

Debbie Bunce

From: Cllr L. Bennison
Sent: 27 July 2017 10:59
To: Lisa Hastings
Cc: Martyn Knappett; Cllr. Mark Stephenson; Debbie Bunce
Subject: Re: confirmation of outcome of criminal proceedings - new Standards Complaints

Dear Lisa

Thank you for your email and I note your comment about the complainants not being elected members.

You are right not to believe everything you read in the paper. The Gazette did not send a reporter and phoned me to ask me to let them know the verdict. My Barrister rang them and gave them all the information that was required, including the Judge's summing up.

The Gazette saw fit not to report the summing up in which the Judge heavily criticised the police and the CPS for bringing the case to court. The CPS consistently withheld evidence, including the details of my independent witness which had been taken from me by the police on the day of the incident. The PCSO's pocket book was not made available until around 11.30am on the morning and I had not seen it since the day of the incident, although I had signed it whilst still in a state of shock. The PCSO had, incidentally, written that I had provided her with the registration number of the car, which was not the case, I had not written it down although others had.

The Judge was also highly critical of the complainant, who has a history of GBH with weapons and which was read out in court. He had argued with the prosecution, the defence and the Judge whilst on the witness stand. The Judge also questioned why my original complaint of dangerous driving endangering lives had not been followed up and commended me for taking action when others stood by.

I have applied to the court for a copy of the transcript for when I appear before the Standards committee.

I suspect I know the identity of the second complainant; he has already made himself known on the comments section of the Gazette.

I should be grateful for the opportunity to speak to an Independent Person and will contact Debbie Bunce since Martyn is a member of the choir in which I sing.

Regards
Lis Bennison

Cllr Lis Bennison
 Peter Bruff Ward
 Tendring District Council
 07854 604368

From: Lisa Hastings <lhastings@tendringdc.gov.uk>
To: Cllr L. Bennison <lisbennison@btinternet.com>
Cc: Martyn Knappett <mknappett@tendringdc.gov.uk>; Cllr. Mark Stephenson <cllr.mstephenson@tendringdc.gov.uk>; Debbie Bunce <dbunce@tendringdc.gov.uk>
Sent: Thursday, July 27, 2017 9:21 AM
Subject: RE: confirmation of outcome of criminal proceedings - new Standards Complaints

Dear Councillor Bennison

Debbie Bunce

From: Cllr L. Bennison
Sent: 25 August 2017 09:37
To: Lisa Hastings; Cllr. Lis Bennison
Cc: Debbie Bunce; Cllr. Mark Stephenson
Subject: Re: Complaints alleging breach of the Code of Conduct

Dear Lisa

Thank you for your email and attached documentation. I was out yesterday so apologise for not replying sooner.

Following my meeting with Debbie Bunce and John Wolton on Friday 18th August, I have emailed Debbie a document further to a decision that was made at that meeting. I have asked Debbie to let me know if any amendments need to be made.

Kind regards

Lis Bennison

Cllr Lis Bennison
Peter Bruff Ward
Tendring District Council
07854 604368

From: Lisa Hastings <lhastings@tendringdc.gov.uk>
To: Cllr. Lis Bennison <cldr.lbennison@tendringdc.gov.uk>
Cc: Debbie Bunce <dbunce@tendringdc.gov.uk>; Cllr. Mark Stephenson <cldr.mstephenson@tendringdc.gov.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, August 23, 2017 10:16 PM
Subject: Complaints alleging breach of the Code of Conduct

Dear Councillor Bennison,

Please find attached a letter enclosing my Decision Notice and setting out the next steps in this matter, the contents of which are hopefully self-explanatory. Do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Hastings Dip.L.G.
Head of Governance and Legal Services
& Monitoring Officer
Corporate Services
Tendring District Council

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I wish to put on record my sincere apologies for any embarrassment caused to Tendring District Council or grievance to the people of Clacton resulting from my conviction for an assault, taking place at the 2016 Clacton Airshow.

On that day, there were no police nor officials near to my brochure selling point and, therefore, as a quasi-representative of authority I felt obliged to try to stop a man dangerously driving at speed so very close to spectators. I had to make an immediate decision of action to save lives, including those of very young children. Memories of very recent terrorist murders of the innocent by a man in Nice careering a vehicle into crowds also entered my mind. Having had no police nor crowd control training, I did what I thought necessary to stop this current danger. It seems that I was unintentionally over-zealous.

Regrettably, an altercation took place with the man, Mr Chandler, but only over a matter of a few seconds, during which time he punched me in the face and used loud, disgusting, threatening language and my hand accidentally touched his face. All I had tried to do was prevent injury or worse to spectators at our Airshow.

For this I was prosecuted for assault but, unaccountably, Essex Police have taken no action whatsoever against Chandler.

In his judgement, the District Judge said Chandler drove in a thoroughly dangerous manner and said he admired me for taking action. He called Chandler a 'boorish bloke' and a 'boorish oaf' and found that he had assaulted me and had thought of nobody's safety.

He sentenced me to an Absolute Discharge, strongly stating that there would be no award for prosecution or victim costs. The Judge also strongly criticised the CPS for bring this prosecution and could not conceive why Chandler was not prosecuted for careless driving, threatening behaviour and assault on me.

I would add that he and my barrister advised that this sentence immediately became a spent conviction. I would ask you to read the attached judgement transcript, together with the Section 44 OPA 1861 referred to in the Judge's summing up, to confirm all that I state, and accept newspaper reporting for what it is: wilful journalistic misrepresentation designed to sell newspapers, using the familiar witch-hunt of public bodies and their personnel.

I hope this helps you in your deliberations and I reiterate my deep regret for any hurt to the Council or local residents, no less of course than for the terrible anguish caused to myself and my family. I wish never to be placed in that position again when representing the Council in any way.

Lisbeth Bennison

23rd August 2017
