
Chairman's conduct

Tony Renouf <tony@renouf.me.uk>

9 June 2016 at 10:56

To: James Spackman <jamesspackman@hotmail.com>

Cc: "elliot.wright23" <elliot.wright23@gmail.com>, Jack Lovell <jack.lovell@monksmead.co.uk>, malcolmlarge <malcolmlarge@btinternet.com>, eve burke <eveandpaul@hotmail.com>, fineartdogs <chalek9@freegratis.net>

Bcc: Steve Brady <woolhamptonparishcouncil@hotmail.com>

James

At our April meeting I dealt with a substantial part of the fallacious issues you raised in your email to Martin Dunscombe following the District Parish Conference. What was not dealt with, or defined, were the "serious worries about the Chairperson of our parish".

Also you said that he could "rest assured that concerns about Cllr Renouf's conduct will be discussed in (sic) greater length".

In light of my re-election as Chairman your worries and concerns clearly need to be dealt with as a matter of some urgency.

Tony

Chairman's conduct

James Spackman <jamesspackman@hotmail.com>

15 June 2016 at 09:52

To: Tony Renouf <tony@renouf.me.uk>

Cc: elliot wright <elliot.wright23@gmail.com>, Jack Lovell <jack.lovell@monksmead.co.uk>, malcolmlarge <malcolmlarge@btinternet.com>, eve burke <eveandpaul@hotmail.com>, fineartdogs <chalek9@freegratis.net>, Steve Brady <woolhamptonparishcouncil@hotmail.com>

Mr Renouf,

at the April meeting you read out a list of your reasons for not following the guidance provided by Mr Dunscombe to deal with the issue you raised. Please will you provide this list in reply?

You will also recall that as Chair you closed the meeting in acrimonious circumstances without allowing further concerns to be heard about your management of Parish Council business.

Clearly it would be inappropriate and a waste of members' time for you to schedule a separate agenda item on 'Governance' in future, and I look forward with anticipation to other suggestions you may have which would give resolution.

James Spackman

From: tony@renouf.me.uk

Date: Thu, 9 Jun 2016 10:56:56 +0100

Subject: Chairman's conduct

To: jamesspackman@hotmail.com

CC: elliot.wright23@gmail.com; jack.lovell@monksmead.co.uk; malcolmlarge@btinternet.com; eveandpaul@hotmail.com; chalek9@freegratis.net

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Chairman's conduct

Tony Renouf <tony@renouf.me.uk>

15 June 2016 at 15:08

To: James Spackman <jamesspackman@hotmail.com>, "elliot.wright23" <elliot.wright23@gmail.com>, eve burke <eveandpaul@hotmail.com>, malcolmlarge <malcolmlarge@btinternet.com>, Jack Lovell <jack.lovell@monksmead.co.uk>, fineartdogs <chalek9@freegratis.net>, Steve Brady <woolhamptonparishcouncil@hotmail.com>

James

If you re-read the hard copy of the report I read out you will see that it included Mr Dunscombe's response to the accusations you had made to him together with my personal conclusions about your honesty based on that response and earlier episodes. I had sought to ascertain the truthfulness or otherwise of the serious points you had made to him. His response was unequivocal - there was no truth in the accusations and therefore no guidance by him as to how the Council should deal with a non-existent issue.

As accurately recorded in the unanimously approved minutes, I closed the April meeting because it was the wish of a majority of the members.

Your concerns about my management of Council business cannot be ignored and need to be considered. If accepted by members as valid they may prove to be serious enough to warrant my resignation since clearly I would no longer deserve the support or confidence of the Council.

You must, therefore, either be prepared to discuss this matter openly at a Parish Council meeting or withdraw your innuendo based accusations with an apology both to me and the Council.

However, there is, of course, a third alternative open to you.

Tony

[Quoted text hidden]

Chairman's conduct

James Spackman <jamesspackman@hotmail.com>

15 June 2016 at 18:10

To: Tony Renouf <tony@renouf.me.uk>, elliot wright <elliot.wright23@gmail.com>, eve burke <eveandpaul@hotmail.com>, malcolmlarge <malcolmlarge@btinternet.com>, Jack Lovell <jack.lovell@monksmead.co.uk>, fineartdogs <chalek9@freegratis.net>, Steve Brady <woolhamptonparishcouncil@hotmail.com>

Mr Renouf,

in his email of 18th April, which you rely upon so heavily, Mr Dunscombe states: "I now consider this matter closed and suggest that, if there is any further disagreement, any dissatisfied party makes a Code of Conduct complaint."

Please will you provide the list of reasons you read out at the parish council meeting on 19th April, explaining why you reopened this matter and did not make a Code of Conduct complaint, in direct contradiction to his guidance?

Any conclusions you drew were therefore inappropriate, and the personal insults received from yourself and other councillors at the meeting were wholly unacceptable (as they would have been in any event).

Given that you had already admitted the confusion at the District Parish Conference was caused by your continuing malcommunication, for you to now claim this is a non-existent issue is worse than a bad joke, as it continues to hinder progress on the serious issues facing the community.

That you actively disrupted the meeting in these ways from your position of Chair to prevent any other outstanding examples of your misconduct from being raised is symptomatic of, and intimately connected to your failure over the course of many years to reach any sort of satisfactory resolution on behalf of residents relating to sewage problems in Station Road etc.

If other councillors wish to consider a motion of no confidence in any officer appointed by the parish council, I will of course contribute to such a discussion.

James Spackman

From: tony@renouf.me.uk

Date: Wed, 15 Jun 2016 15:08:00 +0100

Subject: Re: Chairman's conduct

To: jamesspackman@hotmail.com; elliot.wright23@gmail.com; eveandpaul@hotmail.com; malcolmlarge@btinternet.com; jack.lovell@monksmead.co.uk; chalek9@freegratis.net; woolhamptonparishcouncil@hotmail.com

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Chairman's conduct

Tony Renouf <tony@renouf.me.uk>

16 June 2016 at 16:04

To: James Spackman <jamesspackman@hotmail.com>, Jack Lovell <jack.lovell@monksmead.co.uk>, "elliot.wright23" <elliot.wright23@gmail.com>, eve burke <eveandpaul@hotmail.com>, malcolmlarge <malcolmlarge@btinternet.com>, fineartdogs <chalek9@freegratis.net>, Steve Brady <woolhamptonparishcouncil@hotmail.com>

James

Context is everything! Mr Dunscombe's email of the 18th April, from which you have selectively quoted just the final sentence, confirmed that I had submitted the question to Peter Argyle in an individual capacity and not as you had quoted him as saying, in a 'personal capacity'. In the same email he states: "I know of no reason why you shouldn't have asked the question. In my opinion, you have acted properly throughout this process".

I think the 'guidance' from him was for your benefit.

Since you have not challenged my report I am satisfied that his impartial investigation confirmed that all of the complaints you had made to him about what happened at the conference were based on lies and can be dismissed as such. However, my conduct which, you state, "will be discussed at greater length" and the serious worries you have were not matters he could comment on. Therefore the whole matter was not 'closed' and is not being 'reopened' by me now.

I stated in my conclusion to the report that the only reason why I did not intend to make a complaint was based on my knowledge of the process being a waste of public money which would achieve nothing. It doesn't alter the fact that I believe that you have, on a number of occasions, brought the Parish Council into disrepute.

As it would appear that you are reluctant to address this issue outside the confines of an email conversation I propose asking the Council to examine your allegations of my disruption of the meetings. That I use the disruption to prevent the Council or the public becoming aware of my misconduct resulting in resident's problems being unresolved is a very serious accusation that I am not prepared to ignore. I will, of course, vacate the Chair for that discussion.

If the Council agrees that I am guilty of the behaviour you allege then I will resign as Chairman.

Tony

[Quoted text hidden]

Chairman's conduct

James Spackman <jamesspackman@hotmail.com>

21 June 2016 at 18:06

To: Tony Renouf <tony@renouf.me.uk>, Jack Lovell <jack.lovell@monksmead.co.uk>, elliot wright <elliot.wright23@gmail.com>, eve burke <eveandpaul@hotmail.com>, malcolmlarge <malcolmlarge@btinternet.com>, fineartdogs <chalek9@freegratis.net>, Steve Brady <woolhamptonparishcouncil@hotmail.com>

Mr Renouf,
thank you for your email reply.

I understand that Mr Dunscombe's email was forwarded to all members of the parish council, so we are each able to read his words in full and there is no question that I selectively quoted him or intended to mislead. I resent your offensive accusations which are completely without foundation, and suggest some common courtesy on your behalf would go a long way to developing a more constructive dialogue.

It is impossible to resolve the issues you raised about the Chairman's conduct without addressing in more detail the list of reasons you provided at the meeting for bypassing proper process in contradiction to the advice you sought and received from Mr Dunscombe. I have requested three times that you provide this information, as is my right. Your continued refusal is therefore an obstruction to the resolution you seek and any discussion of these matters at the meeting in these circumstances would constitute further waste of public time.

I would welcome a chance to help you find resolution to your concerns, or to follow Mr Dunscombe's advice myself, so for the fourth time, please will you provide the information as requested in good time for proper consideration before the next meeting in July?

James Spackman.

From: tony@renouf.me.uk

Date: Thu, 16 Jun 2016 16:04:36 +0100

Subject: Re: Chairman's conduct

To: jamesspackman@hotmail.com; jack.lovell@monksmead.co.uk; elliot.wright23@gmail.com; eveandpaul@hotmail.com; malcolmlarge@btinternet.com; chalek9@freegratis.net; woolhamptonparishcouncil@hotmail.com

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Chairman's conduct

Tony Renouf <tony@renouf.me.uk>

22 June 2016 at 12:15

To: James Spackman <jamesspackman@hotmail.com>

James

Attached are the two strands of my correspondence with Mr Dunscombe, one of which clearly shows that I neither sought nor received advice. There is no more information that you and members haven't seen.

I am pleased that you are willing to help find a resolution. I would remind you that it is you who are making the allegations of disruption and misconduct which you will need to prove.

I suggest that we have a private meeting, thereby saving public time, involving all members. The meeting could be chaired by Steve or an officer from West Berks Democratic Services, whichever you feel would be fairer to you. Please give some dates that would suit you.

Alternatively, I would be happy for members to hear and discuss your allegations at the next Parish Council meeting.

Tony

[Quoted text hidden]

2 attachments



Conference - parenouf@googlemail.com - Gmail.htm
1553K



Adoption of local services - parenouf@googlemail.com - Gmail.htm
1579K

WPC - July Agenda

7 messages

James Spackman <jamesspackman@hotmail.com>

28 June 2016 at 06:52

To: Steve Brady <woolhamptonparishcouncil@hotmail.com>

Cc: Tony Renouf <tony@renouf.me.uk>

Dear Steve,

Mr Lovell mentioned the previous parish plan. I've looked through past annual reports and can't find anything on this. So it would be helpful for background purposes if Mr Renouf could give a status update and possibly explain the options open to the parish.

Could you include an item 'Village Action Plan - Status Update' immediately prior to the item on the 'Neighbourhood Plan Update'?

It's available here:

<http://decisionmaking.westberks.gov.uk/documents/s26722/Woolhampton%20Parish%20Plan.pdf>

Also, can I confirm what the parish decided about attending the monthly Village Market in a couple of week's time?

Thanks in advance

James Spackman

Tony Renouf <tony@renouf.me.uk>

29 June 2016 at 10:58

To: James Spackman <jamesspackman@hotmail.com>

Cc: Steve Brady <woolhamptonparishcouncil@hotmail.com>

Steve

I am opposed to further consideration of the case for a Neighbourhood Plan until after the PC has resolved the allegations of misconduct.

Regards

Tony

[Quoted text hidden]

James Spackman <jamesspackman@hotmail.com>

30 June 2016 at 09:06

To: Tony Renouf <tony@renouf.me.uk>

Mr Renouf,
your reply is confusing.

Does it mean that you wish to provide a status report on the Village Action Plan, but that you do not wish to provide a report from the CCB meeting?

I find it odd that you have ignored the adopted plans for a number of years, and I find it equally odd that for a second time (following the District Parish Conference) you seek to avoid inclusion of an agenda item for a report on an important event which is highly relevant to the Parish Council and the business we conduct.

Clearly you are less concerned with the community than with yourself, and such comments could easily be construed as a breach of the Code of Conduct with regard to 'selflessness'. Please explain and rectify.

Thank you in advance.

From: tony@renouf.me.uk
Date: Wed, 29 Jun 2016 10:58:39 +0100
Subject: Re: WPC - July Agenda
To: jamespackman@hotmail.com
CC: woolhamptonparishcouncil@hotmail.com
[Quoted text hidden]

Tony Renouf <tony@renouf.me.uk>

30 June 2016 at 10:46

To: James Spackman <jamespackman@hotmail.com>
Cc: Steve Brady <woolhamptonparishcouncil@hotmail.com>, "elliott.wright23" <elliott.wright23@gmail.com>, eve burke <eveandpaul@hotmail.com>, malcolmlarge <malcolmlarge@btinternet.com>, fineartdogs <chalek9@freegratis.net>, Jack Lovell <jack.lovell@monksmead.co.uk>

James

All your bluster does not alter the fact that your unsubstantiated allegation of misconduct by the Chair threatens to seriously undermine the Parish Council's credibility. As Chairman, it is my duty to ensure this does not happen and my responsibility to determine, in conjunction with the Clerk, the meeting's Agenda (Standing Order 3.8).

I believe that this can best be achieved by prioritising the Council's consideration of your specific allegation. A delay of a month until a case for considering a possible Neighbourhood Plan can be discussed will not unreasonably prolong the discussion. There is nothing to prevent you providing a written report of the CCB meeting.

Tony

[Quoted text hidden]

Jack Lovell <jack.lovell@monksmead.co.uk>

30 June 2016 at 13:25

To: Tony Renouf <tony@renouf.me.uk>
Cc: Mr Steve Brady <woolhamptonparishcouncil@hotmail.com>

Thanks Tony.

I will be away tomorrow and must therefore offer my apologies.

I only have two comments on the papers :

I notice that the lease on the Recreation field has a few years to run. Should we give some consideration to having an informal chat. With Wasing ? Or tactically are we better off leaving it till the last minute Or do we just try and hold over ?

Copse project. The costs still seem to keep coming in. Would you find it helpful Discussing how we move towards a break even budget on this asset ?

Regards
Jack

Sent from my iPad
[Quoted text hidden]

Tony Renouf <tony@renouf.me.uk>
To: Jack Lovell <jack.lovell@monksmead.co.uk>

2 July 2016 at 10:04

July Meeting - Chairman's statement

Tony Renouf <tony@renouf.me.uk>

1 July 2016 at 18:11

To: "elliot.wright23" <elliot.wright23@gmail.com>, eve burke <eveandpaul@hotmail.com>, malcolmlarge <malcolmlarge@btinternet.com>, fineartdogs <chalek9@freegratis.net>, Jack Lovell <jack.lovell@monksmead.co.uk>, James Spackman <jamesspackman@hotmail.com>, Steve Brady <woolhamptonparishcouncil@hotmail.com>

Dear All

I am confident that I am not guilty of any misconduct in a public office. However, I can assure you that if, based on evidence provided by Cllr Spackman, the Parish Council concludes that I am guilty and passes a motion of no confidence, I will resign from the Chair.

I will also refer myself to the Monitoring Officer for a full investigation into his allegations.

Regards
Tony.

644.6 MATTERS ARISING OF MEETING HELD ON 21 JUNE 2016

- (a) Spring, New Road Hill; WBC propose to undertake this work during 2016/17, they cannot currently provide a date as to when.
- (b) Sunken boat near Woolhampton Lock; it was reported that the boat has not yet been removed.
- (c) A4 speed camera concerns; The Clerk advised that to date he had not forwarded the two questions posed to the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner. He agreed to forward a copy of the questions submitted to Councillor Mr J. Spackman.
- (d) Woolhampton Hill, road surface small holes, north of Victor Place; the Clerk advised that this has been reported to WBC.
- (e) S106 monies allocation to Douai Park; The Clerk advised that he has met with two Trustees of the Douai Park Recreation Association in order to move this item forward. He confirmed that he is making further enquires with WBC in order to establish if they hold other S106 funds that could be donated/allocated to the Douai Sports Project.
- (f) Over flowing bin (Woolhampton Canal); the Clerk advised that he is in discussion with WBC to determine if they were willing to install a bigger bin or an additional bin or if the collection frequency could be increased.
- (g) Potential monthly 'Friday Youth Club'; the Clerk confirmed that to date WBC Children's Services have not responded to his request for information/assistance with respect to a potential youth club in Woolhampton.
- (h) Scarecrow Hunt; Councillor Mrs E. Burke forwarded promotional literature to the Clerk who agreed to advertise the event on the website.
- (i) WBC Devolution Agenda; WBC Chief Executive is to be invited to a Parish Council meeting (possibly September 2016) to explain his thoughts and possible options for closer co-operation.

644.7 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 30 JUNE 2016

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 30th June 2016 having been previously circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

644.8 MATTERS ARISING OF MEETING HELD ON 30 JUNE 2016

None

The Vice Chairman Councillor Mr E. Wright in the Chair

644.9 NO CONFIDENCE MOTION REGARDING THE CONDUCT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL, COUNCILLOR MR T. RENOUF, RELATING TO THE DISTRICT / PARISH COUNCIL CONFERENCE HELD ON 22ND MARCH 2016 AND SUBSEQUENT ALLEGATIONS RAISED BY COUNCILLOR MR J. SPACKMAN IN HIS EMAIL TO ALL MEMBERS DATED 15TH JUNE 2016.

The Vice Chairman Councillor Mr E. Wright advised the meeting that following his email invitation to the Chairman Councillor Mr T. Renouf and Councillor Mr J. Spackman that they circulate any further information that they wished all members of the Council to consider in respect of this matter, only the Chairman Councillor Mr T. Renouf, had done so. Councillor Mr J. Spackman advised the meeting that he had not done so given the Clerk's email to members requesting that they should cease from circulating emails that were likely to cause upset and disharmony in the Council. Further, he did not think that a motion of no-confidence was the way forward to resolving his concerns. His concerns related to the Chairman's 'mal-communication' to him, relating to the Chairman not being able to attend the District / Parish Conference and on the question that the Chairman had been submitted to the conference in relation to 'shared services'.

Steve Brady, C/O 9 The Hampdens, Glendale Avenue, Wash Common, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 6TN. Tel: 07795631353
woolhamptonparishCouncil@hotmail.com

There then followed a discussion following which resolution of support in the Chairman Councillor Mr T. Renouf was proposed by the Vice Chairman Councillor Mr E. Wright. This was seconded by Councillor Mr G. Hale. Both the Chairman Councillor Mr T. Renouf and Councillor Mr J. Spackman did not vote. All other Councillors present, voted in favour of the motion.

644.10 NO CONFIDENCE MOTION IN RESPECT OF COUNCILLOR MR J. SPACKMAN ASSOCIATED WITH MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLOR MR J. SPACKMAN FOLLOWING THE DISTRICT / PARISH COUNCIL CONFERENCE HELD ON 22ND MARCH 2016.

Following a discussion the Vice Chairman Councillor Mr E. Wright proposed a motion of no confidence in relation to Councillor Mr J. Spackman. This was seconded by Councillor Mr J. Lovell. Following a vote, (NB. Councillor Mr J. Spackman did not vote) all other Councillors present voted in favour of the motion.

The Chairman Councillor Mr T. Renouf in the Chair

The Chairman Councillor Mr T. Renouf thanked the Council for its support. He proposed given the Council's vote of no confidence in Councillor Mr J. Spackman, that he no longer be the Council's lead for neighbourhood planning and that instead a working group be set up to explore this and any other potential options. Further, Councillor Mr J. Spackman when attending other neighbouring Parish Council meetings, should not act as the Council's 'official' spokesperson on matters relating to Woolhampton Parish Council. Following a discussion and a vote the proposals were agreed. Councillor Mr J. Spackman did not vote. The Clerk agreed that he would work with the Chairman Councillor Mr T. Renouf in producing terms of reference for any such working group.

644.11 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR MR DOMINIC BOECK

District Councillor Mr D. Boeck was unable to attend tonight's meeting and had asked that his apologies be noted.

644.12 STATEMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

- (a) A member of the public present questioned the motivation / interest of Councillor Mr J. Spackman in village. Councillor Mr J. Spackman stated that he lived in the village and that he had many village interests including the need to reduce speeding through the village. The member of the public continued that whilst she did not regularly attend Parish Council meetings, her late husband had done so. Having lived in Woolhampton for over 30 years, she was very supportive of the Parish Council and in particular its' Chairman for the last 15 or so years (Councillor Renouf) who has during this overseen the building of a new village hall, new allotments and a wonderful playground which was loved by her grandchildren. She stated that her late husband had worked with the Chairman to try to reduce speed through the village. Together they had been successful in having traffic islands placed along the A4 Bath Road at several key points.
- (b) A member of the public present stated that Councillor Mr J. Spackman should be explicit as to his allegations of misconduct by the Chairman. The making of such allegations was a serious matter and having sat through tonight's meeting she still did not know what they referred to.

644.13 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

The Chairman Councillor Mr T. Renouf noted the list of correspondence received by the Clerk since the last meeting held on the 21st June 2016.

PC

Andy Day <Andy.Day@westberks.gov.uk>
To: Tony Renouf <tony@renouf.me.uk>
Cc: Moira Fraser <Moira.Fraser@westberks.gov.uk>

27 June 2016 at 11:19

Hi Tony: A vote of no confidence does not enable a Parish Council to impose sanctions without due reason. The only thing that a Parish Council could do is to remove him from any Committees that they may have appointed him too. This would not include the Full Council meetings though. You would also need to be aware that if you do remove him from any committees he does have a right to attend them as a "member of the public" unless they are, of course, Part 11 meetings.

Best wishes

Andy Day

Head of Strategic Support

Strategic Support, West Berkshire Council, Market Street, Newbury RG14 5LD

(01635) 519459 Ext 2459 andy.day@westberks.gov.uk

www.westberks.gov.uk

From: parenouf@googlemail.com [mailto:parenouf@googlemail.com] **On Behalf Of** Tony Renouf
Sent: 27 June 2016 10:31
To: Andy Day
Cc: Woolhampton Parish Council
Subject: PC

[Quoted text hidden]

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