a terse email from Councillor Jones stating, *'the quote in relation to JML seems ridiculously high so NO please do not go ahead'*. He then went on to criticise the timing of my emails and finished with a curt, *'I will speak tomorrow but to be clear NO do not go ahead'*.
16. In addition to this Councillor Jones continually states he has contacts and can get anything done cheaper than through accepted channels.
17. At 09:53 on 5 August 2016 I again contacted Michael Ford-Terry by email and copied Councillor Jones into the email. Within this email I stated, *"Cllr. Jones is "conflicted" on this matter and should not be agreeing financial details as both a Councillor and a Carnival Committee Vice Chairman"*. I went on to outline that the work had already commenced.
18. I believe that as a result of the emails of 4 August 2016 an incident occurred at Coleshill Town Council offices. This emphasises Councillor Jones' aggressive and overpowering manner. I was approached by Councillor Jones within the inner confines of the Town Council offices. He had been assisting with a member of the public regarding a Borough issue. Councillor Jones subsequently wished to discuss the damage caused within the Memorial Park by the funfair at the Coleshill Carnival. I informed him I could not discuss the bill as he had a conflict and possible prejudicial interest as he was a member of the Coleshill Carnival Committee. Councillor Jones, in the hearing and presence of everyone in the office, was shouting and bawling

repeating *"IN YOUR OPINION!"*. I tried to disengage myself and remain calm, as I was embarrassed and felt that the challenge was excessive and should not have been conducted in a public arena. His behaviour in this instance was bullying, intimidating and humiliating.

19. He made it clear that he was acting as a Councillor in so much as he ensures that he belittles my position. He has, on many occasions, reminded me within emails that I do not have the authority to contradict him as he is an elected councillor.
20. This course of behaviour continues in public meetings, in offices and by email. My staff have witnessed his behaviour towards me and to their credit ensure they can hear or observe his behaviour towards me as witness. I have now taken to having meetings with him only when there are witnesses present.
21. At other times Councillor Jones has barged his way into my office without invitation and without considering whether I am on the telephone or in meetings. I have now moved my office upstairs so he does not have immediate access to me when he comes into the main office.
22. I have, through communication with contractors, other staff and councillors, received numerous complaints similar to my own regarding Councillor Jones' behaviour. For example on 14 September 2016 at 09:53 I sent an email to Marie Brotheridge relating to the attendance of Councillor Jones at the Friends of the Memorial Park meeting. He stated in this meeting that he was a Councillor and went on to 'monopolise' the meeting, 'encourage negativity', talked over people and 'in my opinion was totally rude'. This email was concluded *'this is my personal opinion but I feel totally frustrated and to be honest very angry'*.
23. A further email dated 14 September 2016 at 17:30 from Sue Moore, Director of Moore Environment outlined, *"I understand from a couple of sources that FOMP want me to attend their next meeting and run through the plans – a reasonable request and one I would normally be happy to agree to", "However – I will not be able to attend any such meeting until some action is taken to manage Cllr Jones appalling behaviour – at least as far as all matters Memorial Park are concerned"*.

24. As a result of the behaviour of Councillor Jones at the Friends of the Memorial Park meeting I was informed that the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer had all resigned en block thus winding up the Friends Group.
25. A further example of excessive and vexatious requests or demands from Councillor Jones arise in emails dated 15 September 2016. At 11:01 (Mark Jones), when Councillor Jones has attempted to influence the content of formal minutes, on this occasion relating to terms of words used by Councillor Farrell were included in the minutes. There were similar emails on 27 September 2016 at 16:55 and 29 September 2016 at 09:45, (Mark Jones) regarding the timing of the publication of minutes. This is just a taste of the content of Councillor Jones' communication which is relentless and challenging especially when looked at against established processes within Coleshill Town Council.
26. Another email from Councillor Jones that affected me greatly was dated 21 October 2016 at 10:23. Councillor Jones stated, *'Hi Colin, Can you just clarify for me. If I attend a committee which I am not a member of am I allowed to speak officially. I THINK I am correct that I can attend, speak on items on the agenda but not vote. Am I correct please?'* My response was simply, *"Mark that is correct"*. On the same day at 11:13 Councillor Jones responded, *"Thank You only took 2 years got something right!"*. These emails are representative of emails going back over the whole period of his being a councillor and are therefore a clear example of his continued erosion of my confidence. His emails originate from his email address: [mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk](mailto:mark@coleshillconservatives.co.uk)
27. I would like to highlight an incident post 15 June 2016 where I believe that Councillor Jones may have a disclosable pecuniary interest. I am aware that Councillor Jones is involved in a printing company called 'B46 Print', I have been informed that a number of fliers, programmes and a banner were commissioned by the Carnival Committee and payment has been received for the production of these documents to a sum of £1000.
28. I would bring attention to emails from Councillor Jones dated 8 September 2016 at 11:00 relating to his unhappiness regarding press releases relating to football pitches being closed, demanding information regarding Standing Orders, as reference to his displaying his displeasure to the widest possible audience, in this instance even highlighting that he had copied Councillor Wallace as Mayor for information.

29. As part of my role as Town Clerk I contacted Councillor Jones setting a deadline of 15 July with 28 days to fill in declaration forms regarding interests. I again contacted him by email on 5 August 2016 at 13:55 asking, *“Can you please advise if you have filled out a CTC declaration of interest form and sent it back? I do not seem to have a copy?”* At 16:14 the same day he responded, *“yes I’m sure I did but please find attached a copy anyway”*. During this process I noticed a number of anomalies and checked the North Warwickshire Borough Council website in order to cross reference Borough disclosure documents. I raised the anomalies with Steve Maxey, MO, on 5 August 2016 at 15:45 in an email with copies of the Coleshill Town Council and North Warwickshire Borough Council documents attached. Crucial to my identifying possible disclosable of a pecuniary interest is the fact that on no document either within Coleshill Town Council or North Warwickshire Borough Council had Councillor Jones identified any link with ‘B46 Print’ or indicated any work or production of items for the Coleshill Carnival with whom he was at the time involved.
30. I also identify that Councillor Jones continuously uses social media to rubbish the Council in general and confront the abilities and decisions of Coleshill Town Council. One incident was where a disagreement was raised on a community facebook page. On 9 October 2016 when, following considerable debate, Councillor Jones states, *“Well I am from the Town Council and I am clear the actual decision was not made or put to the full Council I certainly disagree with the decision but would have been banned from voting as would 2 other councillors after a complaint was made to the Monitoring Officer by a minority!! I despair and have simply adhered to that ruling....”* This was followed by a continuous discussion regarding Council procedure which I am sure reduced the public’s confidence and affected the reputation of the Council and its officers. The comments regarding complainants I believe are a reference directly to myself although he has not named me specifically.
31. The continued bullying behaviour of Councillor Jones towards myself and my staff along with the vicarious effect that he has on others who communicate to me has given me sleepless nights, angst and concerns whether I could continue with the job.
32. Councillor Jones has made me modify my open working style from being a believer in working with an open door to a more clinical approach. The manner with which he has criticised suppliers to Coleshill Town Council has damaged my relationships with external businesses. His impact on my staff has damaged morale to such an extent

they ensure that there are witnesses present as there is always, 'an elephant in the room', as things said or requested can be twisted and used against them.

- 33. I am now aware my emails are not as productive as I await the relentless torrent of questions and demands. To this end I limit my communication to a minimum. I am also aware that others have removed Councillor Jones from their circulations to limit any contact or aggressive response.
  
- 34. I strongly feel that Councillor Jones has an agenda, although I am not aware of what this is. He strongly opposes anything from opposition parties and aggressively challenges anything that he perceives gives them an advantage. As Town Clerk, myself and my staff operate in a consistent and impartial manner, being the professional backbone of the Town Council irrespective of local politics.
  
- 35. I have no personal disagreement with Councillor Jones but can see the damage he is causing within the Town Council and the impact he is having on myself and others. I have reflected long and hard on this issue and have decided I cannot let this abuse continue and cannot let bullies win.

I Colin Greatorex declare that this statement is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed ..... *Colin Greatorex* ..... Date ..... *31<sup>st</sup> January 17* .....

**STATEMENT  
FRONT COVER**

Case Ref:	1052611/3
Name:	Zoe Hilcox
Position Held	Deputy Town Clerk

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# wilkin chapman llp

## STATEMENT of: Zoe Hilcox

1. I am the Deputy Town Clerk for Coleshill Town Council working from Town Council Offices at 142 High Street, Coleshill, Warwickshire.
2. I have been in this role for the past four years and have responsibility for cemetery issues and all outdoor projects. I also deputise for Colin Greatorex, the Town Clerk.
3. On 6 January 2017 I was contacted by Wilkin Chapman LLP regarding complaints that had been raised with the Monitoring Officer (MO) of North Warwickshire Borough Council who deals with complaints of alleged breaches of Codes of Conduct applying to local government councillors in its area.
4. From this correspondence I am now aware that Councillor Jones has or may have failed to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct under the following headings:
  - Acting in an aggressive and rude manner. This is in respect of other Councillors, the Town Council's staff and contractors;
  - undermining and overly challenging the Clerk and the legitimate, general decision making process of the Town Council;
  - is overly dominating and disruptive concerning various Town Council projects and issues; and
  - has sought to influence an issue in which he has a pecuniary interest.
5. I am aware that details of my contact with Councillor Jones have been passed to Wilkin Chapman LLP through the MO. Also on 16 January 2017 I undertook a telephone interview with Mr Ball, a Consultant with Wilkin Chapman LLP. From this interview and the provided documents, this statement has been compiled.



6. My duties require that at times I have private meetings with members of the public, an example being meeting families of the bereaved relating to cemetery issues. As a result of this I have a separate office from the main area.
7. The method of obtaining access to Coleshill Town Council Offices is by means of a front entrance. The members of the public will press a buzzer. They can be observed on CCTV and are then buzzed in. On occasion we prop the door open. The member of the public is then spoken to at the reception desk and dependant on their requirements they would be either taken or directed to the appropriate person.
8. The area is security controlled with all officers being allowed access with an electronic fob. Councillors must buzz and be given entry as per the members of the public.
9. We have ten councillors, most of whom are quite new from the 2015 elections. Many of them have full time jobs so much communication is via email. However, they do occasionally drop in.
10. On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2016 I was in the main office area. A lady I know well came into the office with a Borough Council issue. Councillor Jones was also in the office and being a Borough Councillor I asked if he could assist which he did. I then went about other business in my separate office across the corridor. I was not aware of the lady leaving but could hear Councillor Jones shouting loudly. There were staff members present and potentially members of the public could have come in. Councillor Jones and Colin Greatorex were in the front office to the side of the reception desk. Councillor Jones' voice was so loud and his tone so bullying that I went to the reception from my office. He was shouting words to the effect of "*in your opinion*". He was domineering towards Colin who was more than a metre away from him.
11. Councillor Jones is a large man who uses his physical presence to dominate situations and people. The situation was unprofessional and embarrassing so I shut the door but stayed nearby so I could hear the conversation whilst talking to Kate Shtrezi who was also in the office. Colin continually tried to pacify Councillor Jones saying, "*I can't discuss this due to prejudicial interest*". Councillor Jones would not let this be, so the conversation went around in circles with Councillor Jones lambasting Colin shouting, "*In your opinion*".

12. I placed myself in a position to hear what was going on as a witness. Having returned from maternity leave in June I was briefed by Colin who outlined Councillor Jones' unprofessional behaviour. There were other incidents where Councillor Jones had shouted in the office and it was affecting office morale. As Deputy Town Clerk I had a responsibility to support Colin as the Town Clerk and the staff in the office against inappropriate behaviour.
13. One of my responsibilities relating to outdoor projects was to assist with the Friends of the Memorial Park Group (FOMP) relating to the Memorial Park development project. Colin had asked me to attend the group and offer any help that we, as the Town Council, could give. It also gave a valuable conduit between the Council and the project to ease any questions or problems that may arise. In September 2016 the FOMP meeting was held in the Pavilion at the Memorial Park. Councillor Jones, although not a member of the group, attended the meeting and spent an hour shouting, talking over the Chairman and what can only be described as 'slagging' the Council and councillors. He claimed he had *"not seen the maps, Colin Greatorax had not provided required information and that he had been kept out of the decision making process"*. It was obvious to me that he had allegiance with two or three of the members of the public who were with him. He made it clear that he had issues with the project and its progression. From what he said he was clearly making his point as a councillor and not as a member of the public attending an open meeting and as such he should not have been present.
14. Sadly I then received resignations from all the FOMP group members stating, *"It wasn't the stress they needed"* and put it down to *"Councillor Jones in general"*.
15. I personally was so angry and disgusted by his behaviour in a public arena that I sent a text to Colin saying *"I'm never going to be sent to a meeting like that again"*.
16. Councillor Jones has on occasion been flippant on social media and within the public arena about the Town Council staff not doing anything. I am fiercely proud of our outdoor areas and the work we do to maintain them. There had been some damage to the football pitches following the Coleshill Town Carnival and Fairground. I went down to view what needed doing and to view the scarring that was reported in order that I could look towards remedying the problem. He came down and dismissed the damage stating *"it won't take much to fix, £2.50 in overtime"*. In a separate incident I mentioned replacement benches which have a set cost, His response was *"you can*

*get them cheaper from the internet*". This was directed to all of us, even the ground staff. His manner implies "you don't know what you're talking about" linked with a sweep of his hand, dismissing you.

17. Councillor Jones is very clear in the fact that his conversation and instruction is given within his role as that of a councillor. If you let it, his behaviour would undermine you. I try to let his behaviour go over my head. To others the barrage of abuse has affected them greatly, they have mentioned how much it upsets them.
18. I must highlight that I have never been personally attacked by Councillor Jones. I believe this is because I have never had to confront or challenge him and have been quite useful to him.
19. I feel have no option but to disclose what I know and have personally witnessed relating to this enquiry as Councillor Jones has caused distress to members of Coleshill Town Council staff, to whom I have a responsibility. I am aware that the Town Clerk is losing sleep over this behaviour. Another member of staff has been unwell and the constant stress has been a contributing factor. The feeling within the office is not one that is conducive to a pleasant work environment.

I Zoe Hilcox declare that this statement is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed Z. Hilcox . Date 07/02/17

**STATEMENT  
FRONT COVER**

Case Ref:	1052611/3
Name:	Helen Whittaker
Position Held	Administration Manager

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# wilkin chapman llp

## STATEMENT of: Helen Whittaker

1. I am the Administration Manager and Mayoral Secretary for Coleshill Town Council working from Town Council Offices at 142 High Street, Coleshill, Warwickshire.
2. On 6 January 2017 I was contacted by Wilkin Chapman LLP regarding complaints that had been raised with the Monitoring Officer (MO) of North Warwickshire Borough Council who deals with complaints of alleged breaches of Codes of Conduct applying to local government councillors in its area.
3. From this correspondence I am now aware that Councillor Jones has or may have failed to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct under the following headings:
  - Acting in an aggressive and rude manner. This is in respect of other Councillors, the Town Council's staff and contractors;
  - undermining and overly challenging the Clerk and the legitimate, general decision making process of the Town Council;
  - is overly dominating and disruptive concerning various Town Council projects and issues; and
  - has sought to influence an issue in which he has a pecuniary interest.
4. I am aware that details of my contact with Councillor Jones have been passed to Wilkin Chapman LLP through the MO. Also on 19 January 2017 I undertook a telephone interview with Mr Ball, a Consultant with Wilkin Chapman LLP. From this interview and the provided documents, this statement has been compiled.
5. On 25 August 2016 at 16:01 I had cause to send an email to Steve Maxey the MO regarding the continued and deteriorating behaviour of Councillor Mark Jones. As the Administration Manager for Coleshill Town Council I felt I had no option other than this as his behaviour is having a detrimental affect on the women in our office.

6. I must state that his behaviours are such that it has taken a lot for me to do this, as the women in the office are particularly concerned about our safety and possible recrimination from Councillor Jones should he be aware of our making a formal complaint. Such is the level of feeling regarding the underhand way he does business. On occasion he has stated, *"I have friends in the police"*, leaving this hanging in the air.

7. Within my email to Steve Maxey I outline:

*"Cllr. Mark Jones joined the Town Council in May 2015, and I can say that from his appointment he has been a difficult, demanding and intimidating councillor. He makes me (and other staff members) feel inadequate and insecure. He often questions our actions and if they are not as 'HE' wishes, regardless of whose area or committee may have initiated the action, he becomes involved and critical and asks to be kept aware, and basically create conflict and increased (often unnecessary) work".*

*I have witnessed him, on an ever increasing frequency, rudely come into the office and want to see the Town Clerk, to basically check what he is doing, challenge anything that the Clerk may have done that he might not agree with, and speak most disrespectfully and rudely throughout the process. The Town Clerk, Mr Colin Greatorex has been nothing but calm and explaining his actions, that he is following instructions agreed in either Full Council or Committee meetings, and yet Cllr. Jones will not hear/listen to the response, but continues to challenge Mr Greatorex, trying to bully and intimidate him to change his actions.*

*The behaviour occurs often in front of staff members and members of the public, and is then followed up in emails to Colin or other councillors, as well as being discussed on social media! Surely some of the comments that Cllr. Jones places on social media are wholly inappropriate for a representative of a Town Council".*

8. I refer to an incident that occurred on 23 May 2016 where the North Warwickshire Borough Council waste lorry had caused minor damage to an archway. On 27 June 2016 the complainant came into Coleshill Town Council Offices. I know the complainant, Mrs Bramley, and pride myself in my community engagement. I took her report and immediately sent an email on 27 June 2016 at 11:40 to Customer

Services at North Warwickshire Borough Council expressing her disappointment regarding the apparent manner with which her complaint had been dealt with. I received an email back, which I would expect, highlighting that it had been passed to Steve Brown the Refuse and Recycling Manager. Quite unexpectedly there then followed a series of emails from Councillor Jones who took it upon himself to get heavily involved, criticising my actions directly and escalating the incident disproportionately.

9. Within my email to Steve Maxey I describe this as follows *"...Cllr. Jones was particularly angry at my initial email, where I used the word "Disappointed" in relation to the lack of communication from NWBC refuse department and the resident. This was the residents' word, I only reiterated it into the email to express the residents' frustration and concerns. It appears that this one word ignited the anger in Cllr. Jones, which led to the lengthy email dialogue and his interference and angst. This happens on many occasions nowadays and we (the staff) feel like we are always "walking on eggshells" awaiting the next angry complaint from Cllr. Jones. It is not a pleasure to work here at the Coleshill Town Council at present due to the intimidation and constant checking (even on small everyday matters) by Cllr. Jones which undermines staff confidence and decreases morale."*
10. The sad thing about the whole incident was that Steve Brown had fixed the damage within a short time of it being caused. He indicated that in an email on 28 June 2016 at 08:25 *"The repair has been done, it was carried out last week by Dave Taylor.... I have conveyed the contents to Mark Jones who enquired yesterday; Mark says he will contact you today with regard to your enquiry"*. To date he has not spoken to me about the incident.
11. As a result of Councillor Jones' interference in what was a simple task, which he escalated massively, it resulted in the Town Clerk and other councillors getting involved in defence of myself. I was told that should I take any future reports on Coleshill South I was to pass them straight to Councillor Jones. Colin would not let me get back to the complainant which upset me greatly.
12. As a result of this unnecessary interference I went home that evening in tears. Councillor Jones left me completely disrespected and undermined. I felt that Councillor Jones had made me look a fool at the Borough. He, as I have mentioned,

has never mentioned it again, that's what he does, moves onto the next confrontation.

13. A further example of the way Councillor Jones is undermining Coleshill Town Council is that Councillor Farrell involved me in the development Community Hub, a task which I really enjoyed. It made me feel encouraged and motivated, I would even go as far as to say inspired. I am aware that Councillor Jones has tried to "scupper" everything that Councillor Farrell does. I have even heard that Councillor Jones has told people "*Don't trust Helen, she's too close to Adam*". I have reached the position that I think 'What's the point'.
14. Councillor Jones is continuously challenging in the office, we ensure we have two people present when he comes in. Colin has even moved his office upstairs so he is not readily available. As a result of the way Councillor Jones attacks you in emails I have tried to keep my emails to him to a minimum, as you do not know what to expect from him.
15. He comes into the office and starts shouting about printing, he can always "*get things done cheaper or better*" than we can. He displays a lack of empathy and respect for the staff in the office.
16. If nothing is done as a result of this enquiry we (the ladies) believe that things in the office will be dreadful. There has even been consideration regarding leaving en masse if his behaviour continues.
17. I can only say that the behaviour of Councillor Jones has made everything at Coleshill Town Council grim.

I Helen Whittaker declare that this statement is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed Helen Whittaker Date 14/2/2017

**STATEMENT  
FRONT COVER**

Case Ref:	1052611/3
Name:	Kate Shtrezi
Position Held	Records Assistant

wilkin chapman llp  
solicitors

Cartergate House,  
26 Chantry Lane,  
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## STATEMENT of: Kate Shtrezi

1. I am a Records Assistant with Coleshill Town Council working from Town Council Offices at 142 High Street, Coleshill, Warwickshire.
2. I have worked at Coleshill Town Council since September 2014. My role as a Records Assistant includes looking after the finances and burial records. It has also developed in that I now undertake many IT related tasks. This is predominantly liaison with an external IT provider and development of the Town Council website and monitoring social media. In October 2015 my role moved to 20 hours and changed in that I now also cover reception duties, mostly daytime mornings.
3. On 6 January 2017 I was contacted by Wilkin Chapman LLP regarding complaints that had been raised with the Monitoring Officer (MO) of North Warwickshire Borough Council who deals with complaints of alleged breaches of Codes of Conduct applying to local government councillors in its area.
4. From this correspondence I am now aware that Councillor Jones has or may have failed to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct under the following headings:
  - Acting in an aggressive and rude manner. This is in respect of other Councillors, the Town Council's staff and contractors;
  - undermining and overly challenging the Clerk and the legitimate, general decision making process of the Town Council;
  - is overly dominating and disruptive concerning various Town Council projects and issues; and
  - has sought to influence an issue in which he has a pecuniary interest.

5. I am aware that details of my contact with Councillor Jones have been passed to Wilkin Chapman LLP through the MO. Also on 17 January 2017 I undertook a telephone interview with Mr Ball, a Consultant with Wilkin Chapman LLP. From this Interview and the provided documents, this statement has been compiled.
6. I am aware that this investigation relates to issues post 15 June 2016 but need to raise some historic issues to put what I have to say into context. Things in our office have changed dramatically since the 2015 elections. There was an incident regarding Councillor Jones wanting to re structure our email and internet provision due to his perception that the Town Council's IT infrastructure was insecure. He was adamant that he would facilitate this change and did not like the fact that Colin was admin to the accounts.
7. As part of the development of the Town Council's webpage I had a number of meetings with Councillor Jones, Councillor Wootton and her husband. I am fully aware that Councillor Jones knows my name however on occasions would often and apparently deliberately get my first name wrong. So much so that other Councillors commented and told me it was a 'tactic' to be dismissive of me. I felt he did this to undermine me at these meetings.
8. Various people would email me items to place on the website, I would look at the item and ensure it was politically neutral then place it on, for instance if Labour Councillors were building bird boxes I would use terminology to the effect that local councillors are involved in a community project building bird boxes.
9. Councillor Jones was not happy with this course of action, he wanted a procedure where Councillors had to approve items before they were placed on the site.
10. The website has always been non political, just local news. Councillor Jones gave me a lot of flack about not putting enough on the site about the Coleshill Carnival. Although this was in Coleshill it was outside the Council and, strictly speaking, not critical to the site. All hirers have the opportunity to advertise their events on our website, however they are responsible for providing the content

to us. I did however ask him several times for information. He stated *"It is your job"* and *"you should find out"*. I often do the webpage work in my own time as depending on work demands sometimes I have enough time to complete this task at work and sometimes I spend extra time at home completing this task. I do not have any allocated hours for this task.

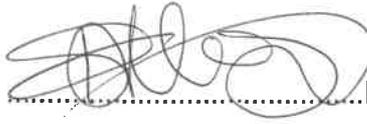
11. In August 2016 there was an incident. We had closed to the public. I was reconciling banking with Colin Greatorex the Town Clerk. Councillor Jones came into the office and was very rude about the lack of Carnival information on the webpage insisting that I should do this. I said *"with due respect I am not given time to do this"*, he insisted I was politically biased and that I did not want to put things on from him. I had never been given any information regarding the Carnival from Councillor Jones. I had in fact signed up to the Carnival website but there were never any updates on it. I have checked since and can state there have never been any emails from him regarding Carnival updates.
12. Whilst he was talking about this he talked to Colin and not to me. He actually talked about me, pointedly referring to *"Staff"* and what I should or should not be doing. He purposely excluded me from the conversation albeit that I was present through it all. If he was so annoyed about my performance he should have spoken to me directly or privately with Colin. He talked about me as if I was not there.
13. This behaviour was similar to when he said my name wrong. It was all done to put me in my place and undermine me. It worked as it got to the point when I did not speak. I work really hard, always going above and beyond what is required of me, This criticism made out I did not do my job.
14. Councillor Jones is a large man, tall and of a big build. He makes a point of leaning over you, intimidating and dominating your personal space.
15. The system we have regarding access to the office is that we view visitors on camera when they buzz from the outside reception. We let them in and deal with their requests. There have been incidents where I have gone to let someone into the office and Councillor Jones would barge past me going into the back office. He storms straight into the back office to speak with the Town Clerk, without invitation. It is incredibly difficult to stop him from doing so, even

though the town Clerk is often dealing with telephone conversations or in meetings with others. This has occurred to such an extent that Colin has moved upstairs so as not to be so readily accessible to him.

16. Councillor Jones comes into the office as a Councillor, others have to wait at reception and either be directed or escorted to whoever they wish to see. He uses his position as a Councillor and his dominating presence to get what he wants. He makes everyone feel like they are there to serve him.
17. I have worked with Councils in Dudley, Wolverhampton and Teignbridge during which time I have, on occasion, dealt with councillors. I have found that in all these places, without fail, that councillors have always treated me with respect. Councillor Jones is a different ballgame. I have found it difficult here in Coleshill to serve the public, councillors and complete the work we have to do. Councillor Jones has no concept that there is more going on and that we are working.
18. Having had the experience of engaging with Councillor Jones I must say he has damaged my confidence. He makes me worry about what I say or when I express an opinion to such an extent that when I am in meetings with Councillor Jones I just nod and agree.
19. Councillor Jones' demeanour is aggressive and intimidating, he constantly criticises the work being done without having full knowledge of the demands placed upon us. It has become an increasingly difficult place to work and the constant visits and negative jibes have made the work atmosphere very low.
20. I do not feel at all comfortable dealing with Councillor Jones, especially in person. I now deal with requests from Councillor Jones in writing because I do not want to physically engage with him. Another reason for dealing with him in writing is so there is evidence of what has been said on both sides and he cannot use his size and loud voice to intimidate officers.
21. I have seen others in the office, along with other councillors, adopt a similar position that I have taken with regard to communicating with Councillor Jones. This behaviour has reached such a level that I have looked for other jobs, as sadly it is not a nice time to be working in Coleshill Town Council.

22. I have been worried about disclosing this statement as I am due to go on maternity leave, however it is more important that this is addressed. I believe in doing the right thing.

I Kate Shtrezi declare that this statement is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed  Date 10/2/17

**STATEMENT  
FRONT COVER**

Case Ref:	1052611/3
Name:	Kirsteen Wootton
Position Held	Independent Councillor

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solicitors

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## STATEMENT of: Kirsteen Wootton

1. I am an Independent Councillor on Coleshill Town Council. I have been on Coleshill Town Council since 2012 and held the role of Mayor of Coleshill during May 2015 – May 2016. I am currently the Chairman of Resources and Amenities Committee which gives me Councillor responsibility for staff.
2. As I am politically independent and hold the responsibilities I have mentioned staff tend to see me as a 'go to' person. As a consequence of this position and my willingness to engage with staff, I am often used as a conduit when there are issues within the Town Council. Subsequently I am also copied into many emails when staff and councillors feel they need someone with independence to be aware and monitor their situation.
3. This level of openness and availability has meant that I have received many emails and contact with staff arising from the behaviour of Councillor Mark Jones.
4. On 6 January 2017 I was contacted by Wilkin Chapman LLP regarding complaints that had been raised with the Monitoring Officer (MO) of North Warwickshire Borough Council who deals with complaints of alleged breaches of Codes of Conduct applying to local government councillors in its area.
5. From this correspondence I am now aware that Councillor Jones has or may have failed to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct under the following headings:
  - acting in an aggressive and rude manner. This is in respect of other Councillors, the town Council's staff and contractors;
  - undermining and overly challenging the Clerk and the legitimate, general decision making process of the Town Council;
  - is overly dominating and disruptive concerning various town Council projects and issues; and

- has sought to influence an issue in which he has a pecuniary interest.
6. I am aware that details of my contact with Councillor Jones have been passed to Wilkin Chapman LLP through the MO. Also on 19 January 2017 I undertook a telephone interview with Mr Ball, a Consultant with Wilkin Chapman LLP; and from this Interview and the provided documents, this statement has been compiled.
  7. I am aware the terms of reference for the investigation focus on issues post 15 June 2016 when Coleshill Town Council adopted a Code of Conduct that aligns with the guidance from the Localism Act 2011 and therefore the Nolan Principles relating to ethical standards of public office holders. Prior to the Code of Conduct being adopted at the full Town Council meeting in June 2016 the Town Council and I were of the belief that it conformed to the guidance, in that it adopted and followed the NALC Councillor and Clerk Protocols (Post July 2012) and as such training was given to Councillors against this Protocol.
  8. Some key incidents that arise post 15 June 2016 when the Codes of Conduct that have been brought to my attention include the use of tone within emails unbecoming of a councillor and the sending of what can only be described as pestering questions to the Town Clerk and other members of staff. When the Clerk responds to Councillor Jones' requests, he immediately fires back further questions to a degree that can only be described as vexatious.
  9. On 27 June 2016 at 11:40 I was copied into an email trail from Helen Whittaker, Administration Manager, regarding a customer complaint from a Mrs Bramley. Mrs Bramley had called into the Coleshill Town Council offices regarding a small amount of damage caused by the North Warwickshire Borough Council Green waste bin collection some weeks earlier (23 May). Helen dealt with the lady concerned and contacted customer services at North Warwickshire Borough Council using the words *"It is disappointing, as Mrs Bramley expressed, that no one has had the courtesy to respond or even acknowledge the letter or commence the repair works"*. The email was concluded in a very polite manner as I would expect of Helen who I have always seen as helpful, enthusiastic and very important to us.

10. On 27 June 2016 at 11:57 Helen received a helpful and polite reply from customer services outlining that the complaint had been passed to a member of Refuse and Recycling, Steve Brown, for action to be taken.
11. On 27 June 2016 at 13:34 Councillor Jones sent an email to Helen with some four other recipients. The content of his email was curt, rude and critical of the work Helen had done concluding with the phrase *"Much easier if borough councillors deal and simplify solutions"*. I felt that the challenge was undermining Helen and humiliating in its tone because it suggested that Helen's email had annoyed NWBC officers. For example, Councillor Jones stated that Steve Brown was 'irate' by Helen's actions. Councillor Jones also suggested that Helen had acted incorrectly in copying Councillor Tony Battle and me into the email, even though this was at the resident's behest. My concerns must have been mirrored by others as at 14:27 the same day Tony Battle, Coleshill Town Councillor writes, *"Sorry about this Mark but I must ask, are you upset with someone or something because your emails sound so aggressive"*.
12. Colin Greatorex, Town Clerk, who manages Helen then sent an extensive email at 15:02 covering options for dealing and taking the onus away from Helen. There then followed a flurry of emails relating to the same issue running into 28 June 2016 when at 08:25 Steve Brown sent *"Hi Helen, The repair has been done, it was carried out last week by Dave Taylor. Dave has repeatedly attempted to contact Mrs Bramley without success... I have conveyed the contents to Mark Jones who enquired yesterday; Mark says he will contact you today with regard to your enquiry."* I am aware that Helen was very upset by this as she is very professional. I am also aware that Councillor Jones challenged Colin about the wording within his email supporting his staff saying words to the effect of *"How dare you, when do you give opinions as a councillor"*.
13. Since June 2016 I have spoken to a number of staff. They have told me the behaviour displayed by Councillor Jones is of such a nature that they are upset and insist on having two persons present when he is in the office.
14. One incident I witnessed personally related to the Coleshill Carnival. I attended the Town Hall to see Kate Shtrezi very upset. She told me she had been confronted by Councillor Jones who had said she hadn't advertised the Coleshill Town Carnival on the Town Council website. I challenged Councillor Jones asking him if he had sent

the information to Kate. He stated he hadn't and it was her job to go out and find it! I informed him that this was unjustifiable criticism of a member of staff.

15. There was also disagreement regarding movement of a container between members of the Coleshill Carnival committee and contractors on the Memorial Park project. The Carnival Committee wanted the container moving in order to place a ride. Councillor Jones ordered the container to be moved. The contractor rightly highlighted that this would incur cost to move it. In order to resolve the situation I spoke to the Chairman of the Outdoor Amenities Committee and the Town Mayor and obtained agreement that the Town Council would pay for the cost of moving the container as a gesture of goodwill. I then spoke to the Chairman of the Carnival Committee, Michael Ford-Terry, who was pleased and, as a builder, agreed that the contractor should be allowed to move their own containers as he would not like it if other companies started moving his containers around. Councillor Jones then took it upon himself to challenge and criticise the Town clerk, stating *"he could get things done for less money and declaring his disappointment"*. This was not a valid criticism as the Town Clerk was following Councillor instructions and was within the guidance from standing orders.
16. The continued behaviour of Councillor Jones has left staff demoralised and dispirited. One member of staff has been signed off ill directly due, in part, to his bullying behaviour. The staff are susceptible and vulnerable as they are bearing the brunt of inappropriate behaviour from an elected councillor.
17. Councillor Jones shows continued disdain for the Town Clerk. He shows a continued refusal to see anything done within the administration as positive and shows a repeated theme that he could get things done cheaper, faster and better. He habitually shows a lack of knowledge or contempt for the Codes of Conduct as he undertakes actions that can only be described as him having a conflict of interests.
18. With respect to councillors, I have been approached by other councillors who are upset by Councillor Jones approaching them and challenging them regarding decisions made by the Grants Committee. I am aware that his behaviour in Borough Council is markedly different, he is deferential, quiet and subdued. My belief is that he sees the Town Council as a lesser Council and one that is not Conservative controlled resultant in him challenging everything.

19. There is a perception that emanates from Councillor Jones that the Town Clerk is obstructive, this is not the case. The atmosphere that has been created by Councillor Jones can only be described as poisonous. He has been spoken to by Sue Wallace, The Mayor, regarding his behaviour asking him to create a harmonious atmosphere but to date this has not happened.
20. I have no issues with Councillor Jones but take my responsibilities seriously. Politically I hold no issue as the Council has in the past worked for the good of the Town. Our staff are all members of our local community and this hostility and disharmony is reducing their confidence in the role of Councillor, and the apparent lack of action against such behaviour adversely affects the reputation of the Town Council.

I Kirsteen Wootton declare that this statement is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed  Date 07/03/17

**STATEMENT  
FRONT COVER**

Case Ref:	1052611/3
Name:	Dominic Ferro
Position Held	Borough Councillor (Lab) North Warwickshire Borough Council

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solicitors

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## STATEMENT of: Dominic Ferro

1. I am a Labour Borough Councillor with North Warwickshire Borough Council. The ward I cover is that of Coleshill North. I have undertaken the role of Borough Councillor for six years and sit on the Boards for, Community and Environment, Area Forum South, Safer Communities and Parking. Between the years 2013-2014 I was Mayor for North Warwickshire.
2. On 6 January 2017 I was contacted by Wilkin Chapman LLP regarding complaints I had raised with the Monitoring Officer (MO) of North Warwickshire Borough Council who deals with complaints of alleged breaches of Codes of Conduct applying to local government councillors in its area.
3. I have raised, along with others, a number of complaints that Councillor Jones has or may have failed to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct. As a result of my complaints along with those of other complainants I outline that Councillor Jones:
  - Acts in an aggressive and rude manner. This is in respect of other Councillors, the Town Council's staff and contractors;
  - undermines and overly challenges myself and the legitimate, general decision making process of the Town Council;
  - is overly dominating and disruptive concerning various Town Council projects and issues; and
  - he has sought to influence an issue in which he has a pecuniary interest.
4. I have provided Wilkin Chapman LLP, through the MO, a series of emails and communications between myself, The MO, Councillor Jones and others. Also on 16 January 2017 I undertook a telephone interview with Mr Ball a Consultant with Wilkin Chapman LLP; and from this Interview and the provided documents, this statement has been compiled.

5. I am aware the terms of reference for the investigation focus on issues post 15 June 2016 when Coleshill Town Council adopted a Code of Conduct that aligns with the guidance from the Localism Act 2011 and therefore the Nolan Principles relating to ethical standards of public office holders. Prior to the Code of Conduct being adopted at the full Town Council meeting in June 2016 I was of the belief that it conformed to the guidance, in that it adopted and followed the NALC Councillor and Clerk Protocols (Post July 2012).
6. I raise this point as the behaviour of Councillor Jones has been that of a continuous course of action over a protracted period which I feel cannot be taken in isolation. During the period that I was Mayor I visited local business to show support for them over the Xmas period. Mark Jones was a business owner at that time and had sent a letter asking me to visit. He used my visit to try to sell 'Coleshill Online' to me, a project because of which he had submitted bids for money from the Council. He also published unauthorised photographs of me from this visit, which I challenged. Since then he has been obnoxious, rude and arrogant towards me.
7. The reason I highlight this is because I strongly feel that within the role of a councillor you have to be 'above board' and cannot hide anything.
8. Due to his continued challenging and undermining behaviours towards me over Ward areas, at Council meetings and in any other interactions I am very wary of engaging with Councillor Jones as he invariably 'attacks me' verbally and through social media.
9. During September 2016 this behaviour came to a head to such an extent that on 13 September 2016 at 10:16 I sent an email to Colin Greatorex, the Town Clerk, which stated, *"I am writing this because I am furious that Cllr. Jones is blatantly lying on facebook. First of all I saw the following post by him: 'Hi Kate Clayton and Rob Mundy I have to agree with you in respect of the equipment that is close to your windows. It needs to be moved and I have reported this to the Council and it will be discussed at one of the forthcoming meetings. Everything in the park DID NOT come from Residents ideas and in my opinion it was not well advertised at all and we could have done a lot better with communication. Even I as a Councillor am not fully aware of all that is going on which is disappointing to say the least."* I replied *"I thought you were on the working group that made decisions on what happened in the park. All the info was online months ago!"* He then came back with, *"As normal Dominic you are*

*incorrect on the working group and incorrect on that information being online. You know that though, I am not on the working group suggest you check with colleagues who removed me because I was highlighting areas! Also the working group hardly met?"*

10. I closed the email stating, *"I do not think that a Cllr. should be lying just to benefit himself and mislead those he is representing. I know he was on the working group and in my response I said that all Cllrs would have the information on what was happening at the park, especially as they have to ratify decisions at full council. He seems to be stirring it up with residents and that is unacceptable. Cllr Jones needs to be made aware that he is wrong and learn how councils actually work. He is deliberately causing problems and bringing the council into disrepute. Please accept this as a formal complaint."*
11. Due to his behaviour within the Council business arena I would seek to avoid any contact with Councillor Jones away from that environment. In the first weeks of December 2016 his behaviour came to a climax for me when I was visiting the 'Coleshill Xmas Fayre'. Councillor Jones is on the Carnival Committee and he approached me during this event. I believed he was there in this role as he was with others. His immediate words to me were *"Hello Fatboy"*. I am not the slimmest of people and this language hurt. I challenged him to which he responded by pushing his chest out and pushing against me. I said *"I'm not going to fight you, you should apologise"*. He continued to push against me. It must have looked bad as his colleagues who were with him pulled him away and apologised for his behaviour stating they *"had nothing to do with it"*. He is a bully, childish and hurtful. From then to now he continues to glare at me, challenge me at any opportunity, comment on facebook or challenge anything I say.
12. Many of Councillor Jones' actions and his behaviour in public arenas show a lack of support for Council projects unless he is running them. He undermines other councillors and his behaviour at Town Council meetings is at total variance with that when he is at Borough, where the Conservative Group is in charge. He displays ineptitude when it comes to policy and procedure and displays conflicts in many issues, such as giving advice to residents regarding planning when he is actually on the planning committee. He makes sure he is seen as being on Council business when he is out and about and I feel he sees himself as some sort of 'facebook warrior'. The incident where he called me *"fatty"* demeaned his role as a councillor.

The fact that residents must have seen this along with his behaviour, arguing online, along with the 'barrage' anyone gets online or by email when they conflict with him is not what is expected of an elected official. Councillor Jones always has to have the last word and dig!

13. I really feel I have to stay away from Councillor Jones as I believe he is goading me in public and wants me to respond so he can get me into trouble.

I Dominic Ferro declare that this statement is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed  Date 24/2/17

**STATEMENT  
FRONT COVER**

<b>Case Ref:</b>	1052611/3
<b>Name:</b>	Harry Taylor
<b>Position Held</b>	Labour Councillor

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## STATEMENT of: Harry Taylor

1. I am a Labour Councillor on Coleshill Town Council. I joined the Town Council in May 2011, was re elected in 2015 and undertook the role of Mayor for the Town Council between 2014 and 2015. At present I sit on the Council's Resources Committee.
2. On 6 January 2017 I was contacted by Wilkin Chapman LLP regarding complaints that had been raised with the Monitoring Officer (MO) of North Warwickshire Borough Council who deals with complaints of alleged breaches of Codes of Conduct applying to local government councillors in its area.
3. From this correspondence I am now aware that Councillor Jones has or may have failed to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct under the following headings:
  - Acting in an aggressive and rude manner. This is in respect of other Councillors, the town Council's staff and contractors;
  - undermining and overly challenging the Clerk and the legitimate, general decision making process of the Town Council;
  - is overly dominating and disruptive concerning various town Council projects and issues; and
  - has sought to influence an issue in which he has a pecuniary interest.
4. I am aware that details of my contact with Councillor Jones have been passed to Wilkin Chapman LLP through the MO. Also on 11 January 2017 I undertook a telephone interview with Mr Ball, a Consultant with Wilkin Chapman LLP; and from this Interview and the provided documents, this statement has been compiled.
5. I have been informed that the terms of reference for the investigation focus on issues post 15 June 2016 when Coleshill Town Council adopted a Code of Conduct that

aligns with the guidance from the Localism Act 2011 and therefore the Nolan Principles relating to ethical standards of public office holders. Prior to the Code of Conduct being adopted at the full Town Council meeting in June 2016 I was of the belief that it conformed to the guidance, in that it adopted and followed the NALC Councillor and Clerk Protocols.

6. The reason for my bringing this to your attention is that many of the incidents and behaviour of Councillor Jones originate prior to 15 June 2016 but continue after this date to the present.
7. I have known Mark Jones for a long time (since 2013). My recollections are that at this time during a 'Love Coleshill' meeting he dominated the proceedings to such an extent people were upset and even in tears. When they saw what he did he was expelled from this group. His behaviour destroyed the group, which is now slowly re growing.
8. Moving on from this during his election campaign relating to North Warwickshire Borough Council Mark ran against me. During this campaign he delivered election leaflets which contained outrageous lies, purely for political gain. This has made me wary of him since that time.
9. Following his election to the Town Council, Councillor Jones has continued in this vein. I have seen him shout down the Town Clerk, speaking over people, glaring and shouting at them, even to the extent that he does this to councillors of his own party to fall in line. His behaviour, including his comments in an email 16 June 2016, where he stated "*I WILL BE attending the working party group meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> June as an elected representative*" and "*FACT I will be reporting publicly on this from this date forward*" took me to the end of my tether, resulting in me contacting Steve Maxey, the MO.
10. On 16 June 2016 at 13:38 I emailed Steve Maxey. The email stated:

*"After further aggressive behaviour from councillor Jones at last night's full meeting of coleshill town Council and an email he has written today I would like to know what remedial actions are being taken against him? As I suggested to you at our meeting two months ago he is becoming increasingly unhinged and we have now as a council received complaints about his behaviour from an outside contractor..."*

*I realise you are a busy man but the reputation and working of our council and the willingness of the community to engage with us is being jeopardised by the actions and behaviour of Cllr Jones. It is also clear that some of our staff, including our Town Clerk, are finding it very difficult to carry out even basic tasks without the vexatious interference of Cllr. Jones"*

11. In a further email dated 17 June 2016 at 13:38, again to Steve Maxey, I outlined some key points including:

*"We have received complaints from Moore Environment who are project managing the Memorial park project for us. They are furious that Mark Jones has taken to social media to criticise their business and how they carried out their work for CTC... At a full Council meeting on Wednesday Labour and Independent members voted to remove Cllr. Jones from the Memorial Park working group... Cllr. Jones referred to this project as "a Labour vanity project.*

*His public and private rudeness towards the town clerk , who has spent more time accommodating and helping Cllr. Jones than the rest of the council and its projects put together, is disgusting and i'm surprised he hasn't resigned after the way he is being treated...*

*These are all things that have happened since our meeting so I can't see how things are getting better in any way. Other members will no doubt have their own separate stories and instances of grievance with Cllr. Jones' behaviour in recent months, but these are mine".*

12. This behaviour has continued in various forms to such an extent that in September 2016 after a long stream of emails, copying other council members into the thread, I asked Councillor Jones repeatedly to stop emailing me and copying everyone else into the thread.

13. On 10 September 2016 at 11:12 I sent an email to Councillor Jones saying:

*"Mark, please don't copy me in to anymore of your emails of this nature. They're aggressive, rude and confrontational in tone and there's no need for it."*

14. His response the same day at 11:53 was blustery and childish, refusing to stop copying me into emails and asking for an 'official directive'.

15. I then sent him another email on 10 September 2016 at 21:42 stating:

*"I've asked you to stop emailing me messages of this nature and tone, Mark, please refrain from doing so in future".*

16. At 21:49 the same day he replied:

*"Read the email Harry Your emails and complaints are also aggressive. At the point of me getting a directive from the council I will copy your official council email in to official emails until then I will copy as normal. Mark".*

17. I felt so aggrieved regarding the flippant way he brushed aside my requests I sent a significant email on 13 September 2016 at 17:31 stating:

*"Dear Mark, I have now made two polite requests that you refrain from contacting me in an aggressive and rude manner. This is because I find your aggressive and condescending approach to dealing with fellow colleagues counter productive to getting things done at the council. I thought after a year or so on the council you may have realised that being polite to your colleagues and dealing in facts, not personal attacks, is the way to achieve progress. Continual rudeness, aggression, and personal attacks in emails to your colleagues only serves to further bad relations and frustrate the running of the council to the point where it appears to the public that this council no longer functions efficiently. Of course, if this is your goal, which I hope it is not, then you are getting some way towards succeeding.*

*You have responded twice to my polite requests now. Once in an aggressive and personal email and second highlighting that you require some form of official directive to tell you not to send aggressive and rude emails. I'm not sure why you require an official council directive informing you to send emails to a fellow councillor in a professional and courteous manner."*

The email continued to highlight that I would from this point on block his emails. I closed my email to the effect of:

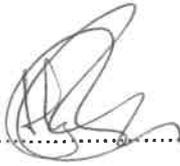
*“Several colleagues, including Independent and Conservative councillors, have also raised concerns with me and others that they are deeply unhappy with the unprofessional manner and tone with which you contact them. I have copied them in to demonstrate my approach to this shared ordeal. I encourage them not to feel bullied and to stand up for decency and themselves”.*

18. My main engagement with Councillor Jones is through the Council meetings. Meetings which involve Councillor Jones do not generally have a nice atmosphere, you go into them feeling nervous. It's a constant battle. I am proud of what I do but our stature in the public has gone down the pan.
19. What really gets to me is Councillor Jones' attitude to the Town Clerk. I have seen him being continuously bullied by Councillor Jones, in person and in emails, his responses to the Town Clerk are vexatious, clear, asking continuously for minute detail to such an extent that he hasn't got a 'hope in hell' of getting the detail and doing his job. Most get circulated to everyone with Councillor Jones firing a 'barrage' of questions back when the Town Clerk tries to answer his question.
20. When Councillor Jones has people in the audience he puts on a show. Until recently Coleshill Town Council was a collaborative council. Now everything appears to be Red or Blue with Councillor Jones wanting to attack political opponents, for example, the Memorial Park where he has voted in favour for elements of the Park, and then publicly attacking the project and members of the Council. His use of social media, consistently attacking Council policy and trying to undermine the Town Council in a public arena when he hasn't got his own way can only be described as detrimental to the reputation of the Council.
21. Comments from the public are to the effect of *“we are clowns, the circus is already in town”*. This is undermining confidence in the Council.
22. I have held back from complaining. I have lain awake the night before meetings thinking and worrying about being attacked and bullied. I have even moved out of the

area to get away from the constant attack. Everything turns around to a personal attack. It is soul destroying. If nothing comes of this the Town Clerk and others may resign. I am also aware that other councillors may also consider resignation.

I Harry Taylor declare that this statement is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed .....



Date .....

17/02/2017

**STATEMENT  
FRONT COVER**

Case Ref:	1052611/3
Name:	Adam Farrell
Position Held	Councillor

wilkin chapman llp  
solicitors

Cartergate House,  
26 Chantry Lane,  
Grimsby  
DN31 2LJ

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## STATEMENT of: Adam Farrell

1. I am a Labour Councillor with Coleshill Town Council and have been a Town Councillor since May 2011. I am also the Leader of the Labour Group. I have been a Borough Councillor since May 2015 and Chair the Community and Environment Committee at the Town Council.
2. On 6 January 2017 I was contacted by Wilkin Chapman LLP regarding complaints that had been raised with the Monitoring Officer (MO) of North Warwickshire Borough Council who deals with complaints of alleged breaches of Codes of Conduct applying to local government councillors in its area.
3. From this correspondence I am now aware that Councillor Jones has or may have failed to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct under the following headings:
  - Acting in an aggressive and rude manner. This is in respect of other Councillors, the town Council's staff and contractors;
  - undermining and overly challenging the Clerk and the legitimate, general decision making process of the Town Council;
  - is overly dominating and disruptive concerning various town Council projects and issues; and
  - has sought to influence an issue in which he has a pecuniary interest.
4. I am aware that details of my contact with Councillor Jones have been passed to Wilkin Chapman LLP through the MO. Also on 11 January 2017 I undertook a telephone interview with Mr Ball, a Consultant with Wilkin Chapman LLP; and from this interview and the provided documents, this statement has been compiled.
5. I have been informed that the terms of reference for the investigation focus on issues post 15 June 2016 when Coleshill Town Council adopted a Code of Conduct that

aligns with the guidance from the Localism Act 2011 and therefore the Nolan Principles relating to ethical standards of public office holders. Prior to the Code of Conduct being adopted at the full Town Council meeting in June 2016 I was of the belief that it conformed to the guidance, in that it adopted and followed the NALC Councillor and Clerk Protocols.

6. In order to put my complaint into some context I need to put some detail into the background of my knowledge and involvement with Councillor Jones. Prior to him becoming a councillor I had knowledge of him as a particularly vocal resident.
7. Councillor Jones became a councillor in 2015. He has an aggressive personality, one who gets fixated without evidence and who provides opposition for opposition's sake. This however contradicts with the way he behaves at Borough level. I have worked with him at this level and for some reason, which I can only attribute to the fact that at this level the Conservatives are the leading body, he is a different person entirely.
8. I see this 'Jekyll and Hyde' situation as a result that Councillor Jones sees the Town Council as not having the weight behind it to deal with these issues, in as much as the Borough Council has strict protocols and procedures, a leader and chief executive along with a large legal team. The Town Council on the other hand is not so party political and has in the past been on the whole a collaborative arrangement.
9. On 16 June 2016 at 12:20 I sent an email to Steve Maxey stating:

*"I wish to make a formal complaint under the Code of Conduct in relation to Councillor mark Jones of Coleshill town Council. You will be aware that over the past few months I have had a number of concerns about the attitude of Mark Jones both in Town Council meetings and on social media. Councillor jones continues to behave in a manner which I believe fails to meet the Nolan principles. He continues to operate in an aggressive, obstructive and intimidating manner which has a major impact on the Council and the services we offer. He fails to abide by Council decisions and standing orders. Most recently he has breached the standing order that prohibits members from inspecting Council land without prior delegation. Councillor Jones has been down to the Memorial Park and informed contractors of his position and tried to question the works being carried out etc."*

10. I wholly understand that this enquiry focuses on incidents and behaviours post 15 June 2016 however this gives clear indication of the level to which Councillor Jones' behaviours affected me prior to that date. He has continued to display this behaviour from that date until the present, even when aware that complaints have been lodged.
11. In relation to the ongoing Memorial Park project, there have been several incidents where Councillor Jones has attended the venue confronting contractors. He has attended the Friends of the Memorial Park group meeting causing upset and ultimately causing that group to fold. The project managers for the project is Moore Environment, led by Sue Moore. I have attended meetings with Sue Moore where Councillor Jones has been present. His impolite and dominating questioning would leave people in tears. I would describe Sue as being full of energy and enthusiasm about the Memorial Park project. Over the months I have seen her change, she now has her head down, is monotone and I can only say that Councillor Jones has destroyed her confidence. She is not alone, Councillor Jones is hostile to anyone involved in the project.
12. During October 2016 there was an incident involving the use of the Memorial Park for a Bonfire event, as part of the Coleshill Carnival programme. As a Carnival Committee member, Councillor Jones is restricted to what he can and can't vote on along with a necessity to declare interests when appropriate.
13. In this instance there was some consideration regarding the use of the Park or that of the Croft. Councillor Jones used the community facebook page to imply that I and other Councillors would not give permission for the use of the Park and as such posted a memo to all residents of Coleshill (9 October 2016 at 20:06). This resulted in an online debate where, at one point (20:40) an Andrew Buck asked *"Is anyone available from the Town Council for comment as to the reasons why the permission wasn't given?"* At 21:00 Councillor Jones then stated *"Well I am from the Town Council and I am clear the actual decision was not made or put to the full council I certainly disagree with the decision but would have been banned from voting as would 2 other councillors after a complaint was made to the Monitoring Officer by a minority! The complaint was that we were members of the Carnival committee!! I despair and have simply adhered to that ruling"...*
14. During the course of the facebook debate Councillor Jones posted information that was factually incorrect relating to budgets and the fact that he did not vote. This was

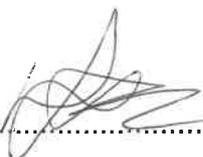
wrong and minutes show that not only did he vote in favour but he also read out a proclamation and was party to the discussion regarding logistics. He challenges in public even when his challenges are not legitimate.

15. A significant issue within the role of councillor is that of completing documentation and declaring interests regarding conflicting interests. Specific areas where Councillor Jones has failed to declare interests include the use of the Park, damage to the Park after Carnival vehicles damaged the pitches. Councillor Jones became embroiled in the repair, who was to do it, and challenged not only the cost of repair but the allocated contractor. All of which conflicted, as at the time he was part of the carnival Committee and on the Council. In this instance at one point he used his position as a Councillor and refused to pay for the damages. Councillor Jones has voted on grants awards when he is directly involved in the group, an example being his involvement with the Scouts.
16. It may not be for me to say, however I feel I must bring to light, Councillor Jones' behaviour with members of his own party and other councillors. Even in opposition there is a requirement for a certain decorum, respect and courtesy. Councillor Jones makes any meeting difficult, he calls Councillors by their first name, interrupts and shouts over people and is so aggressive people are petrified. His ambition is to drag meetings on, dominate conversation and have the last word. This behaviour extends so far that people don't always attend meetings allowing him to win. This frustrates both the public and councillors.
17. I have seen, what I perceive to be, Councillor Jones bully and harass a member of his party to such an extent that he has crossed the floor to Labour. Such is the collaborative nature of Coleshill Town Council I offered this member of the Conservative party a lift to a meeting as he does not drive. The individual was so affected by Councillor Jones he asked if he could go in the boot so he could not be seen by Councillor Jones, however I insisted he should sit in the front with me. Sadly he was seen getting out of the car and was rebuked by Councillor Jones. Councillor Jones has a vendetta against the Council and any Labour sympathisers. He has escalated out of control.
18. Lately Councillor Jones has decided to focus on staff pay and hours. He relentlessly pursues the Town Clerk with incessant questions, challenging him when he cannot achieve his demands. He does this in public meetings along with emails which

invariably he copies everyone into, interspersing his aggressive narrative with capital letters. I can almost see him screaming at his computer. It is correct to legitimately challenge and raise issues of performance but he shouldn't be discussing individuals in public meetings or harassing them by email. The way Councillor Jones is treating staff and in particular the Town Clerk is leaving the staff deflated and you can see they are disengaging, not only with him but also with other Councillors. He is making this Council a terrible state.

19. My emails tend to be factual, Councillor Jones' are extensive and followed up by secondary and further emails, again having to have the last word. An example being when Councillor Taylor asked him to stop copying him into aggressive emails. This dialogue went on and on with Councillor Jones refusing his simple request. Every email seems to encourage confrontation.
20. People are stopping sending emails and don't respond to him, as well as not responding on facebook, as it is achieving nothing and making the authority look like a school playground.
21. The standards and morale at Coleshill Town Council are deteriorating and Councillors are being put in a difficult position. The outcome of Councillor Jones' continued behaviour within his role of Town Councillor is such that he is causing other members to disengage. Morale is the lowest I've seen it in the past six years and this is directly impacting on the service delivery of the Town Council. Councillor Jones is larger than life and this, coupled with his aggression, is impacting directly on people. My fear is that people will suffer from stress or leave.

I Adam Farrell declare that this statement is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed  ..... Date 09.02.2017

**STATEMENT  
FRONT COVER**

Case Ref:	1052611/3
Name:	Adam Richardson
Position Held	Labour Councillor

wilkin chapman llp  
solicitors

Cartergate House,  
26 Chantry Lane,  
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DN31 2LJ

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## STATEMENT of: Adam Richardson

1. I am a Labour Councillor with Coleshill Town Council. I have been a Councillor for two years and undertake the role of the Chairman of planning applications.
2. Prior to December 2017 I was a Town Councillor with the Conservative Party. Due to a continued course of bullying behaviour undertaken by Councillor Mark Jones I felt that my position within the Conservative group was untenable and for my own sake I made the significant decision to leave the party and cross the floor to the Labour group.
3. On 6 January 2017 I was contacted by Wilkin Chapman LLP regarding complaints that had been raised with the Monitoring Officer (MO) of North Warwickshire Borough Council who deals with complaints of alleged breaches of Codes of Conduct applying to local government councillors in its area.
4. From this correspondence I am now aware that Councillor Jones has or may have failed to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct under the following headings:
  - Acting in an aggressive and rude manner. This is in respect of other Councillors, the town Council's staff and contractors;
  - undermining and overly challenging the Clerk and the legitimate, general decision making process of the Town Council;
  - is overly dominating and disruptive concerning various town Council projects and issues; and
  - has sought to influence an issue in which he has a pecuniary interest.

5. I am aware that details of my contact with Councillor Jones have been passed to Wilkin Chapman LLP through the MO. Also on 9 January 2017 I undertook a telephone interview with Mr Ball, a Consultant with Wilkin Chapman LLP; and from this Interview and the provided documents, this statement has been compiled.
6. I have been informed that the terms of reference for the investigation focus on issues post 15 June 2016 when Coleshill Town Council adopted a Code of Conduct that aligns with the guidance from the Localism Act 2011 and therefore the Nolan Principles relating to ethical standards of public office holders. Prior to the Code of Conduct being adopted at the full Town Council meeting in June 2016 I was of the belief that it conformed to the guidance, in that it adopted and followed the NALC Councillor and Clerk Protocols.
7. I provide the following narrative which overlaps the dates that have been mentioned as the course of behaviour displayed by Councillor Jones has been consistent before that date and continues into the present.
8. On 16 June 2016 at 12:20 I contacted Steve Maxey, Monitoring officer stating:

*"Hi Steve, I wish to make a formal complaint under the Code of Conduct in relation to Councillor Mark Jones of Coleshill Town Council. You will be aware that over the past few months I have had a number of concerns about the attitude of Mark Jones both in Town Council meetings and on social media. Councillor Jones continues to behaviour in a manner which I believe fails to meet the Nolan principles. He continues to operate in an aggressive, obstructive and intimidating manner which has a major impact on the Council and the services we offer. He also fails to abide by Council decisions and standing orders. Most recently he has breached the standing order that prohibits members from inspecting Council land without prior delegation. Councillor Jones has been down to the memorial Park and informed contractors of his position and tried to question the works being carried out etc".*

9. I also sent a further email to Steve Maxey on 18 August 2016 at 20:03 stating:

*"Dear Mr Maxey,*

*I would like to put a complaint in about the conduct of Cllr Mark Jones. I am a Conservative Town Councillor at Coleshill Town Council. I have been having a few problems with him since I became a councillor in May 2015. Since the beginning he has been brash and frankly bullying in his behaviour towards me. For example, he has been trying to tell me which way to vote. When I have not voted 'his' way he has phoned me to have a go at me and has been stand-offish. He says that have to vote the way he says because it is most certainly the Conservative way, however I believe this is not the case when looking closely at the items he wants to object to. I have spoken to members of the Conservative party who have told me that I am not whipped but this has not affected his behaviour. He is still having a dig at me over items voted for on our first ever Full Town Council meeting. On one occasion at a full town council meeting, when it came to a vote about the Coleshill Hub which was divided on party lines and I did not vote against the motion with him and the other Conservative town councillor, he called my name out and I had to reply that I was abstaining from the vote. When he spoke to me about it afterwards he said that I was completely in the wrong and I should be voting conservatively and with him, not against him. I had told him I would love to run for Deputy Mayor & he said "What makes you think I'm going to vote for you when you don't vote with me?" He has continued to have digs at me over my wanting to become Mayor (obviously after a term as Deputy Mayor of course) and keeps telling me how I haven't done anything for him so why should he do this for me? The phone calls have carried on so I decided I needed to ask for help. I have spoken to both Cllrs Stacey Ingram and David Wright and have told them what is happening but these things have not stopped. In fact he phones to say "I've just been told I'm a naughty boy, how silly." and laughs at it that the party have told him to behave.*

*I would also like to bring to your attention an incident that happened on the 6th of August at Midday on Coleshill High Street in full view of the public and I have a witness to his behaviour towards me. Cllr Jones was enquiring about the*

*Coleshill Star Awards, an awards evening for people in Coleshill who voluntarily give up their time to help others. The Town Council has given delegated powers to a sub-committee (2 Labour, 1 Conservative, 1 Independent) to organise everything, from how the money should be spent to picking the judging panels, which we have done. The people we have picked for these panels are prolific people in Coleshill and fine upstanding people that are known to many. Cllr Jones asked who they were and at the time I did not have the list with me, but knew 2 as I had mentioned them and their names had been put down, so I told him them as they are not private. He then asked rather abruptly "Who picked these?" I told him the sub-committee had to which he cut me off saying we were wrong it had to come to Full Town Council. I remained calm and told him it didn't, again rather brashly he said "I'm bringing it up." I told him fine if you want but it's delegated so nothing can come of it and again rather loudly he said "I'm GOING to do it." As this was before the public I felt it was not right and pretty much belittling, with the raising of his voice and trying to tower over myself.*

*I do not believe this to be correct behaviour or right so I wanted it brought to someone higher up as I would like this intimidating behaviour to stop. If you have any questions I would be happy to speak to you"*

10. In another email dated 21 October 2016 at 15:15 I highlighted the following to Steve Maxey:

*"Dear Mr. Maxey,*

*I want to start off by saying I hope you do not mind that I include our Town Clerk into this email but he knows the contents of this email anyway & I have spoken to him about this matter.*

*I am emailing you to inform you that I have handed in my resignation with the Conservative party, it has come to a point where I could no longer work with Cllr Jones, he has been a bully, derogative, degrading & a few other choice words I could use but that is not the point,*

*I have spoken to people about his demeanour & manner, but he just laughs it off & says "Oh I'll just get a slap on the wrist & told I'm a naughty boy." Then continues to be the same disrespectful person,*

*I made the decision to resign from the party as I find that he is nothing shy of a schoolyard bully, which to me I left behind a long time ago, unfortunately none of this has been done via email or texts or I would gladly show you, it has always been telephonically, one such call came about 2 weeks before the Coleshill Star Awards, when talking about a few things, I told him I was loyal to the people of Coleshill his response to myself was "You show no loyalty to myself, which is the first person you need to respect, you have no balls & are spineless." This to me is not ok.*

*I have informed David Wright, but have had no communications back, when I spoke to Stacey Ingram about him she told me to try to talk to him but when I had he interjected, quite abruptly before I could get a few words in, laughed it off & said its the way he was to "Get used to it, its politics, grow a pair."*

*So for those reasons I found I could take no more & have removed myself from the party, I am saddened it has come to this, I was rather hoping I would not have to, I get on well, as far as I am aware, I have not asked their opinions, with my fellow Cllrs, in fact I would probably state my reputation on it, but this has driven a wedge between me & the party to the point as I said I resigned from them, with nothing seeming to be done & not being informed on things just giving in report after report on how he has treated me it was my choice & now I am working with the other Cllrs.*

*I want to do good for Coleshill & will continue to do as such, just no longer with the Conservative party, but I will be crossing the floor & joining the Labour party who have shown me nothing but respect, manners & courtesy since becoming a Cllr, outside of Council chambers & even before the fact.*

*I wish the party well, but Cllr Jones is going to tear them apart & in my opinion is a liability, he is brash & puts people like myself off from wanting to be a Cllr, but I*

*will NOT be beaten by that man & will stand my ground, just no longer in the same camp as him."*

11. As can be seen in my emails I feel strongly about the continuous behaviour of Councillor Jones to such an extent I made a conscious decision to try to remove myself from his area of influence.
12. I must outline that Councillor Jones makes countless telephone calls to me to avoid much being said in emails and therefore making it hard for me to evidence what he has said to me. I would try to tell him things I wanted to do but he would put me down, telling me at times *"that's going to be crap"*.
13. To expand on the incident in the High Street relating to the 'Star Awards', he started shouting at me, came straight to the point, puffing his chest out. He shouted *"I'm going to do what I want"* this continued down the road with my mother present. It was midday and I am sure people knew we were councillors. We are elected members and this was happening in full view. His words and actions were one Conservative Councillor to another.
14. Part of me felt horrible; it made me feel rubbish even attempting to conduct volunteer awards. The Star awards was something that I felt strongly about, it was very personal to me. This behaviour made me draw back into myself even though other councillors were very helpful and supportive.
15. Another incident which was meant to belittle me was the fact I suggested I may want to be Deputy Mayor with the intent of eventually becoming Mayor. Councillor Jones said to me *"You don't look the part to be Mayor"* again belittling me.
16. Councillor Jones knew that even though we were not a whipped Council he had control over me as the Chair of Coleshill Conservatives. He has said he *"can make my life hell on the Council"*. He constantly kept pushing the fact that he was the Leader of the Conservatives so he made sure I knew who was in charge. Before my move to the Labour Party I worked well with Labour and Independent Councillors. He told me *"I should hate them"*.

17. This continued behaviour has affected me to such an extent I have even considered stepping down as a Councillor, but as I have mentioned in my emails I will not be beaten by this man and will stand my ground, just no longer in the same camp as him.

I Adam Richardson declare that this statement is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed *A. Richardson* ..... Date *9.2.2017* .....

**STATEMENT  
FRONT COVER**

Case Ref:	1052611/3
Name:	Dewi Jones
Position Held	Managing Director

wilkin chapman llp  
solicitors

Cartergate House,  
26 Chantry Lane,  
Grimsby  
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## STATEMENT of: Dewi Jones

1. I am the Managing Director of Greensleeves Lawncare. My offices are based at The Blue Box, Storage Solutions, Station Road, Coleshill.
2. Greensleeves Lawncare is a family run business specialising in lawn care. All our staff are National Proficiency Test Council qualified (NPTC). In December 2016 we won a contract with Coleshill Town Council, proposed and supported by Councillor Jones. This contract requests us to repair and look after the football pitch which had been damaged earlier in the year.
3. I am passionate about Coleshill and I am the Chairman of Governors at Coleshill Secondary School.
4. On 6 January 2017 I was contacted by Wilkin Chapman LLP regarding complaints that had been raised with the Monitoring Officer (MO) of North Warwickshire Borough Council who deals with complaints of alleged breaches of Codes of Conduct applying to local government councillors in its area.
5. From this correspondence I am now aware that Councillor Jones has or may have failed to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct under the following headings:
  - acting in an aggressive and rude manner. This is in respect of other Councillors, the Town Council's staff and contractors;
  - undermining and overly challenging the Clerk and the legitimate, general decision making process of the Town Council;
  - is overly dominating and disruptive concerning various Town Council projects and issues; and
  - has sought to influence an issue in which he has a pecuniary interest.

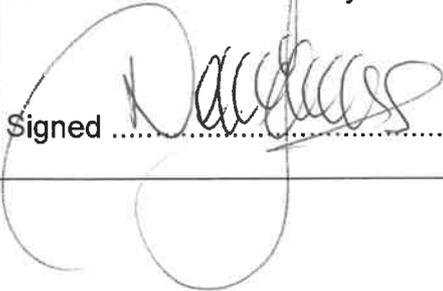
6. I am aware that details of my contact with Councillor Jones have been passed to Wilkin Chapman LLP through the MO. Also on 11 January 2017 I undertook a telephone interview with Mr Ball, a Consultant with Wilkin Chapman LLP. From this Interview and the provided documents, this statement has been compiled.
7. As a result of Councillor Jones attending my offices on 18 October 2016 I had cause to send an email, on 18 October 2016 at 23:28, to Steve Maxey, the MO, raising concerns about his behaviour and lodging a formal complaint.
8. Councillor Jones has office space within The Blue Box Storage Solutions complex near to my own from which he operates his print business B46 Print. In September 2016 I had spoken to Councillor Jones in the yard of the office facility. Having heard there may be issues regarding the use of the Memorial Park for the Bonfire Night event I suggested to him there may be the facility of using Coleshill Secondary School for this event at a cost for entry. He identified that he already had an alternative at Croft, plus adjacent land controlled by the Digby Trust, Digby Estates. I was aware that Digby Estates had said no which put the kibosh on Croft, forcing a move back to the Memorial Park.
9. I am a user of facebook and follow a community facebook page for Coleshill called B46. On 9 October 2016 there was a series of threads relating to bonfire night celebrations proposed for the Memorial Park. There were a number of people involved in this thread but significantly present were Councillor Mark Jones and Councillor Adam Farrell. Although not being named as Councillors made it was quite clear they were councillors based on the content on the thread, as they referred to their position with actions and minutes taken by the Council and posted on the thread.
10. There were some emotive issues raised within the thread regarding Councillor Jones relating to him having possible conflicts of interests, pecuniary advantages, confrontation regarding the content of minutes and challenge being put to Councillor Jones relating to some statements he made being untrue. In addition to this there was discussion around a grant given by the Town Council linked to the fireworks display.

11. In a subsequent email to Steve Maxey on 14 November 2016 at 11:58 I stated, *"Just to clarify the screenshots of the threads sent over, as you will see plenty of other people involved in the discussion and many of the contributions dealt with responses from Mark. When closely challenged by subscribers he reacts quite rudely and dodges many answers, that aside his aggression toward me by storming into my office and swearing is unacceptable. I have challenged him where he is wrong and as others have done pointed out the discrepancies in his argument but he tells me its personal! Accuses me of not knowing what I am talking about when it is clear from the minutes he and his carnival committee are lying"*.
12. Much of my facebook comments arise from the fact that I was aware that Coleshill Town Council had awarded £1000 towards fireworks and then to be told and say that it was not on. I asked Councillor Dominic Ferro on the page of his understanding of the process and minutes to ascertain if permission was actually given. Councillor Jones stated in his typical blustery way that the councillors were lying.
13. Once it was proved that he was incorrect and that the committee were lying, I asked for an apology. I felt strongly about this as Councillor Jones always talks about being correct and professional. He stated *"There is nothing for us to apologise about"*. He also states, *"he wasn't allowed to attend meetings due to pecuniary interest/conflict with his Town and Borough Councillor roles"*. He went on to state *"he was banned from any meeting relating to finance and raising funds"*.
14. At 16:45 on 18 October 2016 Councillor Jones decided to come to my office. He opened the door and walked straight in, standing midway between the door and my desk. He shouted at me saying *"If you have anything to say to me way it to my face"* then *"Mind your fucking business you know fuck all about what's going on in the Town Council"*, he went on saying *"You're always having a fucking dig"*. I felt his outburst was because of the pressures being placed on him during the facebook conversation relating to the Bonfire event. I believe he felt I was the closest tangible person he could confront hence him challenging me.
15. I sat at my desk and told him to *"get out of my office"*, He refused and walked over to my desk. He continued to swear and shout, spit was coming out of his mouth. I had had enough of his tantrum and told him he was lying. He shouted *"You know nothing, I was banned"*. He shouted something to the effect of *"You and your office"*. This was as he was walking out. I must admit I was angry, upset and appalled by his behaviour

so retorted *"at least I pay my rent"* (I was aware he was in arrears for his rent) He stormed back in and started ranting at me again.

16. I definitely felt threatened during this whole incident and thought he might escalate the situation. I have never had a fight but felt that on this occasion the situation might end in him resorting to violence. He turned and slammed the door very hard.
17. Councillor Jones is a vulgar and ferocious man, he is out of control. His language is derogatory and his behaviour damages the reputation of the Town Council. I have heard Councillor Jones speak about other councillors in derogatory terms. He refers to Harry Taylor as a *"Titty Babby"* who just sits there and sulks, Adam Farrell as *"That Kid"*, he states he can't stand Dominic Ferro and Sue Gascoigne as a *"Waste of space"*.
18. I am sure that Councillor Jones likes being an agent provocateur and stirring up the Council. I feel he wants to make a name for himself, the people's champion. The one to bring the carnival and fireworks back to Coleshill. He is not used to people saying "NO" and responds to such answers badly.
19. As a result of this interaction I sent an email to Steve Maxey on 18 October 2016 at 23:28 outlining the detail I have stated above.
20. As I mentioned within my email *"I do not expect a representative of the council to storm into my workplace and release a tirade of abuse and foul language in such a threatening manner"*. I concluded my email saying *"I trust you will investigate this matter further and take whatever action you deem necessary to curb his aggressive nature"*.
21. I have not spoken to Councillor Jones since this incident.

I Dewi Jones declare that this statement is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed  Date 7/2/17

**STATEMENT  
FRONT COVER**

Case Ref:	1052611/3
Name:	Sue Moore
Position Held	Director – Moore Environment

wilkin chapman llp  
solicitors

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26 Chantry Lane,  
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## STATEMENT of: Sue Moore

1. I am a Chartered Landscape Architect, Environmental Consultant and Environmental Coordinator with Moore Environment based in Coleshill, Birmingham. I am a Director of Moore Environment.
2. Moore Environment manage and coordinate projects to budget and programme using a comprehensive range of services for landscape architecture and environmental consultancy.
3. I have over 30 years experience in landscape architecture and assessment, with the last 19 years as Director and co founder of Moore Environment.
4. My role is that of overseeing work within the company, including design, assessment and implementation and I have done so on several major highway schemes, renewable energy projects, inland marina proposals, educational sector, housing and historic open space projects. Another aspect of my role for Moore Environment is that of monitoring social media and ensuring our professionalism and public profile is maintained.
5. On 6 January 2017 I was contacted by Wilkin Chapman LLP regarding complaints that had been raised with the Monitoring Officer (MO) of North Warwickshire Borough Council who deals with complaints of alleged breaches of Codes of Conduct applying to local government councillors in its area.
6. From this correspondence I am now aware that Councillor Jones has or may have failed to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct under the following headings:
  - acting in an aggressive and rude manner. This is in respect of other Councillors, the Town Council's staff and contractors;
  - undermining and overly challenging the Clerk and the legitimate, general decision making process of the Town Council;

- is overly dominating and disruptive concerning various Town Council projects and issues; and
  - has sought to influence an issue in which he has a pecuniary interest.
7. I am aware that details of my contact with Councillor Jones have been passed to Wilkin Chapman LLP through the Monitoring Officer. Also on 10 January 2017 I undertook a telephone interview with Mr Ball, a Consultant with Wilkin Chapman LLP, and from this Interview and the provided documents, this statement has been compiled.
8. As background information regarding my interactions with Councillor Jones I must outline that Moore Environment were appointed as consultants by Coleshill Town Council relating to the improvement of the Memorial Park in Coleshill during July 2014. Following this we undertook considerable community consultation from which we developed a master plan. Following full Council approval to the plan we were asked to obtain tenders for Phase 1 of the work required from 5 companies approved by the Council, using a fully detailed specification and drawings. Jack Moody Ltd was the successful tenderer and their appointment was approved by full Council. We then carried out overall contract management and supervision of the works on the ground.
9. To deal with the Park project a working group was set up by Coleshill Town Council to discuss design development, and approve tenders before going to full Council and to act as a conduit between ourselves, the community and the Town Council. Councillor Jones was a part of this working group from the outset.
10. Councillor Jones said at the first meeting that he was unhappy with the project, although he was not specific in his criticism. He suggested that as he was not on the Council during the initial development of this project nor the full Council approval to the master plan it was still up for fundamental debate. His manner in the working group meetings was challenging and demanding often about issues that had already been agreed.

11. Councillor Jones was part of the working group which approved tender documentation and the recommendations for the successful tenderer, following the receipt of our comprehensive tender analysis reports. He praised the report and commented how transparent and thorough our processes were – he also made this comment on facebook. However, on other facebook threads, usually in response to residents' comments on the scheme, he took a contrary view about the process. Typical responses to the public were *"Nobody seems to know what's going on with the project"* that even he as a Councillor couldn't get hold of the latest plans or the specification for the works and implying the project was *"badly managed"*. For example (in June 2016) he made 8 comments on facebook complaining that the Council had just approved expenditure for the project and no one knew what it was for, or would not provide him with the information. However, the full details had been discussed at a working group meeting which he had attended yet the impression he gave on a public platform was that details of the project were being kept secret. In another thread he indicated he had nothing to do with the selection of tenderers. This was simply not true as he was part of the whole process and had approved the Tender Report.
12. When the construction works were underway on site we received several verbal reports from the Contractor's site staff that Councillor Jones had visited the site and made comments, criticising the work, for example *"the project was a waste of money, equipment is in the wrong place, no one would ever use it"*. On these occasions he often demanded to know who had approved the works, suggesting he had no involvement in the approval process. On more than one occasion this had the effect of stopping the work on site as the contractor was unsure how to proceed. Because of this we had to visit site to explain to the Contractor that Councillor Jones did not have the authority to stop or amend the works.
13. On 24 August 2016 at 11:21 I reported this in an email to Colin Greatorex the content being, *"I have just had a report from Declan [our site supervisor] that Councillor Jones has been down on site talking to JML. He is criticising everything about the works apparently, and asking who approved any of it, that the play/trimtrail/ gym equipment will never get used and is a complete waste of money, that the locations of the trim trail equipment is ridiculous etc etc"*.

14. Given our position as a professional consultancy and our role in the project I did not respond to the comments made by Councillor Jones on social media. However, I did complain on a number of occasions to the Town Clerk regarding Councillor Jones' behaviour and negativity.
15. Although Councillor Jones never actually used our company name on the community facebook site, his implication was that the planning, decision making and financial aspects of the Memorial Park were being badly managed. However it was well known in the community, due to extensive consultation, that we were responsible for the professional advice given to the Council on these issues. He clearly used this site as a councillor to reach out to the communities of Coleshill.
16. The project is still underway with the capital work completed. We are in a maintenance and defects liability phase for the next 9 months. As part of the development of the project it was important that a voluntary community group for the Memorial Park was formed, this took the form of the Friends of the Memorial Park (FOMP) and the formation was approved by full Council. FOMP was essential to access external funding for the future development of the park and to get the community to develop a feeling of 'ownership' and help take care of it.
17. On 14 September 2016 at 17:30 I sent an email to Colin Greatorax. The content was to the effect of, *"I understand from a couple of sources that FOMP want me to attend their next meeting and run through the plans, a reasonable request and one I would normally be happy to agree to. However, I will not be able to attend any such meeting until some action is taken to manage Councillor Jones appalling behaviour, at least as far as matters memorial park are concerned"*. This email followed a FOMP meeting where I was informed by several people that Councillor Jones had been particularly negative and had apparently encouraged a group of residents to be quite hostile to the voluntary group. As a result of Councillor Jones' behaviour at this FOMP meeting the group folded. I am particularly frustrated that he had such a negative impact on the Friends group, which both I and other Councillors had spent time helping to set up. The effect of this is to significantly harm access to future grant aided funding and prevent opportunities for community participation in this major local project, with all the social and health benefits that brings. We had to cancel a community planting day we had arranged for the local schools as a direct result of FOMP disbanding. In my opinion the appropriate duty for a Councillor is to facilitate these positive aspects for the Park, not work against them.

18. I have personally found interaction with Councillor Jones to be very stressful. He has constantly challenged our management asking for detailed information which he has already been provided with as a member of the working group. He has implied on more than one occasion that *"he could get materials or work done cheaper"* and that *"Jack Moody is ripping us off"* which I find offensive and undermining, particularly as we managed a transparent competitive tender process which met with his approval.
19. Other members of Coleshill Town Council have been very good to work with and display a very positive and proactive approach to partnership working.
20. I have been very surprised by the behaviour of Councillor Jones. In 20 years' experience of working with public authorities I have never seen such hostility for a project, especially from someone who is actually on the working group and part of the approval process. In my opinion he should have shown support for the Council and the project rather than display such negativity.
21. Due to his behaviour I do not consider that Councillor Jones is working for the benefit of the community and would expect more from an elected official. I also feel that I need to raise this complaint to bring attention to his behaviour relating to the FOMP, and external contractors along with the fact that his behaviour directly impacts on the way others perceive Coleshill Councillors and the work of the Council.

I Sue Moore declare that this statement is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed S. J. Moore Date 22/2/17

## STATEMENT FRONT COVER

Case Ref:	1052611/3
Name:	Declan Rooney
Position Held	Landscape Architect

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solicitors

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## STATEMENT of: Declan Rooney

1. I am a Landscape Architect, Environmental Consultant and Environmental Coordinator with Moore Environment based in Coleshill, Birmingham.
2. Moore Environment manage and coordinate projects to budget and programme using a comprehensive range of services for landscape architecture and environmental consultancy.
3. I have 10 years experience in landscape architecture, assessment and construction, with the last 3½ years as a Landscape Architect and Environmental Coordinator with Moore Environment.
4. My role within this project is to manage works, project manage on site and act as liaison between the Town Council, the Public and Contractors. I have carried out similar roles on a number of projects including highway schemes, residential developments, churchyard and park restorations and private dwellings.
5. On 6 January 2017 I was contacted by Wilkin Chapman LLP regarding complaints that had been raised with the Monitoring Officer (MO) of North Warwickshire Borough Council who deals with complaints of alleged breaches of Codes of Conduct applying to local government councillors in its area.
6. From this correspondence I am now aware that Councillor Jones has or may have failed to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct under the following headings:
  - acting in an aggressive and rude manner. This is in respect of other Councillors, the Town Council's staff and contractors;
  - undermining and overly challenging the Clerk and the legitimate, general decision making process of the Town Council;

- is overly dominating and disruptive concerning various Town Council projects and issues;
  - has sought to influence an issue in which he has a pecuniary interest;
7. I am aware that details of my contact with Councillor Jones have been passed to Wilkin Chapman LLP through the MO. Also on 17 January 2017 I undertook a telephone interview with Mr Ball, a Consultant with Wilkin Chapman LLP. From this Interview and the provided documents, this statement has been compiled.
8. As background information regarding my interactions with Councillor Jones I must outline that Moore Environment were appointed as consultants by Coleshill Town Council relating to the improvement of the memorial Park in Coleshill during July 2014. Following this we undertook considerable community consultation from which we developed a master plan. Following full Council approval to the plan we were asked to obtain tenders for Phase 1 of the work required from 5 companies approved by the Council, using a fully detailed specification and drawings. Jack Moody Ltd was the successful tenderer and their appointment was approved by full Council. We then carried out overall contract management and supervision of the works on the ground.
9. To deal with the Park project a working group was set up by Coleshill Town Council to discuss design development and approve tenders before going to full Council and to act as a conduit between ourselves, the community and the Town Council. Councillor Jones was apart of this working group from the outset.
10. Part of my role within the Memorial Park Project (the Project) is to enable liaison between the Council, the Public and Contractors, in particular to create a good and effective route of dialogue between Jack Moody Ltd and a working group of councillors.
11. In order to ensure clarity on this issue I need to highlight that my face to face interactions with Councillor Jones were limited to a couple of working group meetings at the end of 2015 and early 2016.

12. Councillor Jones said at the first meeting that he was unhappy with the project, although he was not specific in his criticism. He suggested that as he was not on the Council during the initial development of this project or the full Council approval to the master plan it was still up for fundamental debate. His manner in the working group meetings was challenging and demanding often about issues that had already been agreed.
13. Councillor Jones was part of the working group which approved tender documentation and the recommendations for the successful tenderer, following the receipt of our comprehensive tender analysis reports. He praised the report and commented how transparent and thorough our processes were.
14. During this time I was made aware by Director, Sue Moore, that Councillor Jones was less complimentary about the project and its management in his dealings with the public, especially on social media platforms. I found this to be quite confusing in light of his previous praise for our work.
15. When the construction works were underway on site we received several verbal reports from the Contractor's site staff that Councillor Jones had visited the site and made comments, criticising the work, for example *"the project was a waste of money, equipment is in the wrong place, no one would ever use it"*. On these occasions he often demanded to know who had approved the works, suggesting he had no involvement in the approval process. On more than one occasion this had the effect of stopping the work on site as the Contractor was unsure how to proceed. Because of this we had to visit site to explain to the Contractor that Councillor Jones did not have the authority to stop or amend the works.
16. This led to my Director, Sue Moore, emailing Colin Greatorex on 24 August 2016 at 11:21 to report the following, *"I have just had a report from Declan [our site supervisor] that Councillor Jones has been down on site talking to JML. He is criticising everything about the works apparently, and asking who approved any of it, that the play/trimtrail/ gym equipment will never get used and is a complete waste of money, that the locations of the trim trail equipment is ridiculous etc etc."*
17. These interactions between Councillor Jones and the Contractors caused numerous delays and confusion, leading to a need for my increased presence at site to re-confirm and clarify design and implementation issues that had already been agreed.

18. The project is still underway with the capital work completed. We are now in a maintenance and defects liability phase for the next 9 months.
19. Overall I would say that rather than facilitating and aiding this project, Councillor Jones had a negative impact on the process, causing delays and confusion on site.
20. Other members of Coleshill Town Council have been very good to work with and display a very positive and proactive approach to partnership working.
21. Due to his behaviour I do not consider that Councillor Jones is working for the benefit of the community and would expect more from an elected official.

I Declan Rooney declare that this statement is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed Declan Rooney Date 03/03/17.

**STATEMENT  
FRONT COVER**

Case Ref:	1052611/3
Name:	Marie Brotheridge
Position Held	Secretary FOMP (Resigned)

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# wilkin chapman llp

## STATEMENT of: Marie Brotheridge

1. I am currently the Secretary of The Coleshill Cricket Club, a resident of Coleshill and until September 2016 was the Secretary of the Friends of the Memorial Park (FOMP) in Coleshill.
2. Also part of the friends group were Dave Simkin, the Chairman and Julie Gregory, the treasurer. We also had connection with Sue Moore of Moore Environment who are managing the project for Coleshill Town Council, Zoe Hilcox, the Deputy Town Clerk and Colin Greatorex, The Town Clerk.
3. On 6 January 2017 I was contacted by Wilkin Chapman LLP regarding complaints that had been raised with the Monitoring Officer (MO) of North Warwickshire Borough Council who deals with complaints of alleged breaches of Codes of Conduct applying to local government councillors in its area.
4. From this correspondence I am now aware that Councillor Jones has or may have failed to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct under the following headings:
  - acting in an aggressive and rude manner. This is in respect of other Councillors, the town Council's staff and contractors;
  - undermining and overly challenging the Clerk and the legitimate, general decision making process of the Town Council;
  - is overly dominating and disruptive concerning various Town Council projects and issues; and
  - has sought to influence an issue in which he has a pecuniary interest.

5. I am aware that details of my contact with Councillor Jones have been passed to Wilkin Chapman LLP through the MO. Also on 17 January 2017 I undertook a telephone interview with Mr Ball, a Consultant with Wilkin Chapman LLP; and from this Interview and the provided documents, this statement has been compiled.
6. As a background into how I became involved in the FOMP project, I attended a council meeting as I was interested in what was happening within my community. As part of this meeting the implementation of friends groups was discussed. I volunteered and became the secretary for the FOMP group.
7. We were all very green at this time but were pleased to receive guidance from the Council. At first we entered into things gingerly, with an aim to raise more funds and get more facilities. We had three public meetings in total before I resigned.
8. In addition to the three meetings we met each other and other people to get advice and to take things forward. The first public meeting was held at the Cricket Club and the second in the Hudson room of the Town Hall, there was no real alarm at those meeting, a couple of people with minor complaints. The second meeting was more about what we were going to do in the future. At this meeting we had arranged a community planting day. It was, on the whole, very positive.
9. The third public meeting was held in September in the Cricket Club. We had had a poster campaign and quite a lot of people were in attendance. Mark Jones really upset things. He monopolised the meeting, stating that "*even I haven't seen updated plans for the park*". He came across to me as very sneering commenting about the way the park project had been planned and implemented by the other Town Councillors.
10. It became clearly apparent that he was encouraging the group who were in attendance and the impression I had was that he had stirred the others up before the meeting. He took over the meeting, diverting it away from the discussions we wanted to have, concentrating on negativity and how the plans were being implemented. When Julie tried to speak she began her sentence "*Can I just say ...*" Mr Jones then spoke over her using the phrase "*If I can just say*", cutting her off and totally talking over her, which I felt was very rude and unnecessary. I did try to interject, as did others, but he just spoke over us.

11. He was raising issues regarding a suggestion relating to a possible cafe, He barked *"we've got one here – The Cricket Club!"* He then went on to describe how much the Cricket Club paid the Council each year. He was clearly showing his position of a councillor.
12. What really disturbed me was the way he looked at me whilst he was going on about the Cricket Club. He was enjoying how he undermined the group and embarrassed me. He had a grin on his face, like a bully.
13. It was all about his manner and the way he said things, he made it difficult to manage the whole situation. He was so domineering that it put me off to such an extent I'm never getting involved again. We were going to have a further meeting regarding the planting day planned for the 3 November 2016 but this never happened.
14. I was so upset by Mark Jones' behaviour that I sent an email to Colin Greatorex on 14 September 2016 at 09:15, copying Sue Moore into the email. In this email I outlined the positive aspects of the meeting and the positivity of the poster campaign. I went on to say, *"I really have serious concerns. Councillor Mark Jones attended and to be blunt totally monopolised the meeting. He was being negative about how phase 1 has been managed. Someone asked about the plans and he was negative about that, something along the lines of he is a councillor and even he is not able to get hold of up to date plans. I feel the only purpose he served was to encourage negativity and took the meeting away from the direction where it should have gone. When anyone tried to take control he talked over them and in my opinion was totally rude."* I made further comment in this email to the effect of, *"It is my personal opinion that Mark Jones has another agenda and I do not want to be a puppet in disagreements town councillors may have between themselves. I do question if it is right that he should attend these meetings in his capacity as a councillor. This is my personal opinion but I feel totally frustrated and to be honest very angry"*.
15. The day before the last meeting David Simkin said he was resigning, I spoke to Julie and she said *"we can't carry on like this"*. The point is someone acting as a councillor diverted the focus of the group and changed it into a complaints session.

CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

16. To me a councillor acts for the good of the Town. Mark Jones has his own agenda and was determined to make life as difficult as possible. He took over the meeting as his platform. I am not sure if it is a political or personal agenda.
17. This has upset me greatly, I am 50 years old, it was something I could have contributed to, and he's taken that away. It doesn't help my confidence. This was for the Town.
18. I resigned because of the pressure placed on us and the behaviour of Mark Jones. I don't understand why he acted the way he did, but it is my belief there is more to this. Mark Jones should not be a councillor.

I Marie Brotheridge declare that this statement is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed Marie Brotheridge Date 10/2/17

13 FEB 2017

**STATEMENT  
FRONT COVER**

Case Ref:	1052611/3
Name:	Julie Gregory
Position Held	Treasurer FOMP (Resigned)

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solicitors

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## STATEMENT of: Julie Gregory

1. I am a resident of Coleshill and also work as a receptionist and administration assistant for Coleshill Town Council. In addition to this until September 2016 I was the Treasurer of the Friends of the Memorial Park (FOMP) in Coleshill.
2. As a resident of Coleshill and through my involvement with Coleshill Town Council I became involved as treasurer. I was keen to promote the use of the park and saw this as a way of being part of a voluntary group who would get together to arrange planting and open days and raise funds for the park. I saw it as a way of benefitting the community of Coleshill.
3. Also part of the friends group were Dave Simkin, the Chairman and Marie Brotheridge, the Secretary. We also had connection with Sue Moore of Moore Environment who are managing the project for Coleshill Town Council, Zoe Hilcox, the Deputy Town Clerk and Colin Greatorex, The Town Clerk.
4. On 6 January 2017 I was contacted by Wilkin Chapman LLP regarding complaints that had been raised with the Monitoring Officer (MO) of North Warwickshire Borough Council who deals with complaints of alleged breaches of Codes of Conduct applying to local government councillors in its area.
5. From this correspondence I am now aware that Councillor Jones has or may have failed to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct under the following headings:
  - Acting in an aggressive and rude manner. This is in respect of other Councillors, the town Council's staff and contractors;
  - undermining and overly challenging the Clerk and the legitimate, general decision making process of the Town Council;

- is overly dominating and disruptive concerning various Town Council projects and issues; and
  - has sought to influence an issue in which he has a pecuniary interest.
6. I am aware that details of my contact with Councillor Jones have been passed to Wilkin Chapman LLP through the MO. Also on 16 January 2017 I undertook a telephone interview with Mr Ball, a Consultant with Wilkin Chapman LLP; and from this Interview and the provided documents, this statement has been compiled.
7. During a FOMP meeting in September 2016 Councillor Jones was in attendance, along with a number of members of the public. His attendance turned what was normally a pleasant and productive meeting into an unpleasant and negative meeting. He riled up the members of the public saying that money for the Memorial Park was being spent wrongly. His negativity and encouragement caused the residents to also bombard us with questions.
8. Councillor Jones stated that people had not been consulted properly, implying that the project was not being managed correctly. I am not sure whether he was there as a member of the public or within his councillor role. He did however speak clearly with regard to his Council knowledge of the project and decision making. It was quite clear he was a Councillor throughout the meeting.
9. The meeting lasted for one and a half hours after which the secretary and I got together. We both agreed that the meeting was not nice and that such behaviour and challenge was not what we signed up for. We both agreed that the reason for the bombardment was that Councillor Jones had indirectly agitated the public. I was annoyed and embarrassed as we had ended up having to defend ourselves.
10. On a personal level I do not find Councillor Jones intimidating, I find him a bit of a 'buffoon'. His bullying attitude and the way he cajoled the public annoyed me.
11. Sadly due to the whole management of the working group tending their resignation there is no longer a Friends of the Memorial Park group. I am

disappointed as it could have been a nice committee and community involvement in a project. A positive thing for Coleshill.

I Julie Gregory declare that this statement is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed ..........Date 9-2-17.....

**STATEMENT  
FRONT COVER**

Case Ref:	1052611/3
Name:	Michael Ford-Terry
Position Held	Chairman Coleshill Carnival

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solicitors

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## STATEMENT of: Michael Ford-Terry

1. I am a builder and run a company by the name of 'Attention to Detail'. I am based in Coleshill and in addition to my building interests undertake voluntary work, in so much as I have been involved as a school governor, Vice Chairman of 'Coleshill in Bloom' for 12 years and have also been involved in the 'Coleshill Carnival' for approximately 3 years.
2. On 6 February 2017 I was contacted by Wilkin Chapman LLP regarding complaints that had been raised with the Monitoring Officer (MO) of North Warwickshire Borough Council who deals with complaints of alleged breaches of Codes of Conduct applying to local government councillors in its area.
3. From this correspondence I am now aware that Councillor Mark Jones has or may have failed to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct under the following headings:
  - Acting in an aggressive and rude manner. This is in respect of other Councillors, the Town Council's staff and contractors;
  - undermining and overly challenging the Clerk and the legitimate, general decision making process of the Town Council;
  - is overly dominating and disruptive concerning various Town Council projects and issues; and
  - has sought to influence an issue in which he has a pecuniary interest.
4. I am aware that details of my contact with Councillor Jones have been passed to Wilkin Chapman LLP through the MO. Also on 9 February 2017 I undertook a telephone interview with Mr Ball, a Consultant with Wilkin Chapman LLP. From this interview and the provided documents, this statement has been compiled.

5. As background to my involvement in Coleshill Carnival and relationship with Councillor Mark Jones I will outline how we came to know each other. Whilst on the Coleshill in Bloom committee I met Mark Jones when he was placed on that committee as a Council representative. About 3 years ago friend of mine, Councillor Peter Fowler, approached me and asked if I would be interested in working with him to revive the Coleshill Carnival which had ceased some 19 years ago. I felt this was a wonderful idea and started to work towards developing Peter's idea. Due to other commitments Peter resigned from the Chairman's position. I took this role and at that time Peter had invited Mark Jones to join the committee on or about late 2015.
6. I knew Mark as a strong willed person whilst he was working on the Coleshill in Bloom project. I think that was the ex policeman in him. He is strong willed and when he sees someone not making decisions Mark steps in and takes over, where I may go with it and try to help the person come to a decision. Mark can't do that. His strong character can sometimes be seen as bullying when in fact it is him just moving things on.
7. I get on really well with Colin Greatorex, the Town Clerk. However, I have noticed Mark just clashes with him. To this end, regarding the Coleshill Carnival I do tend to deal with Colin. As I can't deal with Council business Mark takes on this much as he did with the Coleshill in Bloom. When I see things getting out of order I do tend to try to pull things back in line as I have a good reputation in Coleshill and do not want that damaged.
8. Mark took on the role of Vice Chair of the Coleshill Carnival. His role was a bit of both really, partly as a Councillor and partly as a member of the community. Mark's strong character can be taken as rudeness if you're of a gentle nature. He is a positive and passionate person and especially passionate about the Carnival. In the beginning I was wary, thinking that Mark may see the Carnival as a means of gaining political points. However, I was surprised as time went on regarding his passion for the project.
9. Mr Ball questioned why Mark took ownership of dealings relating to damage caused due to the Carnival referred to in an email from me to Colin Greatorex on 1 August 2016 at 11:20. And subsequently from Mark to Colin on 1 August 2016 at 15:55. As I have already mentioned, Mark tends to deal with Council issues as he has access to the Council and can cut corners and get things sorted quicker. I asked him to deal

with this issue and asked him to report back to me so I could keep tabs on what was happening.

10. There were other issues regarding the damage such as subsidence caused by historic pipework and other contractors on the site. This approach seemed practical as we had offered to pay for the repairs and I felt that Mark could speak as a Councillor and get this resolved. In retrospect I feel maybe I could have dealt with this myself, however I have other commitments and thought it was a relatively easy issue to resolve at Council level.
11. Mr Ball has also asked me to give an explanation around the provision of a banner, flyers and leaflets provided by Mark through his company B46 Print with relation to the Carnival. He asked "*what were the dealings with Mark Jones, When? And if there were invoices and receipts*".
12. As part of the Carnival process we were looking to advertise the project. We asked Mark to put prices together for the aforementioned products. We had also looked at other providers. Any discussions regarding money were had without mark being present as we did not want to compromise his position. The price Mark quoted blew the other 'out of the water'. They could only have given him a marginal profit, if any. It looked like we got charged for materials and overheads only. The committee actually assisted in folding and preparation of the items. I will provide copies of invoices as requested.
13. As part of the provision of a Bonfire in 2016 within the Carnival Mr Ball asked me to describe the circumstances leading to a protracted facebook conversation on the community facebook page, 9 October 2016 between about 20:00 and 23:00 hrs.
14. Prior to this a meeting had been held with Councillor Sue Wallace, Mayor, Councillor Adam Farrell and I. Councillor Farrell didn't want Mark to come along so there was some discussion who was to attend. It was agreed at this meeting that due to works being undertaken on the Memorial Park that the Croft was probably a better option. A grant of £1000 was applied for and eventually used for the purpose it was requested. After my repeated attempts to talk to trustees regarding the Croft and adjacent Digby Trust land I was given a negative response so we had to refer back to the original intention to use the memorial park.

- 15. This became complicated and Mark wrote a message to the community outlining what was happening signed the Carnival Committee. I did see the original message and changed some aspects of it regarding the tone of the message. The message was subsequently posted on the community site as part of the facebook conversation on 9 October 2016.
- 16. The manner of the conversation really infuriated me as you can see by the content of the 'community' page that very few comments were made by the community or me. The politicians were playing one against the other. All I wanted to do was to put on a Bonfire.
- 17. Mark comes across as strong but his heart is in the right place. He can sometimes get over enthusiastic and tends to see things as black and white. This is why sometimes he gets frustrated when things are not like that.
- 18. Regarding Colin Greatorex, he does the best job he can. I would describe his position as being between a 'pillar and a post'. I do sometimes feel sorry for him. His emails are often short and to the point, sometimes abrupt which I feel winds Mark up. Being aware of this I do tend to make Mark run things through me and put them to the Committee. I don't want to get into the politics of all this.
- 19. I am happy to cooperate with the enquiry and hope my statement has assisted. I do not wish to be part of a 'witch hunt' against Mark Jones and feel that much of this is about one party against another.

I Michael Ford-Terry declare that this statement is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed .....Date .....



<p><b>3. Contract</b></p> <p>Any contract which is made between me or my partner (or a body in which I or my partner have a beneficial interest) and any Partner Authority – (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.</p> <p><b>Description of Contract (s)</b></p> <p><b>NONE</b></p>	<p>Whether made to yourself or your partner</p>
<p><b>4. Land</b></p> <p>Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of any Partner Authority.</p> <p><b>Address of Land</b></p> <p><b>NONE</b></p>	<p>Nature of Interest (including if for self or partner)</p>
<p><b>5. Licences</b></p> <p>Any Licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of any Partner Authority for a month or longer.</p> <p><b>Address of Land</b></p> <p><b>NONE</b></p>	<p>Details of Licence (including if self or partner)</p>

<p><b>6. Corporate Tenancies</b></p> <p>Any tenancy where (to my knowledge – (a) the landlord is any Partner Authority; and (b) the tenant is a body in which I or my partner have a beneficial interest.</p> <p><b>Address of Land</b></p> <p>NONE</p>	<p>Detail of Tenancy (including if for self or Partner)</p>
<p><b>7. Securities</b></p> <p>Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where – (a) that body (to my knowledge) has a place of business or land in the parish (Town) boundary ; and (b) either – (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which I or my partner have a beneficial interest. Interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.</p> <p><b>Name of Body or Company</b></p> <p>I own Computamate Ltd a Registered Company</p>	<p>Whether this entry is for yourself or your partner</p> <p>SELF</p>

**Appendix B**

An interest which relates to or is likely to affect:

(i) any body of which the member is in a position of general control or management and to which he/she is appointed or nominated by the Council;

I am a member of Coleshill in Bloom  
 I am also the Town Council Elected Representative for Coleshill in Bloom

- (ii) any body—
- (a) exercising functions of a public nature;
  - (b) directed to charitable purposes; or
  - (c) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which the member of the Council is a member or in a position of general control or management;

I am Group Scout Leader for Coleshill Scout Group  
I am a Member of Coleshill Carnival Committee

- (iii) any gifts or hospitality worth more than an estimated value of £50 which the member has received by virtue of his or her office.

I confirm that I have set out above next to the appropriate headings my interests which I am required to declare under the localism Act 2011 and that I have put "None" where I have no such interests.

I recognise that it can be a breach of the Code of Conduct for Members to:

- omit information that ought to be given in this notice;
- provide information that is materially false or misleading;
- fail to give further notices in order to:
  - bring up to date information given in this notice
  - declare an interest that I acquire after the date of this notice and have to declare.

I note that I must within 28 days of becoming aware of any changes to the interests specified above, provide written notification to the Monitoring Officer and Town Clerk of that change.

Signed *Mark Jones*

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> August 2016

RECEIVED

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Town Clerk and Proper Officer of Coleshill Town Council

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Notification by a Member of  
Parish/Town Council of disclosable pecuniary  
interests (2012)**

I (print full name)

MARK EDWARD JONES

A Member of COLESHILL Parish/Town Council, give notice that I have the following disclosable pecuniary interests under sections 29-34 of Localism Act 2011.

These disclosable pecuniary interests apply to myself or my partner (which means spouse or civil partner, a person with whom I am living as husband or wife, or a person with whom I am living as though we are civil partners).

Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried out for profit or gain.

Self

SELF EMPLOYED IT CONSULTANT

Partner

N/A

Sponsorship received in respect of carrying out duties as a member of the authority, or towards my election expenses

Self

~~N/A~~ NORTH WARWICKSHIRE CONSERVATIVES

Partner

N/A

Contracts between myself (or body in which I have a beneficial interest) and the North Warwickshire Borough Council (or organisation contracted to carry out business on its behalf)

Self

N/A

Partner

N/A

Address of property or land in the Borough of North Warwickshire in which I have a beneficial interest

Self

N/A

Partner

N/A

Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the Borough of North Warwickshire for a month or longer

Self

N/A

Partner

N/A

## Arrangements for dealing with standards allegations under the Localism Act 2011

### 1 Context

These “Arrangements” set out how you may make a complaint that an elected or co-opted member of this authority or of a parish council within North Warwickshire has failed to comply with the authority’s Code of Conduct, and sets out how the authority will deal with allegations of a failure to comply with the authority’s Code of Conduct.

Under Section 28(6) and (7) of the Localism Act 2011, the Council must have in place “arrangements” under which allegations that a member or co-opted member of the authority, or of a Committee or Sub-Committee of the authority, or of a parish council within the authority’s area has failed to comply with that authority’s Code of Conduct can be investigated and decisions made on such allegations.

Such arrangements must provide for the authority to appoint at least one Independent Person, whose views must be sought by the authority before it takes a decision on an allegation which it has decided shall be investigated, and whose views can be sought by the authority at any other stage, or by a member or a member or co-opted member of a parish council against whom an allegation as been made.

### 2 The Code of Conduct

The Council has adopted a Code of Conduct for members, which is attached as Appendix One to these arrangements and available for inspection on the authority’s website and on request from Reception at the Council’s Offices.

Each parish council is also required to adopt a Code of Conduct. If you wish to inspect a Parish Council’s Code of Conduct, you should inspect any website operated by the parish council or request the parish clerk to allow you to inspect the parish council’s Code of Conduct.

### 3 Making a complaint

If you wish to make a complaint, please write to:

Steve Maxey  
Monitoring Officer  
North Warwickshire Borough Council  
Council Offices  
South Street  
Atherstone  
Warwickshire  
CV9 1DE

Or email: [stevemaxey@northwarks.gov.uk](mailto:stevemaxey@northwarks.gov.uk)

The Monitoring Officer is a senior officer of the authority who has statutory responsibility for maintaining the register of members' interests and who is responsible for administering the system in respect of complaints of member misconduct.

In order to ensure that we have all the information which we need to be able to process your complaint, please complete and send us the model complaint form, which can be downloaded from the authority's website, next to the Code of Conduct, and is available on request from the One Stop Shop at the Council's Offices.

Please do provide us with your name and a contact address or email address, so that we can acknowledge receipt of your complaint and keep you informed of its progress. If you want to keep your name and address confidential, please indicate this in the space provided on the complaint form, in which case we will not disclose your name and address to the member against whom you make the complaint, without your prior consent. The authority does not normally investigate anonymous complaints, unless there is a clear public interest in doing so.

The Monitoring Officer will acknowledge receipt of your complaint within five working days of receiving it, and will keep you informed of the progress of your complaint.

#### **4 Will your complaint be investigated?**

The Monitoring Officer will review every complaint received and, after consultation with the Independent Person and the Group Spokespersons on the Standards Committee, take a decision as to whether it merits formal investigation. This decision will normally be taken within 14 days of receipt of your complaint. Where the Monitoring Officer has taken a decision, he/she will inform you of his/her decision and the reasons for that decision.

If the complainant is not happy with that decision, the matter will be reported to the Standards Committee for Councillors to review that decision.

Where he/she requires additional information in order to come to a decision, he/she may come back to you for such information, and may request information from the member against whom your complaint is directed. Where your complaint relates to a Parish Councillor, the Monitoring Officer may also inform the Parish Council of your complaint and seek the views of the Parish Council before deciding whether the complaint merits formal investigation.

In appropriate cases, the Monitoring Officer may seek to resolve the complaint informally, without the need for a formal investigation. Such informal resolution may involve the member accepting that his/her conduct was unacceptable and/or offering an apology, or other remedial action by the authority. Where the member or the authority makes a reasonable offer of local resolution, but you are not willing to accept that offer, the Monitoring Officer will take account of this in deciding whether the complaint merits formal investigation.

If your complaint identifies criminal conduct or breach of other regulation by any person, the Monitoring Officer has the power to call in the Police and other regulatory agencies.

#### **5 How is the investigation conducted?**

The Council has adopted a procedure for the investigation of misconduct complaints, which is attached as Appendix Two to these arrangements.

If the Monitoring Officer or Standards Committee decides that a complaint merits formal investigation, he/she will appoint an Investigating Officer, who may be another officer of the authority, an officer of another authority or an external investigator. The Investigating Officer will decide whether he/she needs to meet or speak to you to understand the nature of your complaint and so that you can explain your understanding of events and suggest what documents the Investigating Officer needs to see, and who the Investigating Officer needs to interview.

The Investigating Officer would normally write to the member against whom you have complained and provide him/her with a copy of your complaint, and ask the member to provide his/her explanation of events, and to identify what documents he needs to see and who he needs to interview. In exceptional cases, where it is appropriate to keep your identity confidential or disclosure of details of the complaint to the member might prejudice the investigation, the Monitoring Officer can delete your name and address from the papers given to the member, or delay notifying the member until the investigation has progressed sufficiently.

At the end of his/her investigation, the Investigating Officer will produce a draft report and will send copies of that draft report, in confidence, to you and to the member concerned, to give you both an opportunity to identify any matter in that draft report which you disagree with or which you consider requires more consideration.

Having received and taken account of any comments which you may make on the draft report, the Investigating Officer will send his/her final report to the Monitoring Officer.

**6 What happens if the Investigating Officer concludes that there is no evidence of a failure to comply with the Code of Conduct?**

The Monitoring Officer will review the Investigating Officer's report and, if he is satisfied that the Investigating Officer's report is sufficient, the Monitoring Officer will write to you and to the member concerned and to the Parish Council, where your complaint relates to a Parish Councillor, notifying you that he is satisfied that no further action is required, and give you both a copy of the Investigating Officer's final report. If the Monitoring Officer is not satisfied that the investigation has been conducted properly, he may ask the Investigating Officer to reconsider his/her report.

The Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Group Spokesperson, may still report the findings of the Investigating Officer to the Standards Committee.

**7 What happens if the Investigating Officer concludes that there is evidence of a failure to comply with the Code of Conduct?**

The Monitoring Officer will review the Investigating Officer's report and will then either send the matter for local hearing before the Hearings Panel or, after consulting the Independent Person and Group Spokespersons on the Standards Committee, seek local resolution.

**7.1 Local Resolution**

The Monitoring Officer may consider that the matter can reasonably be resolved without the need for a hearing. In such a case, he/she will consult with the Independent Person, Group Spokespersons on the Standards Committee and with you as complainant and seek to agree what you consider to be a fair resolution which also helps to ensure higher standards of conduct for the future. Such resolution may include the member accepting that his/her conduct was unacceptable and/or offering an apology, and/or other remedial action by the

authority. If the member complies with the suggested resolution, the Monitoring Officer will report the matter to the Standards Committee and the Parish Council for information, but will take no further action. However, if you tell the Monitoring Officer that any suggested resolution would not be adequate, the Monitoring Officer will refer the matter for a local hearing.

## 7.2 Local Hearing

If the Monitoring Officer considers that local resolution is not appropriate, or you are not satisfied by the proposed resolution, or the member concerned is not prepared to undertake any proposed remedial action, such as giving an apology, then the Monitoring Officer will report the Investigating Officer's report to the Hearings Panel which will conduct a local hearing before deciding whether the member has failed to comply with the Code of Conduct and, if so, whether to take any action in respect of the member.

The Council has agreed a procedure for local hearings, which is attached as Appendix Three to these arrangements.

Essentially, the Monitoring Officer will conduct a "pre-hearing process", requiring the member to give his/her response to the Investigating Officer's report, in order to identify what is likely to be agreed and what is likely to be in contention at the hearing, and the Chair of the Hearings Panel may issue directions as to the manner in which the hearing will be conducted. At the hearing, the Investigating Officer will present his/her report, call such witnesses as he/she considers necessary and make representations to substantiate his/her conclusion that the member has failed to comply with the Code of Conduct. For this purpose, the Investigating Officer may ask you as the complainant to attend and give evidence to the Hearings Panel. The member will then have an opportunity to give his/her evidence, to call witnesses and to make representations to the Hearings Panel as to why he/she considers that he/she did not fail to comply with the Code of Conduct.

The Hearings Panel, with the benefit of any advice from the Independent Person, may conclude that the member did not fail to comply with the Code of Conduct, and so dismiss the complaint. If the Hearings Panel concludes that the member did fail to comply with the Code of Conduct, the Chair will inform the member of this finding and the Hearings Panel will then consider what action, if any, the Hearings Panel should take as a result of the member's failure to comply with the Code of Conduct. In doing this, the Hearings Panel will give the member an opportunity to make representations to the Panel and will consult the Independent Person, but will then decide what action, if any, to take in respect of the matter..

## **8 What action can the Hearings Panel take where a member has failed to comply with the Code of Conduct?**

The Council has delegated to the Hearings Panel such of its powers to take action in respect of individual members as may be necessary to promote and maintain high standards of conduct. Accordingly the Hearings Panel may:

- 8.1 Censure or reprimand the member;
- 8.2 Publish its findings in respect of the member's conduct;
- 8.3 Report its findings to Council or to the Parish Council for information;

- 8.4 Recommend to the member's Group Leader (or in the case of un-grouped members, recommend to Council or to Committees) that he/she be removed from any or all Committees or Sub-Committees of the Council;
- 8.5 Recommend to the Leader of the Council that the member be removed from particular responsibilities;
- 8.6 Instruct the Monitoring Officer to or recommend that the Parish Council arrange training for the member;
- 8.7 Remove or recommend to the Parish Council that the member be removed from all outside appointments to which he/she has been appointed or nominated by the authority or by the Parish Council;
- 8.8 Withdraw or recommend to the Parish Council that it withdraws facilities provided to the member by the Council, such as a computer, website and/or email and Internet access; or
- 8.9 Exclude or recommend that the Parish Council exclude the member from the Council's offices or other premises, with the exception of meeting rooms as necessary for attending Council, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings.

The Hearings Panel has no power to suspend or disqualify the member or to withdraw members' special responsibility allowances.

## **9 What happens at the end of the hearing?**

At the end of the hearing, the Chair will state the decision of the Hearings Panel as to whether the member failed to comply with the Code of Conduct and as to any actions which the Hearings Panel resolves to take.

As soon as reasonably practicable thereafter, the Monitoring Officer shall prepare a formal decision notice in consultation with the Chair of the Hearings Panel, and send a copy to you, to the member and to the Parish Council, make that decision notice available for public inspection and report the decision to the next convenient meeting of the Council.

## **10 Who are the Hearings Panel?**

The Hearings Panel is a sub-committee of the Council's Standards Committee. The Standards Committee has decided that it will comprise a maximum of five members of the Council, including members drawn from at least two different political parties. Subject to those requirements, it is appointed on the nomination of party group leaders in proportion to the strengths of each party group on the Council.

The Independent Person is invited to attend all meetings of the Hearings Panel and his/her views are sought and taken into consideration before the Hearings Panel takes any decision on whether the member's conduct constitutes a failure to comply with the Code of Conduct and as to any action to be taken following a finding of failure to comply with the Code of Conduct.

## **11 Who is the Independent Person?**

The Independent Person is a person who has applied for the post following advertisement of a vacancy for the post, and is appointed by a positive vote from a majority of all the members of Council.

A person cannot be “independent” if he/she:

- 11.1 Is, or has been within the past five years, a member, co-opted member or officer of the authority, with the exception that former Independent Members of Standards Committees can be appointed as Independent Persons;
- 11.2 Is or has been within the past five years, a member, co-opted member or officer of a parish council within the authority’s area, or
- 11.3 Is a relative, or close friend, of a person within paragraph 11.1 or 11.2 above. For this purpose, “relative” means:
  - 11.3.1 Spouse or civil partner;
  - 11.3.2 Living with the other person as husband and wife or as if they were civil partners;
  - 11.3.3 Grandparent of the other person;
  - 11.3.4 A lineal descendant of a grandparent of the other person;
  - 11.3.5 A parent, sibling or child of a person within paragraphs 11.3.1 or 11.3.2;
  - 11.3.6 A spouse or civil partner of a person within paragraphs 11.3.3, 11.3.4 or 11.3.5; or
  - 11.3.7 Living with a person within paragraphs 11.3.3, 11.3.4 or 11.3.5 as husband and wife or as if they were civil partners.

## **12 Revision of these arrangements**

The Council may by resolution agree to amend these arrangements, and has delegated to the Chair of the Hearings Panel the right to depart from these arrangements where he/she considers that it is expedient to do so in order to secure the effective and fair consideration of any matter.

## **13 Appeals**

There is no right of appeal for you as complainant or for the member against a decision of the Monitoring Officer or of the Hearings Panel.

If you feel that the authority has failed to deal with your complaint properly, you may make a complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman.