

Hampshire County Council

Weightmans' reference: SG/112705/2

Report of an investigation into an allegation concerning the conduct of
Councillor Sean Woodward of Hampshire County Council

SG 1

Part 4

Codes and protocols

Appendix A – Code of Conduct for Members

Part 1: General Provisions and Interpretation

1. Introduction

This Code of Conduct is adopted by the County Council pursuant to its statutory duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members and Co-opted Members of the County Council. This Code applies to all Members and Co-opted Members of the County Council.

This Code is based on and is consistent with the principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership as referred to in the Localism Act 2011.

In the interests of transparency and openness, and in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, a copy of the Register of Members' Interests is published on the County Council's website, and is available for public inspection at the County Council's offices at all reasonable hours.

2. Scope

This Code applies to all Members and Co-opted Members of the County Council when acting in their official capacity, or when giving the impression that they are acting as a representative of the County Council.

Where a Member or Co-opted Member is a member of more than one local authority, but acting on behalf of the County Council, such Member or Co-opted Member is, for the avoidance of doubt, bound by this Code of Conduct.

3. General obligations of Members and Co-opted Members

As a Member of Hampshire County Council, your conduct will address the principles of the Code of Conduct by:

- 3.1 Representing the needs of residents, and putting their interests first.

- 3.2 Dealing with representations or enquiries from residents, members of communities within the administrative area of Hampshire County Council and visitors fairly, appropriately and impartially.
- 3.3 Not allowing other pressures, including the financial interests of yourself or others connected to you, to deter you from pursuing constituents' casework, the interests of the County Council's area, or the good governance of the County Council in a proper manner.
- 3.4 Exercising independent judgement and not compromising your position by placing yourself under obligations to outside individuals or organisations who might seek to influence the way you perform your duties.
- 3.5 Listening to the interests of all parties, including relevant advice from statutory and other professional officers of the County Council, taking all relevant information into consideration, remaining objective and making decisions on merit.
- 3.6 Being accountable for your decisions and co-operating when scrutinised internally and externally.
- 3.7 Contributing to making the County Council's decision-making processes as open and transparent as possible.
- 3.8 Restricting access to information when the wider public interest, the County Council's Constitution, or the law requires it.
- 3.9 Behaving in accordance with all the County Council's legal obligations, the County Council's policies, protocols and procedures.
- 3.10 Ensuring that when using or authorising the use by others of the resources of the County Council that such resources are not used improperly for political purposes.
- 3.11 Having regard to any applicable Local Authority Code of Publicity made under the Local Government Act 1986 or otherwise.
- 3.12 Not knowingly doing anything which might cause the County Council to breach any legislation.
- 3.13 Valuing your colleagues and Officers of the County Council and engaging with them in an appropriate manner.
- 3.14 Always treating all people and organisations with respect and propriety.
- 3.15 Providing leadership through behaving in accordance with these principles.

Part 2: Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

1. Introduction

A disclosable pecuniary interest is an interest falling within the Schedule set out at Paragraph 3 below of:

- 1.1 Yourself; or
- 1.2 Your spouse or civil partner, or someone you are living with as if you were husband and wife or civil partners, where you are aware that that other person has the interest.

2. Interpretation

In the Schedule set out at Paragraph 3 below, the following words or expressions mean as follows:

- 2.1 'the Act' means the Localism Act 2011;
- 2.2 'body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest' means a firm in which the relevant person is a partner or a body corporate of which the relevant person is a director, or in the securities of which the relevant person has a beneficial interest;
- 2.3 'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society;
- 2.4 'land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not carry with it a right for the relevant person (alone or jointly with another) to occupy the land or to receive income;
- 2.5 'M' means a member of a relevant authority;
- 2.6 'member' includes a co-opted member;
- 2.7 'relevant authority' means Hampshire County Council of which M is a member;
- 2.8 'relevant period' means the period of 12 months ending with the day on which M gives a notification for the purposes of Section 30(1) or Section 31(7), as the case may be, of the Act;
- 2.9 'securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (2000 c. 8) and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

3. Schedule of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Subject	Prescribed description
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 relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by M in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of M. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 (1992 c. 52).
Contracts	Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant 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.
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to M's knowledge): (a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and (b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where: (a) that body (to M's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and

	<p>(b) either:</p> <p>(i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</p> <p>(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 relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.</p>
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Part 3: Registration and Disclosure of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

1. Obligations

- 1.1 You must, within 28 days of taking office as a Member or Co-opted Member of the County Council, notify the County Council's Monitoring Officer of any disclosable pecuniary interests as defined by regulations made by the Secretary of State (as set out at Part 2 of this Code), where the pecuniary interest is yours, your spouse's or civil partner's, or is the pecuniary interest of somebody with whom you are living with as a husband or wife, or as if you were civil partners.
- 1.2 You must also, within 28 days of becoming aware of any new disclosable pecuniary interest, or change thereto, notify the County Council's Monitoring Officer of such new or changed interest.
- 1.3 If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest included on the Register of Members' Interests, you must disclose this interest at any meeting of the County Council, its Committees or the Executive at which you are present and participating in the business. Such interest should be disclosed at the commencement of consideration of the business or when the interest becomes apparent. You do not need to disclose details of the interest itself.
- 1.4 If a disclosable pecuniary interest has not been entered onto the County Council's Register of Interests, then you must also disclose the interest to any meeting of the County Council, its Committees or the Executive at which you are present where you have such an interest in any matter being considered. Such interest should be disclosed at the commencement of consideration of the business or when the interest becomes apparent. You do not need to disclose details of the interest itself. Following disclosure of a disclosable pecuniary interest not on the County Council's Register or the

subject of pending notification, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of such interest within 28 days, beginning with the date of disclosure.

- 1.5 Unless a dispensation has been granted by the County Council, you may not participate in any discussion of, vote on, or discharge any function related to any matter in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest. You must as soon as it becomes apparent that you have such an interest (save for in circumstances set out at Paragraph 1.6 below) withdraw from the chamber or room where the meeting considering the business is being held, and must not seek improperly to influence a decision about that business. If acting as a single Executive Member you may not take any further steps in relation to the matter other than for the purpose of arranging for the matter to be dealt with otherwise than by yourself.
- 1.6 Without prejudice to Paragraph 1.5 above where you have a disclosable pecuniary interest in any business of the County Council (including any meeting of a Select Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the County Council) you may, notwithstanding such disclosable pecuniary interest, attend such meeting for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to such business, provided members of the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise.

Part 4: Registration of Gifts and Hospitality

- 1 You must, within 28 days of receipt, notify the County Council's Monitoring Officer of any gift or hospitality you receive, if such gift or hospitality has an estimated value of at least £50.

Part 5: Registration and Disclosure of Personal Interests

1. Without prejudice to requirements contained at Part 3 of this Code in respect of the Registration and Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests, you may in addition notify the County Council's Monitoring Officer of any Personal Interests you consider it appropriate to be entered on the Register of Members' Interests.
2. You have a "personal interest" in an item of business where it relates to or is likely to affect any of the following bodies of which you are a member: a public or charitable body, any body to which you have been appointed by the authority, any political party, trade union or other body one of whose principal purposes is to influence public opinion or policy.
3. You also have a "personal interest" in an item of business where a decision in relation to it might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well being or financial position of yourself, a member of your family or person with whom you have a close association, more than other council tax

payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the authority's area.

4. You shall disclose a "personal interest" at a meeting of the County Council, its Committees or the Executive, where you consider that interest to be relevant to an item of business being considered at that meeting. The disclosure shall be made at the commencement of the meeting, or when the interest becomes apparent, and shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
5. Disclosure of a personal interest does not affect your ability to participate in discussion or vote on the relevant item, provided it is not also a disclosable pecuniary interest. If you consider, having taken advice in appropriate circumstances, you should not participate in the business being considered, you should leave the chamber or room where the business is being considered, after exercising any right to speak which a member of the public would have.

Hampshire County Council

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Report of an investigation into an allegation concerning the conduct of
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SG 2

Ref: W112705/2

Complaint about Councillor Sean Woodward – Hampshire County Council

Note of interview with Russell Collier, 6 March 2020

- 1 The interview was conducted by Simon Goacher, Weightmans LLP (SG).
- 2 SG outlined the process that would follow and explained that, although ultimately if the matter reached the Standards Committee it could decide to hear the evidence in public, the investigation should be treated as confidential.
- 3 Russell Collier ("RC") confirmed that he had made a complaint against Cllr Woodward ("SW") of Hampshire Council ("the Council"). RC confirmed that the complaint was accurate to the best of his knowledge and he wished the complaint to be pursued
- 4 RC explained that he first became aware of SW through The Rockets Motorcycle Display Team ("the Rockets").
- 5 RC explained that the Rockets applied for grants from the Council and from Fareham Borough Council ("FBC"). RC stated that the grant application to the Council was for £15,000 to be matched by FBC. He stated that the limit for such grants had been raised by FBC from £5,000 to £15,000. RC stated that all of the information which he had about the grant application came from SW and [REDACTED].
- 6 RC stated that he was told by [REDACTED] and SW that the decision by the Council about the grant had been brought forward. He stated that this was in around May/April 2019. He stated that the new leader of the Council had been due to appoint a new cabinet at 10.00am on a day so the decision on the grant had been brought forward to 9.30 in case SW was replaced as the cabinet member. RC stated that he was told this by SW and [REDACTED] before the meeting to take the decision had taken place. RC stated that he could not remember the specific date when the conversation had taken place and he had nothing in writing about it.
- 7 RC stated that SW had turned up at every training event, show and events for the Rockets.
- 8 SG asked RC about a comment in the complaint about texts which he said Jason Morris ("JM") had told him about which [REDACTED] had sent to him about SW "being creepy". RC stated that he had not seen the texts himself but had been told by JM about them. RC stated that he had himself witnessed SW being very creepy towards [REDACTED] – being very touchy feely. He said that [REDACTED] had been constantly calling him about it but then had also said that SW was not that bad. He stated that [REDACTED] had said that she just needed to keep SW on a short reign and that he would be very useful. RC stated that he got the impression that SW was stalking [REDACTED] and he was worried about her.
- 9 RC stated that for example a car crashed outside [REDACTED] house and SW called her to say that he happened to be in the area when it happened. RC stated that SW lives about 5–6 miles away from [REDACTED] which is about a 20–25 minute journey.
- 10 RC stated that he and JM raised their concerns with [REDACTED] but it was all very tongue in cheek as they were friends and got on well. He explained that they had set up the Rockets together. [REDACTED] He stated

that ■ was influenced by SW's power and status. RC stated that ■ was closer to JM. He said that both ■ and JM had said to him that SW was obsessed with ■.

11 [REDACTED]

12 RC stated that SW also kept ringing chief inspector ■ of Hampshire Police. RC stated that ■ had told him that he had told SW to leave him alone because SW was always asking him for favours. RC stated that SW thought ■ was his borough commander but he is not. RC stated that during the altercation near ■ home which had led to complaints to Hampshire Police SW had told RC that he was on the phone to his borough commander.

13 RC stated that he had just wanted all of this to go away but SW was pursuing them and interfering with his life. He stated that SW had got him placed on directed duties.

14 [REDACTED]

15 SG asked RC about the statement in the complaint that SW had written up and signed off the grants himself. RC stated that ■ had told them that. He stated that they did not know about these grants but SW told them about it. RC stated that ■ asked SW how to do it. RC explained that when they did an audit there were emails back and forward between ■ and SW about the application. RC stated that one of the application was done in his name and ■ had told him that SW had approved it.

16 RC stated there was a grant which had been given to them of £2,000 for grants. He stated that SW had been told that they no longer needed the ramps and SW had told them that as long as they spent it on other things for the Rockets they could do so. He stated that they sent it on clothing for the children. RC stated that SW told them that they could do it but when they fell out he complained about it. He stated that he assumed that it was ■ or SW who had complained about it. RC stated that they had been told this by SW before they received the grant. RC stated that he had nothing in writing about this. RC stated that the Council was now threatening the Rockets with legal action to recover the grant.

17 RC stated that the £15,000 grant was also stopped by the Council. He stated that they asked the Council why it had been stopped. He stated that they were told that FBC had stopped their grant so the Council had stopped theirs too.

18 RC stated that ■ tried to get a grant for her new team as she had a grand plan to buy a lorry. He stated that eventually she realised it would look bad so withdrew the application but the lorry was bought using sponsorship money instead.

19 SG outlined the process that would follow including the possibility that the agreed note of the interview would be made public by the Council's Standards Committee.

Simon Goacher, Weightmans LLP
20 March 2020

I agree that this is a true and accurate record of the interview.
Also members

Signed.....R A Collier
Russell Collier

Dated...20/03/2020.....

Hampshire County Council

Weightmans' reference: SG/112705/2

Report of an investigation into an allegation concerning the conduct of
Councillor Sean Woodward of Hampshire County Council

SG 3

Complaint about Councillor Sean Woodward – Hampshire County Council

Note of interview with Jason Morris, 6 March 2020

- 1 The interview was conducted by Simon Goacher, Weightmans LLP (SG).
- 2 SG outlined the process that would follow and explained that, although ultimately if the matter reached the Standards Committee it could decide to hear the evidence in public, the investigation should be treated as confidential.
- 3 Jason Morris ("JM") confirmed that he had made a complaint against Cllr Woodward ("SW") of Hampshire Council ("the Council"). JM confirmed that the complaint was accurate to the best of his knowledge and he wished the complaint to be pursued
- 4 SG asked JM about a comment in his complaint that SW managed to secure two training grounds for The Rockets Motorcycle Display Team ("the Rockets"). JM stated that this did not seem out of place at the time it was in the early days of SW's involvement. He stated that the first site was Knowle Village field which was great at the time and he understood it belonged to a local developer who subsequently obtained planning permission to build on the site. He stated that the Rockets subsequently moved. JM stated that he had no specific information to suggest that there was anything untoward in this.
- 5 JM stated that SW gave a grant of £2,000 to the Rockets from his personal grant. He stated that this was allocated to buy some ramps. He stated that he said to ██████████ ██████████ that they were getting the ramps free from SEMMCO as part of sponsorship. He said that ██████████ said that she would talk to SW about it. He stated that ██████████ told him that SW had said it was ok and they would put it down as being used for ramps but as long as they used it for the team that was fine. JM stated that this did not sit well with him and he told ██████████ it would come back to bite them but ██████████ said that SW had said it was fine.
- 6 JM stated that this had now come back to bite them. He explained that a complaint had been made to the Council that the money had not been used for the purpose it had been granted. He stated that he assumed that the complaint had been made to the Council about this, he assumed by ██████████ or SW. He stated that the Council had asked for the money back. JM stated that ██████████ did all the accounts for this. He said that ██████████ had completed the application for this grant with help from SW.
- 7 SG asked JM about the comment in his complaint that SW had completed the grant application for the £15,000 grant, how did he know that? He said that ██████████ had said to him that SW had done the application. He stated that they also applied for a grant of £15,000 from Fareham Borough Council ("FBC"). He stated that FBC had increased the level of the grant from £5,000 to £15,000. JM stated that all of the information he had about the grant application came from ██████████. He stated that it was ██████████ who told him that SW had written the application.
- 8 JM stated that at that time ██████████ did not want the same out of the relationship with SW as SW did. He stated that one day he received a telephone call from ██████████ asking him if he would go round to her house because SW was there and would not leave and was getting touchy feely. He stated that the call was at 9.30pm and he went to ██████████ house. JM stated that his wife was not very happy when he told her what was happening. He

stated that he went to [redacted]'s house and made an excuse for being there and SW left. He stated that [redacted] thanked him and said that SW had been getting full on. He stated that he left straight afterwards.

9 [redacted] JM stated that [redacted] told him that she knew what she was doing, she would get the grant sorted [redacted].

10 JM stated that he received a couple of texts from [redacted] stating that SW was being creepy. JM stated that he no longer had those texts. JM explained that when [redacted] left the Rockets he deleted all her texts and social media.

11 JM stated that [redacted] got into a panic about getting the grant. He explained that [redacted] told him that the executive leadership of the Council was due to change at 10.00am on a particular day and the leader could choose to replace SW and he might not be in a position to sign off the grant. JM stated that he had an email from the Council saying when the grant would be being discussed which he would send SG.

12 JM stated that all the information which he had about the grant came from [redacted], he had not had any direct discussions with SW. JM stated that he had not had much direct contact with SW apart from him coming to the Rockets' events.

13 JM stated that he had challenged SW about driving a mazda car which he had obtained through sponsorship. He stated that SW had told him that he was insured. JM stated that he checked with mazda who told him that SW was not insured. JM stated that when he told SW this SW said that he was insured through the Council's insurance.

14 [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

15 JM stated that the grants were pulled away. He stated that they were not told much. He stated that they suspected that [redacted] had taken the grants over to the new outfit she had set up. He said they found out that she had withdrawn her applications for grants but had been given a very large grant upwards of £30,000 from a local developer.

16 SG outlined the process that would follow including the possibility that the agreed note of the interview would be made public by the Council's Standards Committee.

Simon Goacher, Weightmans LLP
23 March 2020

I agree that this is a true and accurate record of the interview.

Signed.....Jason Morris
Jason Morris

Dated.....

Hampshire County Council

Weightmans' reference: SG/112705/2

Report of an investigation into an allegation concerning the conduct of
Councillor Sean Woodward of Hampshire County Council

SG 4

Complaint about Councillor Sean Woodward – Hampshire County Council

Note of interview with Felicity Roe, 6 March 2020

- 1 The interview was conducted by Simon Goacher, Weightmans LLP (SG).
- 2 SG outlined the process that would follow and explained that, although ultimately if the matter reached the Standards Committee it could decide to hear the evidence in public, the investigation should be treated as confidential.
- 3 Felicity Roe ("FR") confirmed that she was employed by Hampshire Council ("the Council") as its Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services. She explained that she has been in post since December 2018. She stated that Cllr Woodward ("SW") is the cabinet member for some of her services.
- 4 FR explained that each Council member has a budget of £8,000 per year for local grants. She stated that payments out of these budgets are approved by the members themselves and administered by member services.
- 5 FR stated that her directorate oversees the Recreation and Community Heritage Fund grants. She stated that part of her department's budget is set aside for these grants. She explained that the grants are administered in accordance with criteria and applications are made online. She stated that administrative staff vet all applications and then if they meet the criteria put them to SW as the cabinet member to approve. She explained that there will be a report to SW which will either recommend the grant for approval or if it is not recommended for approval set out the reasons why.
- 6 FR stated that SW's decisions are published. She stated that there is usually one report with a fairly long appendix with details of all of the grants.
- 7 FR explained that [REDACTED] who works in her team had produced a note setting out the chronology and actions in relation to the grant applications made by The Rockets Motorcycle Display Team ("the Rockets") and the Solent Stars Motorcycle Display Team ("Solent Stars"). She stated that she had limited direct involvement with SW over the grants and most of the discussions or emails had been with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] another officer in her department.
- 8 FR stated that SW became the cabinet member in May 2018. She stated that he spoke to [REDACTED] some time afterwards about how funding worked. He wanted to change the system of funding and to widen the criteria. She stated that the system was changed in accordance with SW's wishes in January 2019.
- 9 FR stated that there were two conversations between SW and [REDACTED] in the lead up to the decision in January 2019. She explained that there were no notes of the discussions but [REDACTED] recalled them. FR explained that SW had told [REDACTED] that there was a grant by a motorcycle club coming up.
- 10 FR stated that immediately after the changes to the grant scheme were approved on 14 January 2019 SW talked to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] about his preferred approach to the new grants and specifically mentioned a grant of £15,000 towards the costs of a lorry for a children's motorcycle team.

- 11 FR stated that on 19 March 2019 SW had emailed ■, on behalf of the Rockets, stating that after partially completing the application form they had lost it.
- 12 FR stated that there were then a further 8 emails between SW and ■ about issues to do with the grant application. FR stated that in one of the emails SW asked when the grant application would come to him for a decision and ■ replied hopefully the decision day in May 2019.
- 13 FR stated that the application by the Rockets was submitted in March 2019 but it lacked detail and ■ requested more information.
- 14 FR stated that throughout March and April 2019 SW spoke to her about getting his HGV driver's licence.
- 15 FR stated that SW had telephoned ■ to ask the May decision day to be moved. She stated that there was no written record of the conversation but an email from ■ to FR confirmed that ■ had asked for the day to be moved.
- 16 FR stated that ■, an officer in the Council's democratic services team, emailed SW on 17 April 2019 stating that it was not possible to bring the decision day forward to April and suggested 7 May 2019 in the afternoon. FR stated that SW responded saying yes to 7 May 2019 but saying he wanted the decision day to be in the morning.
- 17 FR explained at the time the Council was in the process of selecting a new leader as the previous leader had retired. She explained that the new leader was due to be appointed by the Council on the afternoon of 7 May 2019. She stated that the new leader would then appoint their cabinet, so SW might not have been the cabinet member after that.
- 18 FR stated that SW said that he had an interest and asked Cllr Heron ("EH") to make the decision on the grant application.
- 19 In response to a question on whether SW left the room whilst EH made the decision, Felicity stated that he did not leave the room, but that leaving the room would NOT be a normal process within the County Council decision making. She stated that she did not know whether there had been any discussion about the application between Cllr Woodward and Cllr Heron.
- 20 FR stated that the officer recommendation was to approve the application. She stated that they felt under pressure with the application. She stated that the number of emails from SW on this application was very unusual. She stated that she was in no doubt that the moving of the decision day was due to the Rockets grant application. She stated that this was very unusual.
- 21 FR stated that the grant was approved and an email was sent to the Rockets on 7 May 2019 confirming this which was followed by a formal offer letter on 21 May 2019. She stated that Russel Collier signed the letter on behalf of the Rockets on 22 May 2019 and returned the completed BACS form.
- 22 FR stated that on 14 May 2019 SW telephoned ■ to say that one of the directors, ■, had left the Rockets and had set up a separate CIC and all contracts

were to be novated to the new organisation. SW asked if the Council could transfer the grant to the new organisation and said that Fareham Borough Council ("FBC") would be transferring its grant. FR stated that ■ asked ■ for more details which ■ provided on 17 June 2019. FR stated that ■ then spoke to David Kelly ("DK"), the head of legal services about the situation. FR stated that on 18 June 2019 the Council received a letter from solicitors on behalf of two of the three directors of the Rockets stating that the grant should go to the Rockets and not ■'s new company.

- 23 FR stated that on 18 June 2019 EH received an email from a director of the ■ Children's Motorcycle Display Team asking why the Rockets had been awarded £15,000 which was giving them an advantage over other similar organisations.
- 24 FR stated that on 19 June 2019 SW telephoned ■ and said that he did not want the grant to be paid to either organisation. He stated that FBC had also received a letter from a solicitor and would not be giving a grant. FR stated that SW also told ■ that he had been witness to an assault which was being investigated by the police.
- 25 FR stated that on 19 June 2019 ■ emailed SW asking for details of the assault which he provided.
- 26 FR stated that on 19 June 2019 SW emailed ■ to say that FBC had cancelled their grant application for the Rockets. She stated that ■ received an email from FBC confirming this later that day.
- 27 FR stated that on 4 July 2019 the Council's legal department sent out a letter to the Rockets confirming no grant would be paid.
- 28 FR stated that ■ made a fresh application on behalf of Solent Stars to the Council on 2 October 2019. FR stated that a considerable amount of information was missing. She stated that on the same date as the grant was submitted SW also telephoned ■ saying that he was keen for a decision to be made as soon as possible. FR stated that there was no written record of that telephone conversation. FR stated that the officers concerned had never previously experienced a member of the Council put as much pressure on in relation to a grant application.
- 29 FR stated that ■ emailed SW on 22 October 2019 at 11.17 am and advised him that the advice of the legal department was that the grant should not be awarded. She stated that at 11.25am SW telephoned ■ to ask why the application was not eligible for a grant when FBC was awarding one. FR stated that ■ told SW that a complaint had been made to EH, that the Council only had one quote for the work and that the majority of the application was now mostly for the fit out as the vehicle had been bought and this was not really within the grant criteria.
- 30 FR stated that on that same day ■ telephoned DK. FR stated that 11.40am SW telephoned ■ and told her that he had spoken to Barbara Beardwell, the Council's head of law and governance, who had said she was looking at it in more detail. FR stated that SW explained to ■ that the fit out costs were due to conditions laid down by The Showman's Guild.
- 31 FR stated that on 24 October 2019 ■ sent the Council further information about the Showman's Guild.

- 32 FR stated that in early November 2019 the Council's grants team advised ■ that it had not been able to process the Solent Stars grant application in time for the November decision day.
- 33 FR stated that on 21 November 2019 ■ emailed the Council to withdraw the grant application and they had, "many new recruits and a number of show bookings for 2020" which meant that they could pay for the lorry to be fitted out.
- 34 FR stated that SW never said that he had any interest in the Solent Stars grant application but she had no doubt that he would have declared an interest and would not have made the decision had it proceeded. She stated that SW had showed a member of staff at the Council a video of him driving the Solent Stars lorry.
- 35 SG outlined the process that would follow including the possibility that the agreed note of the interview would be made public by the Council's Standards Committee.

Simon Goacher, Weightmans LLP
19 March 2020

I agree that this is a true and accurate record of the interview.

Also members

Signed.....
Felicity Roe

Dated.....2nd June 2020.....

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SG 5

Ref: W112705/2

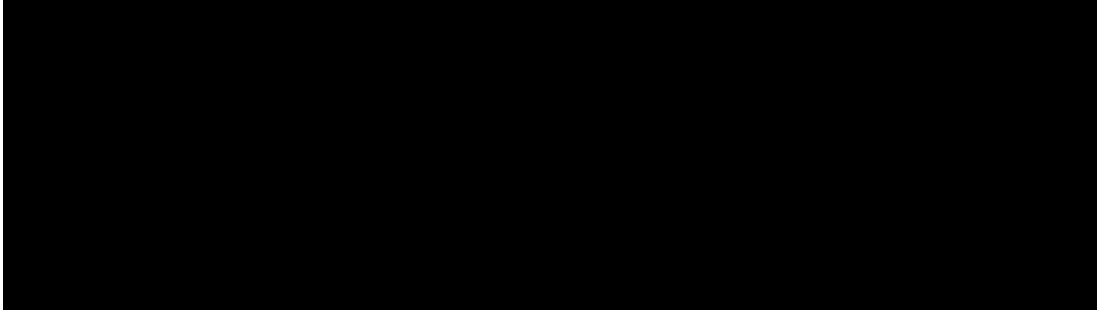
Complaint about Councillor Sean Woodward – Hampshire County Council

Note of interview with Cllr Edward Heron, 6 March 2020

- 1 The interview was conducted by Simon Goacher, Weightmans LLP (SG).
- 2 SG outlined the process that would follow and explained that, although ultimately if the matter reached the Standards Committee it could decide to hear the evidence in public, the investigation should be treated as confidential.
- 3 Cllr Heron ("EH") confirmed that he is a member of Hampshire Council ("the Council"). He explained that he has been a member for approximately 12 years. He explained that he has been an executive member for just over a year.
- 4 EH explained that executive members make a lot of decisions in their roles. He stated that he has done quite a few of them for other members, it is not common but not that unusual either.
- 5 He stated that if an executive member has an interest they go to the leader of the Council and he agrees that a decision can be made by another executive member. He stated that he is often in the Council's offices on decision days so can make a decision for others.
- 6 EH stated that as far as he could recall Cllr Woodward ("SW") did not discuss with him what his interest was in the application by the Rockets Motorcycle Display Team ("the Rockets"). He stated that he still did not know what SW's interest was. He said that either the application would be considered at his own decision day though it used to be more common that he would attend SW's decision day and take over for that item.
- 7 EH stated that this application might have been the first he did for another member, it was certainly the first for SW. He stated that he always asks officers if they have anything to add to their reports on such applications.
- 8 SG asked EH if SW left the room whilst he considered the application by the Rockets. EH stated that he did not think that SW did leave the room. EH stated that he approved the decision. He stated that he probably stayed for the rest of the meeting, he explained that decision day meetings are not usually that long.
- 9 EH stated that he had not had any discussions with SW about the application since the meeting. He stated that he had received an email on 17 June 2019 from a gentleman inquiring why the grant to the Rockets had been made. He stated that he referred the letter to the director for a response. He stated that he had also been copied in to an email from the Council saying that the grant would not be paid.
- 10 EH stated that there was no discussion of the details of the application and SW did not raise any issues. EH stated that he would have assumed that SW and the director would not have any issues with the application if it was coming to decision day. EH stated that he would have raised concerns if he had any. He stated that SW never discussed the application with him and never placed any pressure on him to reach a particular decision.

11 SG outlined the process that would follow including the possibility that the agreed note of the interview would be made public by the Council's Standards Committee.

Simon Goacher, Weightmans LLP



Cllr Edward I



Dated 24th March 2020

Hampshire County Council

Weightmans' reference: SG/112705/2

Report of an investigation into an allegation concerning the conduct of
Councillor Sean Woodward of Hampshire County Council

SG 6

Ref: W112705/2

Complaint about Councillor Sean Woodward – Hampshire County Council

Note of interview with Cllr Keith Evans, 6 March 2020

- 1 The interview was conducted by Simon Goacher, Weightmans LLP (SG).
- 2 SG outlined the process that would follow and explained that, although ultimately if the matter reached the Standards Committee it could decide to hear the evidence in public, the investigation should be treated as confidential.
- 3 Cllr Evans ("KE") confirmed that he is a member of Hampshire Council ("the Council") He explained that he has been a member for approximately 14 years.
- 4 KE stated that if a councillor feels that they have an interest in an application to them for a grant from their budget then they can ask another councillor to endorse their decision. KE stated that Cllr Woodward ("SW") had asked him on one or two occasions if he would look at an application.
- 5 SG asked KE about an application for a grant by the Rockets Motorcycle Display Team. KE stated that SW had asked him to look at it because he had an interest but he did not know what that interest was. He stated that he just looked at, whether it was reasonable and if he would agree to it. He stated that he looked at it in exactly the same way as he would an application he had received in his own area.
- 6 KE stated that SW emailed him asking if he would look at the application. He stated that SW did not tell him what his interest was and he did not ask.
- 7 KE explained that the system is online, he did not see anything on paper. He stated that he sent back a message to SW saying that he was happy with the application. He stated that as he was only counter signing it he would not hear the outcome.
- 8 KE stated that he had no concerns about the application. He explained that there are two types of applications depending on financial levels for the higher amounts more data is required. He stated that the onus is on the applicant to provide the information. He stated that it is a quick process and if it is approved the officers process the payments unless they have any concerns.
- 9 KE stated that he had not discussed the grant with SW since it was made.
- 10 SG outlined the process that would follow including the possibility that the agreed note of the interview would be made public by the Council's Standards Committee.

Simon Goacher, Weightmans LLP
23 March 2020

I agree that this is a true and accurate record of the interview.

Signed.....
Cllr Keith Evans

Dated.....

Hampshire County Council

Weightmans' reference: SG/112705/2

Report of an investigation into an allegation concerning the conduct of
Councillor Sean Woodward of Hampshire County Council

SG 7

Ref: W112705/2

Complaint about Councillor Seán Woodward – Hampshire County Council

Note of interview with Cllr Seán Woodward, 6 March 2020

- 1 The interview was conducted by Simon Goacher, Weightmans LLP (SG).
- 2 SG outlined the process that would follow and explained that, although ultimately if the matter reached the Standards Committee it could decide to hear the evidence in public, the investigation should be treated as confidential.
- 3 Cllr Woodward ("SW") confirmed that he is a member of Hampshire Council ("the Council"). He explained that he has been a member for approximately 15 years. He explained that he has been the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage since May 2018 and had previously been the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment between 2013 and 2016.
- 4 SW confirmed that he had received no training that he could recall on the code of conduct in his role as a member of Hampshire County Council ("HCC"). He explained that as well as being a member of the Council he is also the leader of Fareham Borough Council ("FBC"). He confirmed that he understood the requirement to comply with the code of conduct whilst acting as a councillor.
- 5 SG explained that he had been asked by the Council's monitoring officer to investigate complaints which had been made about SW's role in the applications by the Rockets Motorcycle Display Team Community Interest Company ("the Rockets") to the Council for grants. SW stated that the complainants had made complaints to the Council and also to the Conservative Party and FBC. He stated that all the other complaints had been rejected with the conclusion that there had been no breach of the code of conduct. There had also been a complaint to the police which similarly was not upheld. He stated that he believed that letters had gone out to the complainants in the last few days from FBC informing them that their complaints were not upheld and there had been no breach of the FBC code of conduct.
- 6 SW stated that he first heard from the Rockets in July 2018. He explained that one of the complainants, Jason Morris ("JM") came to see him together with another director of the Rockets, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. He stated that they contacted him as they were not going to be able to stay on their training site in Millbrook and asked for his help. He stated that he found a field in Knowle for them and when he contacted [REDACTED] to tell her she was delighted. SW stated that he had never heard of the Rockets or met any of them before this. The other complainant, Russell Collier ("RC") was not present at the meeting.
- 7 SW stated that in October 2018 [REDACTED] contacted him again and asked if he would like to go and watch one of the Rockets training sessions and to present the trophies at their award ceremony. SW stated that he was impressed by what he saw when he attended with his son. He stated that the Rockets had 12 or more youngsters and families involved in a wholesome activity. He stated that they told him that they wanted to build the team and get more equipment and some transport for moving the equipment.

- 8 SW stated that in January 2019 a grant application was made to the Council. He explained that each councillor has £8,000 available to make grants to organisations in their area.
- 9 SW stated that he had been very impressed with ■ as an individual. He stated that they are always looking for candidates to stand in local elections. He stated that he went to see her in November 2018 to talk with her about the possibility of becoming a councillor. She agreed to think about it.
- 10 SW explained that ■ was also involved in marketing and the healthcare company he owns a 50% share in was looking for a marketing assistant. He stated that ■ began working for the company. He stated that he is not involved in the day to day management of the company. He stated that the grant application from the Rockets came in just after the time ■ had started to work for the company.
- 11 SW stated that he thought that as ■ was now working for the company he owned he should not agree the grant and so contacted Cllr Keith Evans ("KE") who is a councillor for an adjacent area to him. He explained that it was an online process and he asked KE if he would look at it. He explained that the first time he tried to do it he had not done it properly. He stated that 2 weeks later he contacted an officer, David Foley ("DF"), and said that the grant application did not seem to have found its way to KE. SW explained that DF contacted KE and the grant was approved and paid. He stated that this was in February 2019 and the complaint was not made until October 2019.
- 12 SW stated that the grant was for the Rockets to buy ramps. He stated that he subsequently found out in RC's complaint a claim that the ramps had been provided for free. He said that he had formally made a complaint to investigate that as it had not been used for what the grant was paid for. SG asked SW about a suggestion by the complainants that SW had said that they could use the grant for other purposes. SW stated that he absolutely did not say that it was a complete lie. SW stated that he was advised that SEMCO who had supplied the ramps had not been paid as they should have been. Half the order had been delivered and invoiced. RC and JM did not pay the bill so the other half of the order was not supplied.
- 13 SW stated that another project the Rockets were keen to pursue had been to get a lorry to transport the motorbikes. SW explained that they had an old lorry which was not in the best of order and they wanted to get a newer, larger one to take to show bookings around the country. He explained that he told them that if they raised money themselves they could apply to the Council for a grant.
- 14 SW stated that the grant application was in the name of RC who signed the grant funding agreement. He stated that he believed that ■ had done all the work on the application. He stated that they applied to the Council for £15,000, to FBC for £15,000 and were also going to work on raising £15,000 themselves. He stated that the grant came within his purview as Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage.
- 15 SW stated that the officer who administers the grant applications in the Council, ■, sends him a spreadsheet periodically with details of the grant applications. He stated that in April 2019 he sent the spreadsheet to ■ and filled in the section relating to the Rockets application confirming that he had an interest, that it should be conditional on them being a community interest company or charity and FBC matching support and that they would perform free shows locally and there would be community access to the group.

- 16 SG asked SW about the number of emails which he sent to officers about the application. He stated that he could only remember sending two emails. He stated that his contact with officers about the Rockets grant was not unusual. He stated that it depends on the grant and that he had many discussions with different organisations on grant applications including visiting them. He stated that he had tried to formalise things through using the spreadsheet for his comments.
- 17 SW stated that the Leader had approved that a different Executive Member should make the decision. He stated that in reality the officers arrange this and the Leader approves it. He stated that he and Cllr Heron ("EH") often have the same decision day date so it was logical that he be asked to make the decision.
- 18 SG asked SW why the decision day had been moved. SW stated that he did recall that the decision day was moved but he did not recall why. He stated that he may not have been able to make a suggested date and so needed to move it but he could not remember. SW stated that the decision days can be quite ad hoc with little notice of change and be moved around depending on the business to be decided. He stated that this happens with all Executive Members.
- 19 SW stated that the decision was made at a separate meeting not his meeting. He stated that EH made it at his decision day meeting.
- 20 SG asked SW about the allegation that he wrote the grant application. He stated that he did not but gave all the advice and support possible in the knowledge that he would not be making the decision. He often gave advice to grant applicants when asked in the same way that the officers writing the report would do. He stated that the main issue for the Rockets was saving the application which was lost at one point. He stated that he also gave a link to a generic business plan at one point. He stated that he cast his eye over the application and responded to a couple of queries that ■ raised with him. He stated that he did help ■ but the application was not going to be decided by him.
- 21 SG asked SW if he had any discussions with EH about the application. He stated that he simply explained to EH that he had decided that he would not make the decision as he had a personal interest but did not have any discussion about the application itself.
- 22 SW confirmed that he had contacted ■ when ■ left the Rockets and set up her own team as ■ had approached him to ask if the grant could be novated. SW stated that ■ suggested that ■ should write to her. He stated that ■ had contacted him and asked what she should do. He stated that he would find out an answer for her as any councillor would.
- 23 SG asked SW about what involvement he had in the application to the Council by the Solent Stars Community Interest Company for a grant. He stated that he knew that ■ had made an application which was probably identical to the previous application by the Rockets. He stated that ■ then withdrew it. He stated that he thought he had asked officers about the progress of the application as it had not appeared on his regular spreadsheet. He stated that he prefaced the enquiry by saying it was not a decision he would be involved in as he knew the applicant. ■ had advised he spoke to ■ who advised him to speak to Barbara Beardwell. They said the applicant needed to show how the grant would help the group as much of the funding was related to living accommodation. This related to obtaining Showman's Guild exemptions from

I agree that this is a true and accurate record of the interview.

Signed [REDACTED]
Cllr Sean Woodward

Dated 25th April 2020

Hampshire County Council

Weightmans' reference: SG/112705/2

Report of an investigation into an allegation concerning the
conduct of Councillor Sean Woodward of Hampshire County
Council

SG 8

Would you like to request that your identity is kept confidential? (optional): Yes

Title (required): Mr

First name (required): Russell

Last name (required): Collier

Address:

Address line 1 (optional)	Address line 2 (optional)	Address line 3 (optional)	Town / City (optional)	County (optional)	Postcode (optional)
[REDACTED]					

Phone number (optional): [REDACTED]

Email address (required): [REDACTED]

Please tell us which option best describes you (required): Member of the public

Gender (optional): [REDACTED]

Age (optional): [REDACTED]

Ethnic origin (optional): [REDACTED]

Name of Member(s) you are complaining about (required):

Member's name (required)
Sean Woodward

Details of your complaint (required): Having given this some thought it was always my intention to make a complaint about the conduct of Sean Woodward and [REDACTED] but owing to my own observations in how they conduct themselves I had/have reservations about the independence of this process. In fact I emailed the Standards officer at HCC asking for some reassurance before I made any complaint and to date I have never had this , confirming my fears.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Conduct of Sean Woodward:

Myself , Jason Morris (also a serving Police Officer) and [REDACTED] set up a children's motorcycle display team called "The Team Green Rockets Childrens Motorcycle Display Team" ,

the Team Green part was owing to sponsorship from Kawasaki motors uk and this is their sponsorship logo. we all knew each other from being members of another children motorcycle display team "██████████" but got frustrated by the lack of inclusion to disadvantaged children and so broke away and set up a community interest company and registered this with the three of us as directors. (There was another director ██████████ but we removed her, looking back she knew what was going on and we took the wrong side influenced naively by ██████████ and Sean and removed her)

Things went from strength to strength and we had an extremely successful first year , attending various shows and local events such as D-Day75 in Fareham , HMS Sultans Family event and the same at HMS Collingwood, our team travel up and down the country and we are very proud of what has been achieved and the opportunity we give to the community.

██████████ did most of the admin , I tended to do the meetings with sponsors and any child protection stuff owing to my role as a police officer and deputy chair of the Governing body at ██████████ ██████████ where I am the safeguarding lead (The Head Teacher ██████████ would happily vouch for me here) , ██████████ and Jason would do a lot of the practical administration.

Sean woodward became involved in our club a number of months ago , ██████████ introduced him and he arranged for us to have Training ground free of charge on ██████████ land who was a local developer for free , followed by free parking and a container at Crofton riding stables for equipment again fro free (this is where Sean keeps his horses) . Jason and I raised concern several times that no one does this for free and we would end up in debt to Sean and involved in quite frankly what appeared to be his nepotism and corruption.

██████████ spoke to me and said he could be really helpful , he knows so many people and can get things done , she spoke about development on my land and eluded to her getting a cut of the money , she bought Sean up to my property whilst I was unaware and advised me after , she said he can sign of grants for us from a community fund and we could get a new lorry. She later advised that the committee could only approve £5k and so he as leader increased this to £15k

I and Jason stated that in our opinion he is after ██████████ and that she should distance herself. She ignored this and went on to say Fareham have approved £15k community grant for us but that Sean has been careful to stay out of it but he has been pulling strings and it will be approved. She went on that HCC would do £15k matched funding but this had to be rushed through as the committee that would be approving this was changing at 1000hrs on a certain day and Sean might not be on it so he rushed it through at 0930hrs.

In fact we have the emails between Seans personal email account and the Rockets back and forth between he and ██████████ where he writes the application for her.

He started turning up at training and shows we would be doing , pulling strings with base commanders at naval bases to ensure we were booked for the following year and various other stuff which I am sure I don't even know the half of.

[REDACTED]

He even happened to be outside her house when a car drove through her fence and he called her saying he witnessed it and not to worry he had made some calls and it was all getting mended asap

She then went to work for him , not sure in what capacity and then eventually worked at his company LB Healthcare in Whitely , she now works putting together the Conservative Fareham today leaflet.

Back In february [REDACTED] Jason and I met and I raised further concern that she was doing to much and she should allow the club to be run more by us and the parents it is after all a community club and should be run by volunteers and then she said she wanted to be paid instead , I said we would need to discuss this.

Fast forward a couple of months and [REDACTED] still maintains overall control of everything and won't allow Jason or I to do much at all.

We had a Mazda MX5 sponsored from Mazda UK as a car the children jumped , she retained this and Sean would use it , we said he was not insured but he would just say Fareham Borough council will underwrite it.

She then said she had left her job and wanted to concentrate on campaigning to be a councillor and attended many functions with Sean and he her , he even attended our end of year presentation at Hampshire Police HQ and gave out the trophies to the children. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

There were various other things he would do such as advise us he would get rid of the competition "[REDACTED] motorcycle team" he gave them a written warning (they train on community space in Fareham) , he told us of every FOI request they made to the council and got someone in the council to flag anything from them to us , again all underhand and a breach of data protection if

nothing else.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

She then gathered all the parents round and announced that Jason and I were not supporting her and so as of that day she had started a new company and transferred all the assets , equipment , sponsorship , grants and remaining show bookings to this company. We said she could not do that and advised everyone of her plan to pay herself a wage with the parents money.

As all the equipment was in the Lorry and the lorry was owned by Jason and I (as the club could not yet afford their own) I said in front of everyone there that we are going , she protested and wanted the equipment from our club out of the lorry but I refused and advised her I was going to work , I have never stolen anything in my life and not to turn up at my address as I was going to work but that I would call her the next day as I was day off and we would sort this all out.

We left , children were crying , parents thought the club was finished and even my own children were exhausted emotionally , I even felt like crying myself , at that point believing that with Sean she was untouchable and that she would just ride over us.

Within twenty minutes of arriving home Sean arrived in his capacity as a councillor as he had been all day driving the Mazda on loan to our club with [REDACTED] and she walked down the drive . We exchanged some words and I advised her to leave re confirming I would deal with it tomorrow and she advising she was here to take the equipment (equipment which did not belong to her) , anyway she left .

Jason then said we could just get her own motorcycle out of the lorry quickly it would not take long and then she would be happy . Seeing that she and Sean were still sat in the car outside I walked over and stood at the window and said we could get [REDACTED] (her sons) bike out for her but she said no I want the lot and so I explained as before to just go home then and we would sort this tomorrow.

A few minutes later she stormed down the drive at me and shoulder barged me and tried to get past , I said I would call the police and contemplated arresting her for assault but did not want the hassle I walked her towards the gate all the time she was trying to push past me and at the gate she paused and looked for a patch of grass a few feet away and dived onto this , she remained here for an1 hour and a quarter and Sean was still sat in the car and obstructed by my car and the trees.

Whilst on the floor she screamed Sean and he got out and rushed to her aid and screamed at me words such as "you have just beaten her up , you are supposed to be an officer of the law, I am on the phone to your borough commander" I did tell him that he never even saw it and he shouted that he did and he witnessed the lot.

[REDACTED]

I am happy to meet and discuss and welcome your honest thoughts here , I would also be happy and in fact encourage this to be raised with [REDACTED] and HCC as I believe this is so wrong , in every way but am concerned I am a small voice with limited background and alone I cannot possibly have the voice that is needed.

[REDACTED]

He was also out on the road at our motorcycle try out day for new recruits on Sunday just gone taking pictures and generally intimidating all the adults and children by doing so.

[REDACTED]

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss further and will comply with any investigation but please ask that the details of my complaint for now are not disclosed in detail to Sean Woodward as I am fearful of repercussions.

[REDACTED]

I am moving shortly as I am genuinely concerned about the influence he has and continues to display towards myself and my family but will be able to pick up emails and once assured it is being looked into will happily supply my address.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Kind Regards

Russell Collier

What outcome you would like to see from this complaint? (optional): full investigation and appropriate action to mitigate risk to all persons involved

Provide details of why you believe we should withhold your name and/or the details of your complaint (required): This complaint and behaviour experienced has a large amount of victimisation attached as a result of bad feeling and I am fearful for the safety of my own family and further issues should he be able to read this in depth

Would you like to request that your identity is kept confidential? (optional):

Title (required): Mr

First name (required): Jason

Last name (required): Morris

Address:

Address line 1 (optional)	Address line 2 (optional)	Address line 3 (optional)	Town / City (optional)	County (optional)	Postcode (optional)
[REDACTED]					

Phone number (optional):

Email address (required): [REDACTED]

Please tell us which option best describes you (required): Member of the public

Gender (optional):

Age (optional):

Ethnic origin (optional):

Name of Member(s) you are complaining about (required):

Member's name (required)
Sean Woodward

Details of your complaint (required): Please find below the complaint I am making about the actions, conduct and behaviour of Cllr Sean Woodward who has responsibility for recreation and heritage

My family and I are involved with The Rockets Children's Motorcycle Display Team where both of my sons are members. myself, Jason Morris, Russell Collier and [REDACTED] were the owners of the team when it was formed however [REDACTED] left in July 2019. Mr Woodward was introduced to the team in September 2018 when [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Mr Woodward, as the leader of Fareham Borough Council and as the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage of Hampshire County Council he attended the team's presentation evening held at Hampshire Constabularies Training HQ where he handed out the trophies to the children.

Over the next few months Mr Woodward provided a grant to the team and secured them two training grounds, one in Knowle and the other at Solent Airport. Mr Woodward was becoming more and more a common sight around the team whenever they trained or were performing at local events. This was in his official capacity as a councillor and [REDACTED] even on

occasions the local press had been invited for him to have pictures taken with the team either at Knowle or Solent Airport. (<https://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/meet-portsmouth-and-fareham-s-mini-motorcycle-gangs-1-8675746>) <http://www.sean-woodward.co.uk/amazing-team-green-rockets-training-at-daedalus/>

████████ stated her intentions to leave the team on the 12/06/19, however she attended HMS Sultan Summer Show on the weekend of the 15th and 16th of June 2019 as part of the team, Mr Woodward was in attendance all weekend with the team and in meetings with the organisers. At the end of the show it was found that ██████████ had stolen several thousands of pounds from the team's bank account and then told everyone that she had transferred the team's assets to herself. Mr Woodward was at her side throughout.

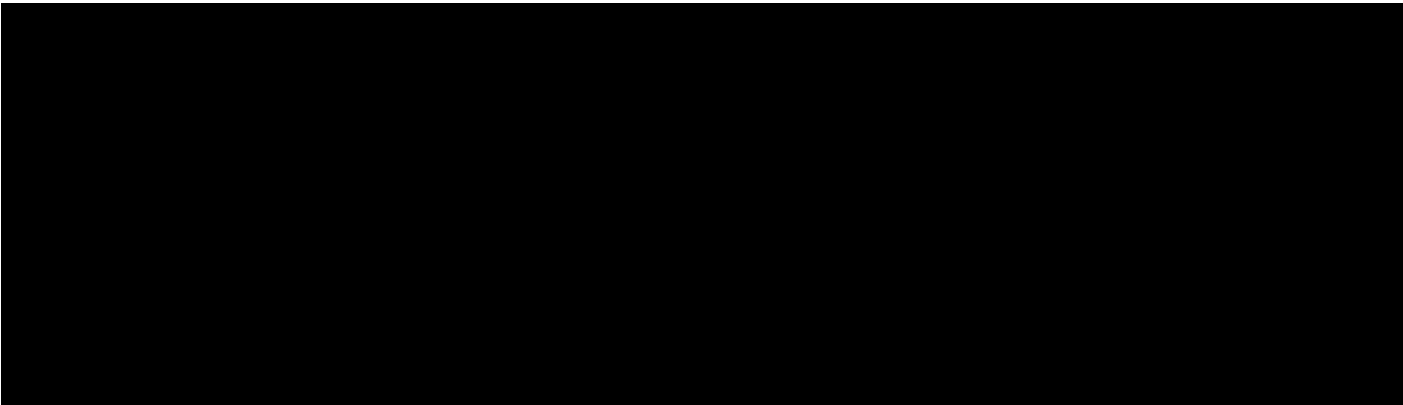
At the end of the event I took the team lorry back to Mr Collier's home address of ██████████, ██████████. Mr Collier arrived back at the same time having followed in his own vehicle. A short while later Mr Woodward and ██████████ arrived at the address, Mr Woodward was driving the teams Mazda MX-5 that was supplied on sponsorship, he had already been made aware when I had seen him driving it that he was not insured to drive the vehicle as he was not a member of The Rockets, but I was told that when he is on official business he is covered Fareham Borough Council's policy.

Mr Collier told ██████████ to leave his address and she did, with Mr Woodward driving the car away from the property with ██████████ as a passenger, but a few minutes later ██████████ returned and threw herself on the ground in the driveway when she assaulted Mr Collier. Mr Woodward went over to ██████████ I too went to assist to see why she had collapsed onto the ground and Mr Woodward said to both of us "I'LL HAVE YOUR JOBS FOR THIS" he then said "I'M ON THE PHONE TO YOUR CHIEF INSPECTOR" Both Mr Collier and I are both Police Officers, for Mr Woodward to make threats to have our jobs is very concerning, why did he phone a Chief Inspector when ██████████ had assaulted Mr Collier? In my view Mr Woodward was trying to assert his authority as the leader of the Council with his connections to senior members of the police force to ensure that we were subjected to unfair allegations.

The Rockets had been awarded a grant by FBC and Hampshire County Council, this was for a total of £30000, made up of £15000 from each authority for the Rockets to fund a new vehicle for the team, this grant was written by Mr Woodward himself and then emailed back to ██████████ at the teams email address, at the time FBC were only allowed to provide grants up to £5000 unless it went to a panel, under that amount, just one of the councillors was able to sign it off, so it wouldn't have to go to panel Mr Woodward arranged to have the limit raised to £15000. Mr Collier and I were now getting very suspicious of what was going on and told ██████████ that we were not comfortable with the way Mr Woodward was so entwined with the team and her, and that he appeared to be changing rules for his own personal gain, in that ██████████. When the grant was going to be authorised by HCC Mr Woodward ensured this was signed off first thing in the morning as the leadership was due to change later that morning and that if it was later, he might not be in a position to get this grant signed as he may not remain in post as executive member for recreation and heritage after this time. I now believe that ██████████ has used the credentials of these grants awarded to The Rockets to be given the awards for her new enterprise called 'Solent Stars' that at the time was only just being formed and had no history.

On the 8th of September 2019 I was at Solent Airport with the 'Rocket's using the community space, during the day I observed Mr Woodward drive up to the gate and take photographs of the children, he was there for a few minutes, he drove away then returned a short time later where he

stopped again before driving off.



I see that the clear breaches to the code of conduct are as follows:

3.1 By treating myself in an unfair manor along with our children's motorcycle display team this breached representing the needs of residents and putting our interests first, in fact it displays putting his own interests namely supporting [REDACTED] whatever the cost ahead of any other

3.2 Mirror's the above, Fairly, Appropriately and impartially

3.3 He has demonstrated that he has allowed other self interest in the form of pressures to be put before others and in the financial interests of [REDACTED] who he has a relationship with for example taking our grant away and financially supporting her ahead of all the children and members of our club

3.4 He has allowed outside influence to cloud Judgement such as his relationship with [REDACTED], which in turn has meant that he is influenced by her and also employed her

3.5 Not Remaining objective

3.6 Instead of being accountable and co-operating when scrutinised both internally and externally he has in fact sought to make up allegations and bully those who are trying to hold him to account

3.7 Nothing about what he has done is open and transparent he has sought to cover everything up and justify actions and lie

3.8 I have not asked for any information, I can speculate on others but only an enquiry would determine this

3.9 Again I very much doubt following an investigation that he will have complied here but an amount of investigation would need to be undertaken to fully establish the extent of this

3.12 All of the above and much more disclosed and following the findings of this investigation will determine this

3.14 As mentioned above this is not fair and nor is he treating organisations with respect and fairness, he has a well-known history both amongst the general public and his own colleagues be it employees or other political figureheads that he is a bully and when people speak up he will bully them or deselect them, and/ or threaten them

3.15 Goes hand in hand with the above

Mr Woodward was absolutely acting in his capacity as a councillor, I would not know him otherwise, he attends and introduces himself as a councillor, whilst at our shows he introduces us to management such as at HMS Sultan and again in his capacity as councillor. He regularly drove our loaned Mazda Car from Mazda UK and when we raised concern that he was not insured and asked Mazda who confirmed he was not as it was only members of the Rockets, he advised that the council would cover him. He wrote up and signed of the grants himself as a councillor. He turned up at Mr Collier's address as a councillor and made it very clear owing to his position he was able to telephone a senior officer in the Police and advised he would have my job

Due to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] leaving The Rockets and Mr Woodward's relationship with her I am fearful for what

he will do next, he is undertaking a course of conduct amounting to Harassment.

Kind Regards

Jason Morris

What outcome you would like to see from this complaint? (optional):An investigation into the conduct and behaviour of Mr Woodward

Giles, Nina

From: Russell Collier <russell[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].co.uk>
Sent: 17 October 2019 21:52
To: Beardwell, Barbara
Subject: Fwd:
Attachments: Hampshire County Council Grants Process.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

This is the application [REDACTED] made for £2000 directly from Woodward for ramps, at this time she knew full well that the ramps were being supplied for free as did Woodward
Other bits to follow

Giles, Nina

From: Russell Collier <russell[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].co.uk>
Sent: 17 October 2019 21:52
To: Beardwell, Barbara
Subject: Fwd: Your Hampshire County Council Grant Application

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

>
>
> From: Seán Woodward <sean@[REDACTED].org.uk>
> Sent: 03 April 2019 22:28
> To: The Rockets <info@therockets.co.uk>
> Subject: Re: Your Hampshire County Council Grant Application
>
> That's OK
> Seán D T Woodward
> [REDACTED]
>
> On 3 Apr 2019, at 22:26, The Rockets <info@therockets.co.uk<mailto:info@therockets.co.uk>>
> wrote:
> How about now ?
>
> Begin forwarded message:
> From: grants@hants.gov.uk<mailto:grants@hants.gov.uk>
> Date: 3 April 2019 at 21:49:38 BST
> To: info@therockets.co.uk<mailto:info@therockets.co.uk>
> Subject: Your Hampshire County Council Grant Application Your
> Hampshire County Council grant application has been saved.
>
> Please follow this link to resume your application:
> Your Saved Grant Application
> Form<<https://grantsform.hants.gov.uk/LandingPage.aspx?code=od849idp5x0t60ep>>

Giles, Nina

From: Russell Collier <russell[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].co.uk>
Sent: 17 October 2019 21:53
To: Beardwell, Barbara
Subject: Fwd: Your Hampshire County Council Grant Application

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: info@therockets.co.uk <info@therockets.co.uk>

Sent: 03 April 2019 21:51

To: [sean@\[REDACTED\].org.uk](mailto:sean@[REDACTED].org.uk)

Subject: FW: Your Hampshire County Council Grant Application

This is not the application as I cannot retrieve once submitted but a previous version.

From: grants@hants.gov.uk <grants@hants.gov.uk>

Sent: 20 March 2019 15:55

To: info@therockets.co.uk

Subject: Your Hampshire County Council Grant Application

Your Hampshire County Council grant application has been saved.

Please follow this link to resume your application:

[Your Saved Grant Application Form](#)

Giles, Nina

From: Russell Collier <russell[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].co.uk>
Sent: 17 October 2019 21:53
To: Beardwell, Barbara
Subject: Fwd: RHCF Application Ref: CG00017053

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

The Hampshire one she wrote in my name!!!!

From: The Rockets <info@therockets.co.uk>
Sent: 26 March 2019 17:44
To: Seán Woodward <sean@[REDACTED].org.uk>
Subject: Fwd: RHCF Application Ref: CG00017053

Begin forwarded message:

From: CCBS Grants <CCBSGrants@hants.gov.uk>
Date: 25 March 2019 at 15:32:18 GMT
To: The Rockets <info@therockets.co.uk>
Subject: RHCF Application Ref: CG00017053

Dear Russell,
Thank you for your application to the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund. I was just looking through your supporting documents and was wondering if you were able to provide us with the following:

- Reserves Policy
- 3 Estimates
- 3 Year Business Plan

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]
Senior Administrative Officer
Culture, Communities & Business Services (CCBS)
Hampshire County Council

[REDACTED]
ccbsgrants@hants.gov.uk
Castle Avenue, 76 High Street, Winchester, SO23 8UL

Giles, Nina

From: Russell Collier <russell[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].co.uk>
Sent: 17 October 2019 21:54
To: Beardwell, Barbara
Subject: Fwd: Your Hampshire County Council Grant Application

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: The Rockets <info@therockets.co.uk>
Sent: 18 March 2019 23:03
To: Seán Woodward <[sean@\[REDACTED\].org.uk](mailto:sean@[REDACTED].org.uk)>
Subject: Fwd: Your Hampshire County Council Grant Application

Begin forwarded message:

From: grants@hants.gov.uk
Date: 3 March 2019 at 12:43:30 GMT
To: info@therockets.co.uk
Subject: **Your Hampshire County Council Grant Application**

Your Hampshire County Council grant application has been saved.

Please follow this link to resume your application:
[Your Saved Grant Application Form](#)

Giles, Nina

From: Russell Collier <russell[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].co.uk>
Sent: 17 October 2019 21:54
To: Beardwell, Barbara
Subject: Fwd: Recreation and Heritage Community Fund

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: CCBS Grants <CCBSGrants@hants.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 February 2019 09:59
To: info@therockets.co.uk
Subject: RE: Recreation and Heritage Community Fund

Dear [REDACTED]

The Recreation and Heritage Community Fund is one of the various grant schemes operated by Hampshire County Council and we use a corporate application form and process. The Guidance for Applicants link at the bottom of the webpage provides guidance on completing this form and the supporting documentation that is requested. There is also a handy 'application checklist' you can use to make sure everything is covered. It would be helpful if you could submit the supporting documentation to us directly where possible (electronic copies can be uploaded with your application) as this will speed the process up for us. We will liaise with [REDACTED] at Fareham Borough Council as well.

If you have any queries when completing the application, please feel free to get in touch and we will be happy to chat through them with you.

Yours,

[REDACTED]

Senior Project Officer
CCBS Grants
Culture, Communities and Business Services
Hampshire County Council

CCBS Grants
Hampshire County Council
Office 2
Second Floor
Castle Hill
Winchester
SO23 8UH

ccbsgrants@hants.gov.uk

Information on CCBS Grant Schemes can be found at
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-funds-list?filter=.Culture-Communities-and-Business-Services>

If you have a freedom of information request please email directly to ccbs.foi@hants.gov.uk. Any statutory timeframe will not commence until the request is received at this address.

From: info@therockets.co.uk <info@therockets.co.uk>

Sent: 05 February 2019 23:26

To: CCBS Grants <CCBSGrants@hants.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Recreation and Heritage Community Fund

Hello,

Thank you for the update regarding the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund. The link now appears to be live however it is taking me to the County Council Grant and not Recreation Heritage grant so unsure if this is correct application?

I have this week met with [REDACTED] at Fareham Civic Offices regarding the match funding from Fareham Borough application and have submitted some of the requested documents. I understand both authorities work closely together and you will liaise regarding information required from The Rockets.

I look forward to hearing back from you regarding the link and once confirmed I will of course continue with the application.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]



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From: CCBS Grants <CCBSGrants@hants.gov.uk>

Sent: 04 February 2019 13:09

To: The Rockets <info@therockets.co.uk>

Subject: RE: Recreation and Heritage Community Fund

Hello [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. We were hoping that the link to apply would be live by today however there is a small delay from our IT department.

Below is a link to the webpage where you can apply. We hope that the application link will go live this week so please keep checking the page.

We look forward to receiving your application.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/recreation-heritage-community-fund>

Kind Regards

From: The Rockets <info@therockets.co.uk>

Sent: 28 January 2019 08:12

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@hants.gov.uk>

Subject: Recreation and Heritage Community Fund

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to introduce The Team Green Rockets Children's Motorcycle Display Team and would like to register our interest in the new Recreation & Heritage Community Fund. Having made contact with Councillor Seán Woodward to seek advice our intention is to apply to both Hampshire County Council and Fareham Borough Council.

I am be delighted to share with you our journey so far. The Rockets Children's Motorcycle Display Team is an enthusiastic group of 4 - 16-year-old children who wish to be given the opportunity to perform as part of a children's motorcycle display team displaying at events throughout the year, from charity events, school fairs and families days to local carnivals. Since the start-up in January 2018 its success and growth has been unimaginable. One year on having recently changed to a Community Interest Company (not-for-profit) we have established good foundations with an exciting plan for the coming year.

Joining and being part of Rockets is not just about riding ability. The emphasis behind Rockets is very much working and supporting the children to understand, learn and develop the importance of team work and their attitude. Discipline and general life skills fundamentally form part of our training. We focus on individuals both on and off their bikes from behaviour and respect to commitment and dedication. Teaching them to ride a motorcycle comes from a strong foundation of these essential skills. The children very quickly learn they are part of something to be proud, in turn children gain and build confidence, which leads to strong interpersonal skills that they will carry into later life.

We are confident the club will continue to thrive with clear plans and objectives but most importantly remain self-reliant by means of income from show bookings for events. However, to be able to achieve this we need to transport motorbikes and equipment to and from events. Our project focus for the immediate future is working on raising money to fund a new lorry. Without this we are logistically unable to attend venues and perform. The project is a huge task and not as simple as just purchasing a vehicle. The vehicle will need significant modification to meet not only our needs but also the requirements of the "Showman's Guild" which we are members of and operating under such practice offers extensive benefits to the club.

We estimate the total value of our project to be in the region of £45,000.00 and therefore ask for your consideration for a grant of 1/3 of the value. We will also apply and ask the same from Fareham Borough Council and we match with a remaining amount of £15,000.00 for which we are currently enthusiastically fundraising.

I hope you give careful consideration to our request and would invite you to view our show programme (attached) which will give you a good insight into what we believe is an unusual and exciting community interest. We would be pleased to enter into a community use agreement to ensure that we commit to offering free taster sessions to any interested children as well as offering some free performances each year to not-for-profit organisations and continuing to raise money for good causes.

I look forward to hearing back from you and perhaps meeting so that we can make an application to the new fund.

Kind regards



Giles, Nina

From: Russell Collier <russell[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].co.uk>
Sent: 17 October 2019 21:55
To: Beardwell, Barbara
Subject: Fwd: Grant Application: CG00016675/ Cllr Sean Woodward

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Members Grants <members.grants@hants.gov.uk>
Sent: 24 January 2019 14:00
To: info@therockets.co.uk
Subject: Grant Application: CG00016675/ Cllr Sean Woodward

Dear Madam

Further to your application to Cllr Sean Woodward, reference number CG00016675 to enable us to set up a payment to yourselves we require some further information.

This information is needed to process your application for payment.

Please note we cannot make payment into an individuals account or a schools account owned/operated by Hampshire County Council, we will require a Parent Teacher account, Friends of... account, or a fundraising account that exists outside of Hampshire County Council banking.

Organisation Name (as stated on the application form):

Organisation Address (as stated on the application form):

Email Address:

Email Address for Remittance Advice:

Name of Bank:

Name of the Organisations Bank Account:

Bank Account Number:

Bank Sort Code:

Should you require further assistance with information that has been requested, please do not hesitate to contact us via this email.

Kind regards,

Members Grant Payment Team

Hampshire County Council

EII Court, East

The Castle

Winchester

SO23 8UB

Giles, Nina

From: Russell Collier <russell[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].co.uk>
Sent: 17 October 2019 21:55
To: Beardwell, Barbara
Subject: Fwd: Your Hampshire County Council Grant Application

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: sean.woodward@hants.gov.uk <sean.woodward@hants.gov.uk>

Sent: 19 January 2019 15:13

To: info@therockets.co.uk

Subject: Your Hampshire County Council Grant Application

Thank you for your grant application to Hampshire County Council. You will be contacted by the relevant team in due course.

Grant ID: CG00016675

Grant stream applied to: County Councillor Grants - Cllr Woodward, Seán

Organisation name: The Rockets Children's Motorcycle Display Team

Project title: The Rockets Children's Motorcycle Display Team

Amount requested: £2000.00

Giles, Nina

From: Russell Collier <russell[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].co.uk>
Sent: 17 October 2019 21:53
To: Beardwell, Barbara
Subject: Fwd: The Rockets Follow up

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: info@therockets.co.uk <info@therockets.co.uk>

Sent: 03 April 2019 21:47

To: sean@[REDACTED].org.uk

Subject: FW: The Rockets Follow up

Evening,

The most challenging part of this request is providing evidence of the longevity of the tractor unit?

From: [REDACTED]@Fareham.Gov.UK>

Sent: 29 March 2019 12:08

To: info@therockets.co.uk

Cc: Bell, Cllr. S <SBell@Fareham.Gov.UK>; [REDACTED]@1community.org.uk>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@Fareham.Gov.UK>; CCBS Grants <CCBSGrants@hants.gov.uk>

Subject: The Rockets Follow up

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for yours' and [REDACTED] time this morning. I hope you are both now clear on how to progress with The Rockets' Community Funding application.

To confirm, at the meeting we agreed that you need to provide;

- A 3 year business plan, detailing accessibility to the Rockets by Fareham's community and in particular more disadvantaged individuals.
- A breakdown of costs for the project (tractor unit, trailer, fitting out, branding costs).
- How maintenance and longevity of the tractor unit will be assured by the Rockets.
- Further details on the age of the tractor unit, the specification of the fitting out, and the size of the vehicle.

Once I have received this information from you, I will touch base again with Councillor Bell to continue the application process.

Please be aware that it is likely that conditions for any award will include;

- The display of FBC's logo on the trailer.
- An agreed amount of free local displays per year.
- An agreed amount of opportunities per year for free access to a Rockets' experience by young people.
- A considered pricing policy that takes into account access to the Team by more disadvantaged young people.

I have copied [REDACTED] from One Community in to this email. When she returns from jury service, she will be able to share her knowledge with regards to developing a pricing policy.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Kindest regards,

[REDACTED]
Leisure and Community Officer
Fareham Borough Council
[REDACTED]



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Hampshire County Council

Weightmans' reference: SG/112705/2

Report of an investigation into an allegation concerning the
conduct of Councillor Sean Woodward of Hampshire County
Council

SG 9

Public Document Pack

Executive Decision Records

Please find set out below a number of Executive Decisions taken at the HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage Decision Day held at the Castle, Winchester on Tuesday, 7th May, 2019

1. **GRANT FUNDING TO CULTURE AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS IN HAMPSHIRE 2019/20**
2. **GRANT FUNDING TO CULTURE AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS IN HAMPSHIRE 2019/20, ANDOVER CYCLING FESTIVAL**

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Item 1

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage
Date:	7 May 2019
Title:	Grant Funding to Culture and Community Organisations in Hampshire 2019/20
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

Contact name: [REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

1. The Decision:

- 1.1 The Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage approves awards from the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund 2019/20 totalling £68,860 to cultural, recreational and community organisations across Hampshire as outlined in Appendix 2.
- 1.2 The Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage defers a decision on a grant to Pilands Wood Community Association to July 2019.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1 To award grant funding to cultural, recreational and community organisations across Hampshire.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Alternative bids were received and evaluated but were unsuccessful.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1 Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None
- 4.2 Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: None

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: Not applicable

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

Councillor Seán Woodward
Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage

7 May 2019

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Countryside and Rural Affairs (due to the declaration of interest declared by the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage)
Date:	7 May 2019
Title:	Grant Funding to Culture and Community Organisations in Hampshire 2019/20
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

Contact name: [REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

1. The Decision:

- 1.1 That the Executive Member for Countryside and Rural Affairs approves £15,000 from the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund 2019/20 to the Rockets Children's Motorcycle Display Team CIC as outlined in Appendix 2 of the report.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1 To award grant funding to the organisation in line with the established grant funding criteria.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1 Alternative bids were received and evaluated but were unsuccessful.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. The Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage has declared an interest related to the Rockets Children's Motorcycle Display Team CIC. In accordance with Part 3, Chapter 2, Section 2.3 of the Constitution, the Leader has deputed this decision to the Executive Member for Countryside and Rural Affairs.

- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: None
6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: Not applicable
7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:	Date:
----- Councillor Edward Heron Executive Member for Countryside and Rural Affairs	7 May 2019
(on behalf of Councillor Séan Woodward Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage)	

Item 2

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage
Date:	7 May 2019
Title:	Grant Funding to Culture and Community Organisations in Hampshire 2019/20, Andover Cycling Festival
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

Contact name: [REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

1. The Decision:

1.1. The Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage approves an award from the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund 2019/20 totalling £3,000 to Andover Vision in support of Andover Cycling Festival on condition that they provide evidence of the Partnership Agreement and their latest accounts.

2. Reasons for the decision:

2.1 To award grant funding to cultural, recreational and community organisations across Hampshire.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1. Alternative bids were received and evaluated but were unsuccessful.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1 Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None

4.2 Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: None

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: Not applicable

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

Councillor Seán Woodward
Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage

7 May 2019

Hampshire County Council

Weightmans' reference: SG/112705/2

Report of an investigation into an allegation concerning the
conduct of Councillor Sean Woodward of Hampshire County
Council

SG 10

FILE NOTE – 23 October 2019

Telephone call received from Cllr Woodward

Grant Application – Solent Stars Motorcycle Team

Telephone call received 23 October 2019 from Cllr Woodward. Cllr Woodward indicated that he had been advised by CCBS that further information was required in respect of a grant application by the Solent Start Motorcycle Team for funding under the Recreation & Heritage Community Fund. Cllr Woodward indicated that the applicant was one of only three children's motorcycle display teams in the country and that he wanted the application to go to his Decision Day in November. I indicated that my understanding was that on the information supplied the application did not fit the grant criteria and that further information was required. Cllr Woodward stated that the intention was to fit out the vehicle to which the grant related to 'Showmen's Guild' specifications, and that if this were done it would have a significant financial impact on the motorcycle club's operating costs as various criteria which would normally apply to a HGV would not be necessary.

Barbara Beardwell

Hampshire County Council

Weightmans' reference: SG/112705/2

Report of an investigation into an allegation concerning the
conduct of Councillor Sean Woodward of Hampshire County
Council

SG 11

Simon Goacher

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 May 2020 14:20
To: Simon Goacher
Subject: Complaint against a member of Hampshire County Council [TRET-
WORKSITE.FID756390]
Attachments: ROI SW_9051740_1.DOC; ROI SW_9051741_1.PDF
Categories: (EFA) Not saved to MS

This message originated from outside our organisation and was sent to Simon Goacher. The sender name was Richard Cook and the sender's email address was [REDACTED]

We have been asked by Councilor Sean Woodward to assist him in connection with the complaints that you are currently investigating that have been made against him by PC Morris and PC Collier.

Our instruction arises out of concerns that our client has as to the scope of the investigation following the interview that you had with him and subsequent enquiry that you have made of him for further information.

As you know, our client believes that the complaints that have been made against him by the connected individuals have been made vexatiously and arise out of matters that have nothing at all to do with his role as a Hampshire County Councilor. They have already been dismissed by two other bodies to whom complaint was made including Fareham Borough Council.

Our understanding is that the two aspects of the complaints that HCC elected to pass to you for an investigation were:

(a) Certain grants made by HCC under the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

As you will know, the County Council Members Code of Conduct applies to Members "when acting in their official capacity.. or when giving the impression that they are acting as a representative" of the Council. In other words its applicability extends only to duties as a public officer and is not intended to intrude on private matters.

[REDACTED]

We accept that the allocation of grants does fall within that role and therefore the Code. We believe that our client has explained fully the process that was gone through as part of the process of making those grants and the fact that our client deliberately stood down from making the decision (although having revisited HCC's Code of Conduct on individual grants and members interests he questions whether in fact he ever did need to withdraw from making the two grant decisions at all as he has no disclosable pecuniary interest in The Rockets and even if he had a personal interest because of his friendship with [REDACTED] the code makes clear that it would not have affected his ability to participate in a discussion or vote on the relevant grant, provided it is not also a disclosable pecuniary interest, which as we have said it was not). Therefore, that ought to be the subject of a fairly limited investigation.

Instead, in your email to our client of 24 March 2020 following your interview with him you asked him various

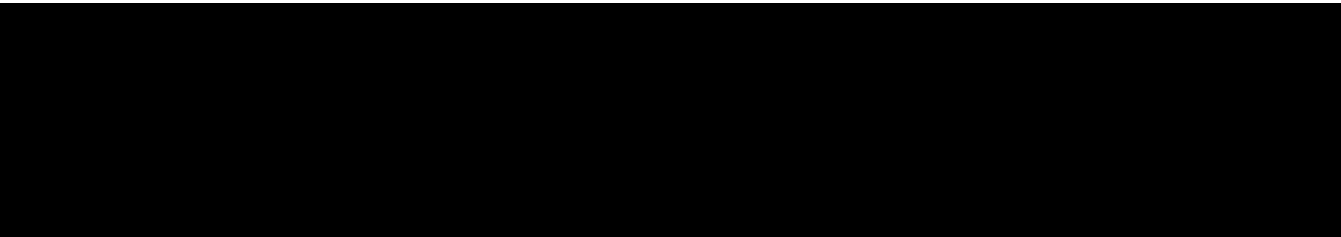
further questions, none of which seemed to have any real relevance to the specific areas of complaint (in particular we cannot see how our client obtaining an HGV Licence and been seen video driving a lorry can be at all pertinent to your investigation).

It is as much your raising these questions as the questions themselves that have given rise to the concern on the part of our client that your investigation seems to be broadening into matters that have nothing to do at all with our client's conduct as a County Councilor and also adding fuel to his perception that you are allowing yourself to be drawn into what are essentially personal matters that are nothing at all to do with the Code of Conduct. Our client has so far co-operated with the investigation, and remains willing to do so, but against a backdrop of persistent potentially defamatory statements about him by the complainants is concerned that frivolous and vexatious matters are being given greater substance than they deserve and valuable time and money is being expended on something which is unjustified and which, as we have said has already been summarily disposed of by two other bodies.

We would be grateful, therefore, if you would provide us with the appropriate reassurance that the scope of your investigation will indeed be limited to the essential elements of the complaints rather than extraneous matters that have no bearing on them. This is especially important given we understand the outcome of your investigation could become public and so risks repeating potentially defamatory allegations about our client. We are in the process of advising our client about his remedies in relation to those allegations.

A signed word document containing tracked changes as well as a PDF incorporating all the changes of our client's amended note of your interview with him is attached.

Yours faithfully



We will always treat your privacy with the utmost respect. To view our privacy notice please click [here](#).

Our response to Coronavirus (COVID-19) - looking out for our people and clients, [click here to read more](#).

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Simon Goacher

From: Simon Goacher
Sent: 13 May 2020 15:56
To: 'Richard Cook'
Subject: RE: Complaint against a member of Hampshire County Council [TRETH-WORKSITE.FID756390]

DOCID: 24393921
SENTON: 13/05/2020 15:55:14

Dear Richard

Thank you for your email and for the attachments.

In response to the concerns which you raise my response is as follows:

It is for Hampshire County Council to make its own decisions on complaints made to it under its processes. The other bodies to which you refer must of course make their own decisions based on their own rules.

I appreciate your client's position regarding the complaints which he has himself told me.

I am of course aware that the Code of Conduct applies when a member is acting in their capacity as such. Part of the purpose of my investigation is to determine, considering all of the evidence, whether the conduct if proved, occurred in such a capacity.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I set out in my response to your client the reasons for asking the additional questions/requesting documentary evidence which I put to him and why they are relevant to my investigation. For ease of reference the questions/requests were:

You mentioned when we met that one of the complainants had told you that the grant monies had not been used to pay for ramps (paragraph 12). Are you able to tell me when that was? Do you have anything in writing about that from them?

Also it has been suggested that you obtained your HGV licence and have been video driving the lorry purchased by the Solent Stars, is this true?

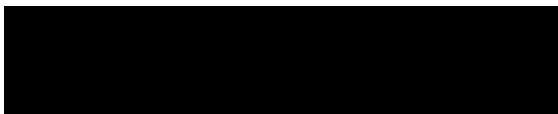
[REDACTED]

I would be grateful if you could confirm whether your client is refusing to answer these questions/supply the information requested.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Goacher
Partner
Weightmans LLP



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From: R [REDACTED]

Sent: 13 May 2020 14:20

To: Simon Goacher <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Complaint against a member of Hampshire County Council [TRETHER-WORKSITE.FID756390]

This message originated from outside our organisation and was sent to Simon Goacher. The sender name was Richard Cook and the sender's email address was [REDACTED]

We have been asked by Councilor Sean Woodward to assist him in connection with the complaints that you are currently investigating that have been made against him by PC Morris and PC Collier.

Our instruction arises out of concerns that our client has as to the scope of the investigation following the interview that you had with him and subsequent enquiry that you have made of him for further information.

As you know, our client believes that the complaints that have been made against him by the connected individuals have been made vexatiously and arise out of matters that have nothing at all to do with his role as a Hampshire County Councilor. They have already been dismissed by two other bodies to whom complaint was made including Fareham Borough Council.

Our understanding is that the two aspects of the complaints that HCC elected to pass to you for an investigation were:

(a) Certain grants made by HCC under the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Simon Goacher

From: Richard Cook <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 15 May 2020 12:23
To: Simon Goacher <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Complaint against a member of Hampshire County Council [TRETHERWORKSITE.FID756390]

This message originated from outside our organisation and was sent to Simon Goacher. The sender name was Richard Cook and the sender's email address was [REDACTED]

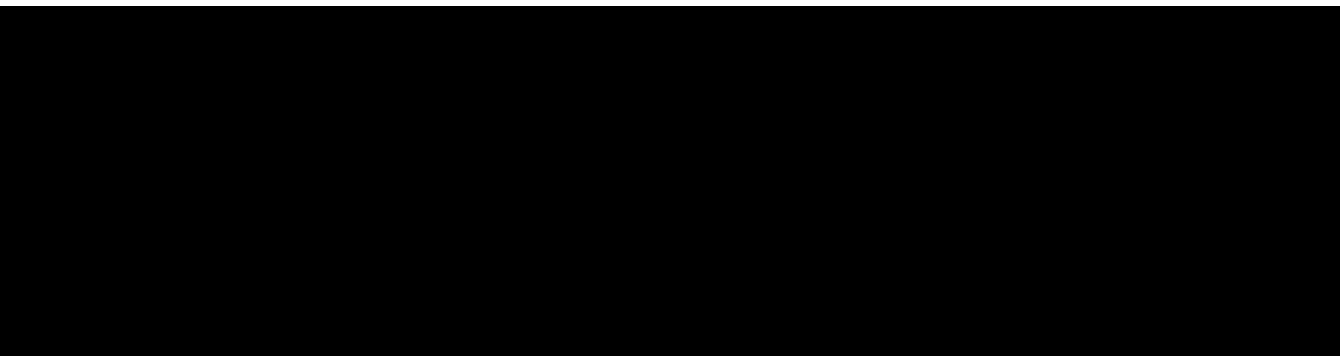
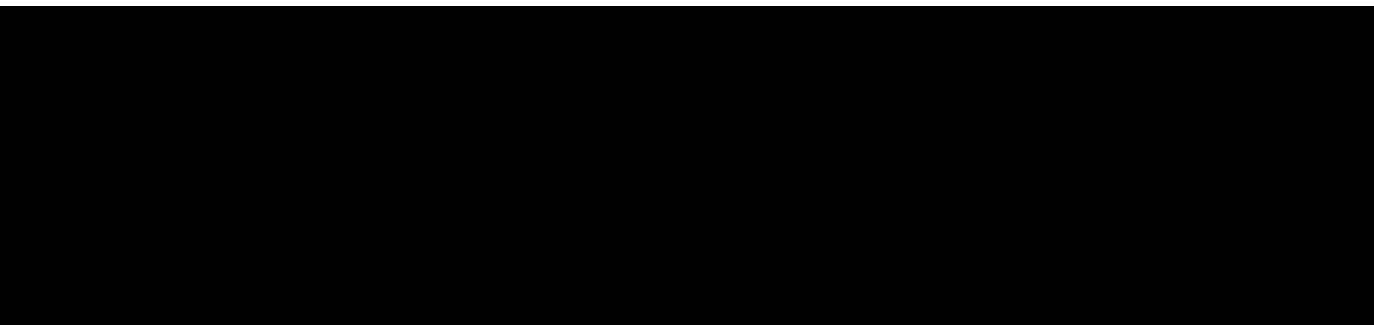
Dear Simon,

Thank you for your email of 13 May 2020 in response to my email of the same date.

My client is not refusing to answer questions or supply information and does rather take exception to the implied insinuation that he is not co-operating with your investigation. Rather he has queried the relevance and scope of what you are asking of him because in many respects they intrude into personal matters that can have no connection whatsoever with his public duty as a Hampshire County Councillor.

Also, at least one of your requests he has already answered. That is the first of them. This is something that you already have because it was included by PC Collier in his complaint. You noted it in paragraph 12 of your interview note.

Despite your explanation my client still fails to see the relevance of your second request concerning his HGV Licence and has no idea what "video – driving" is.



Given the multiplicity of complaints and counter complaint in this case there is a danger of lines becoming blurred and matters being prejudged in some way or potentially undermined by findings elsewhere. That is why we need your reassurance before disclosing what it is that you have asked for.

My client genuinely felt that you had more than enough information at your disposal to enable you to carry out the task that you have been allotted without asking for further information from him. He has no wish to be uncooperative but you will appreciate his sense of frustration given you are the third person to sit in judgement on him in relation to something which he considers to be without merit. However he is willing to provide you with the letter (which is the only item that you have requested that can be at all relevant) and trust that you will now be able to complete your investigation.

Yours sincerely

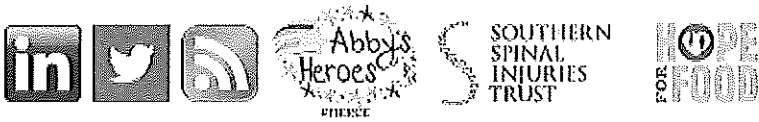
Richard Cook
Partner - Commercial Litigation
For and on behalf of Trethowans LLP

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Simon Goacher

From: Simon Goacher
Sent: 18 May 2020 12:59
To: 'Richard Cook'
Subject: RE: Complaint against a member of Hampshire County Council [TRETH-WORKSITE.FID756390]

Dear Richard

Thank you for your email.

I fail to see why you and your client cannot simply answer the questions which I have asked in a straightforward way. It is for me as the investigator to determine what is relevant to the complaint I have been asked to investigate. He and you are simply asking me to accept his version of events on certain aspects without him providing the supporting evidence which would enable me to assess his position and that of the complainants. If the position is as he and you state it is then the documentation can only help his case and a failure to provide it can only worsen it. I apply a similar approach to all investigations I carry out and I have done countless similar investigations. I apply the same considerations to complainants and subject members and usually parties are only too willing to co-operate and provide evidence to support their case. Therefore, I do find your client's approach both strange and highly unusual.

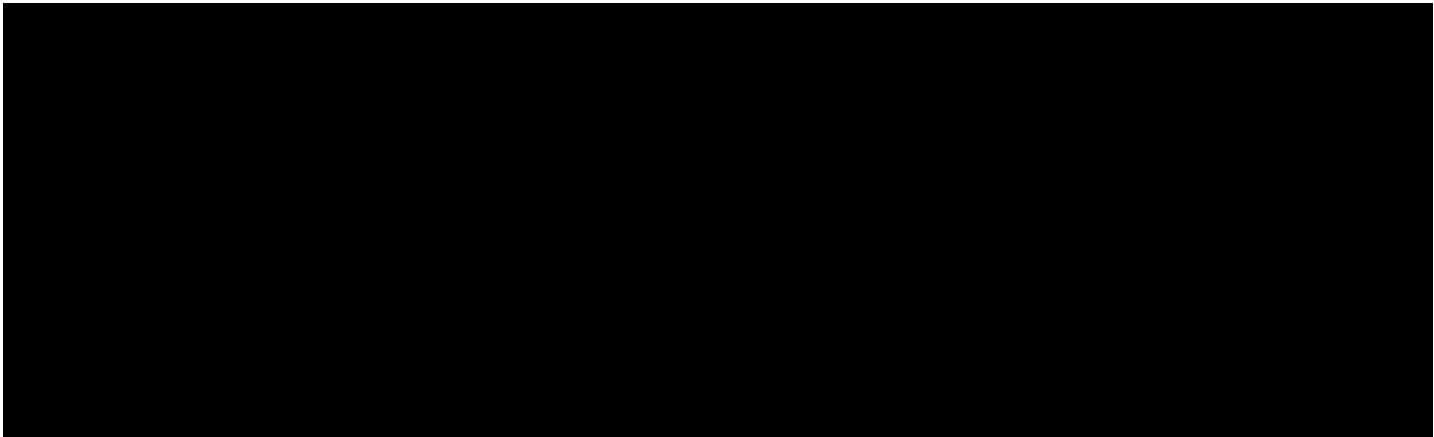
In relation to the questions I have set out below in red what I take your responses to mean;

- 1. You mentioned when we met that one of the complainants had told you that the grant monies had not been used to pay for ramps (paragraph 12). Are you able to tell me when that was? Do you have anything in writing about that from them?*

Your client has no information or documentation about this beyond that which was included in Mr Collier's complaint

- 2. Also it has been suggested that you obtained your HGV licence and have been video driving the lorry purchased by the Solent Stars, is this true?*

This should of course have read "videod" which must have been obvious to you and your client. Your client is refusing to answer this question on the basis that you and he do not believe it to be relevant to the interest which he had in the previous grant applications.



I look forward to receiving the documentation promised as soon as possible so that I can conclude my investigation and complete my draft report. If there is anything set out above in red which is incorrect please do advise me of the correct position.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Goacher
Partner

Weightmans LLP



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Simon Goacher

From: Richard Cook <R[REDACTED]>
Sent: 19 May 2020 12:25
To: Simon Goacher <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Complaint against Hampshire County Council [TRETHERWORKSITE.FID756390]

This message originated from outside our organisation and was sent to Simon Goacher. The sender name was Richard Cook and the sender's email address was [REDACTED]

Dear Simon,

Thank you for your email yesterday.

Whilst we appreciate that it is for you to conduct your investigation as you see fit, equally my client has a right to privacy in relation to his personal, private life and as I said in my original email to you one of the main reasons why he took legal advice was because of his concerns that your investigation was straying into those areas which, in his view, are not relevant to the central issues of your investigation.

In response to your summarization of our client's responses:-

- 1 My client never said that one of the complainants gave him this information. A member of the team placed the orders with the ramp suppliers and [REDACTED] arranged the collection of the ramps. She can certainly confirm that there was never any suggestion of the ramps being free. The value of the ramps was around £8,000 but the suppliers agreed to supply them for £2,000. There were four ramps and three were supplied. Half the order by value was supplied. When no money was forthcoming the final ramp, the largest, a car ramp, was withheld.
- 2 Correct, the relevance of this question remains beyond us. How would our client know whether he was videoed driving the lorry. To put this matter to bed he does have the necessary licence and he has driven a number of lorries including the Solent Stars one in February 2020.

[REDACTED]

We look forward to receiving the requested assurances.

Regards.

Richard Cook
Partner - Commercial Litigation
For and on behalf of Trethowans LLP
[REDACTED]

Trethowans LLP, The Pavilion, Botleigh Grange Business Park, Hedge End, Southampton SO30 2AF, Switchboard: +44 (0) 23 8032 1000

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Simon Goacher

From: Simon Goacher
Sent: 19 May 2020 14:32
To: 'Richard Cook'
Subject: RE: Complaint against Hampshire County Council [TRETH-WORKSITE.FID756390]

Dear Richard

Thank you for your email.

As a result of your answers I will need to make some further inquiries which I will hope to conclude as quickly as possible.

I will send you a copy of my draft report as soon as it is produced.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Goacher
Partner
Weightmans LLP



[REDACTED]

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Hampshire County Council

Weightmans' reference: SG/112705/2

Report of an investigation into an allegation concerning the
conduct of Councillor Sean Woodward of Hampshire County
Council

SG 12

Background to the Motorcycles Grant Applications

May 2018:

- Councillor Woodward took over as Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage.
- In a subsequent briefing with him, Cllr Woodward made it clear to me and the then Director that he wanted to review the grants. He wanted to move away from ongoing revenue funding to culture and community organisations, to one-off grants to increase sustainability and reduce reliance on public sector funding. Cllr Woodward also wanted to widen the criteria of the scheme so that other organisations could apply.
- Whilst I didn't keep a record of it, I recall at least 2 conversations with Cllr Woodward in the lead-up to January's Decision Day when he told me about a motorcycle group that were going to apply for a grant.

Decision Day 14 January 2019:

- Changes to the Grant scheme were approved.
- [REDACTED] and I attended this Decision Day. After the formal decisions had been made, Cllr Woodward talked about his preferred approach to the new grants scheme and specifically mentioned a grant of £15,000 towards the cost of a lorry for a children's motorcycle team – [REDACTED] notes.

19 March 2019:

- Cllr Woodward e-mailed [REDACTED], on behalf of the Rockets Motorcycle team, to say that, after partially completing the grant application form and saving it, they had 'lost' it.
- There were then a further 8 e-mails between Cllr Woodward and [REDACTED] about issues to do with the grant application form (which [REDACTED] sorted). In one of the e-mails Cllr Woodward asks when the grant application would come to him for a decision, [REDACTED] says hopefully his May Decision Day.
- The grant application from The Rockets arrived in March. It was submitted by Russell Collier, one of the Directors.
- On 25 March we asked for more information, e.g. business plan etc.

Moving the Decision Day:

- Cllr Woodward rang me to ask if the 23 May Decision Day could be moved to late April (no written record of the phone call, but an e-mail from ██████o Felicity Roe (FR) confirms that I had asked for the Decision Day to be moved). I then let ██████ know. (HCC Full Council was on 17 May).
- E-mail from ██████ on 17 April to Cllr Woodward saying April was not possible and suggesting the afternoon of 7 May.
- E-mail from Cllr Woodward saying Yes to 7 May, but wanting the Decision Day in the morning.
- 25 April – ██████ e-mails the draft grants report to me, saying Cllr Woodward had declared an interest as one of the applicants from The Rockets was known to him.

7 May Decision Day and subsequent correspondence about The Rockets

- 7 May Decision Day – Cllr Heron approved a grant of £15,000 to The Rockets.
- An email was sent to The Rockets on 7 May to confirm the grant and followed up on 21 May with the formal offer letter etc.

The Rockets Children's Motorcycle Display Team CIC has been awarded one third of project costs to a maximum of £15,000 on the condition that:

a) match funding from Fareham Borough Council is secured and that the organisation develops a pricing policy, offers a number of free displays locally and offers a number of free/subsidised places to local children to whom cost would be a barrier to participation.

- Russell Collier signed the offer letter on 22 May.
- Russell Collier returned the completed BACS form.
- 14 June Cllr Woodward phoned me to say that one of the Directors (██████████) of The Rockets had split from the original organisation and had set up a separate CIC from The Rockets and all the contracts etc had novated to the new organisation. He asked if we could transfer the grant to the new organisation and said that Fareham BC would be transferring their grant. I asked for more details of the new organisation which were sent to me by ██████ on 17 June. She says that 'All sponsorship deals and show bookings have been novated to this community interest company' and included a copy of the Kawasaki contract; but I noticed that this hasn't been signed. The new organisation is called the Green Rockets Motorcycle Display Team CIC.

- I spoke to David Kelly about the situation.
- 18 June we received a letter from [REDACTED] solicitors on behalf of two of the three Directors of The Rockets, saying that the grant has to go to The Rockets and not [REDACTED] new motorcycle team..
- 18 June Cllr Heron received an email from [REDACTED] who is a director of the [REDACTED] Children's Motorcycle Display team asking why The Rockets Children's Motorcycle Display Team CIC was given a grant of £15,000 and saying it was giving them an advantage over other similar organisations?
- 19 June Cllr Woodward phoned me to say that he didn't want the grant issued to either the original organisation or the new one. Fareham BC have also had a letter from a solicitor and Cllr W said that Fareham would not be giving a grant to either organisation, but new applications would be considered. Cllr Woodward also said he had been a witness to an assault which was being investigated by the Police.
- 19 June – on advice from David Kelly, I e-mailed Cllr Woodward to ask him for the Police Investigation number for the assault – which he sent me within 20 minutes.
- 19 June – a subsequent e-mail from Cllr Woodward to say that Fareham has cancelled their grant application to The Rockets. I also received an e-mail from the Grants officer at Fareham Borough Council that evening to confirm this.
- 4 July – Letters sent out from Legal to The Rockets and [REDACTED] (who had complained to Cllr Heron), confirming that no grant would be paid to The Rockets.

New Grant Application:

- 2 October – we received a new grant application from The Solent Stars CIC [REDACTED] – but a considerable amount of information was missing.
- [REDACTED] also received a phone call from Cllr Woodward about it, indicating he was keen to make the decision ASAP and could not see why it wouldn't be recommended for an award as the previous one had been – there is no record of this phone call.
- We chased for the outstanding information as part of our usual process of following up incomplete applications.
- 22 October – in [REDACTED]'s absence, at 11.17 a.m., I sent Cllr Woodward details of the grants going to his November Decision Day. I also said that, on the advice from Legal, the application should not be awarded a grant.

- 11.25 a.m. Cllr Woodward phones me to ask why the application wasn't applicable for a grant, when Fareham Borough Council is giving them a grant? I told him about the complaint to Cllr Heron, that we only had one quote for the application and that the majority of the application now was to fit out the vehicle as it had now been bought – this really wasn't within the grants criteria.
- After speaking to FR, I rang Legal and spoke to David Kelly, Barbara Beardwell was in a meeting.
- 11.40 a.m. – Cllr Woodward rang me again saying he has spoken to Barbara who had said she was looking at it in more detail. Cllr Woodward explained to me that the fit out costs were due to conditions laid down by the Showman's Guild.
- 24 October – ██████████ sends in further information about The Showman's Guild to the Grants inbox.
- Early November – the Grants Team informed ██████████ that, due to annual leave, we had not been able to process the grant application in time for the November Decision Day.
- 21 November – ██████████ e-mails us to withdraw her grant application as they had 'many new recruits and a number of show bookings for 2020' which meant they could pay for the lorry to be fitted out.
- 13 January – ██████████ e-mailed Legal to ask if any grants had been paid to any motorcycle team. The response was 'No'.

██████████
2 March 2020

Hampshire County Council

Weightmans' reference: SG/112705/2

Report of an investigation into an allegation concerning the
conduct of Councillor Sean Woodward of Hampshire County
Council

SG 13

Simon Goacher

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 March 2019 16:24
To: Woodward, Cllr S
Subject: RE: RHCF application summary

Dear Councillor Woodward,
I hope to bring it to your May decision day and if they are able to get it in next week that should be plenty of time to meet the reporting schedule. I note they expect a decision from Fareham Borough Council in May also, so this should fit with their project timescale I hope.

Yours,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Senior Project Officer
CCBS Grants / Library Service
Culture, Communities and Business Services
Hampshire County Council

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] on request please email directly to ccbs.foi@hants.gov.uk. Any statutory timeframe will not commence until the request is received at this address.

From: Woodward, Cllr S
Sent: 20 March 2019 16:19
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: RHCF application summary

Thank you. The second one (to me) is obviously in error, I am sure they will work on and submit the first one this week. When would you be bringing it to me for decision?
Best wishes

Councillor Seán D T Woodward
Executive Member for Recreation & Heritage
County Councillor for Sarisbury Division



Hampshire
County Council

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 March 2019 16:03
To: Woodward, Cllr S
Subject: RE: RHCF application summary

Dear Councillor Woodward,

Here are the latest links to the two applications that I sent through to the group earlier today:

<https://grantsform.hants.gov.uk/LandingPage.aspx?code=gi1oqnipnsvzr7q5>

<https://grantsform.hants.gov.uk/LandingPage.aspx?code=be0nur8ov782ktwr>

If they are currently working on the application/s and make a save, these links will be overwritten and will no longer work.

Yours,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Senior Project Officer
CCBS Grants / Library Service

Culture, Communities and Business Services
Hampshire County Council

[REDACTED]
If you have a freedom of information request please email directly to ccbs.foi@hants.gov.uk. Any statutory timeframe will not commence until the request is received at this address.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 March 2019 15:56
To: Woodward, Cllr S <Sean.Woodward@hants.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: RHCF application summary

Dear Councillor Woodward,
I was able to find alternative links that worked when I tested them and I have sent them to the group. The links below did not work for me either and I have reported the issue to IT to investigate.

Yours,

[REDACTED]
Senior Project Officer
CCBS Grants / Library Service
Culture, Communities and Business Services
Hampshire County Council

[REDACTED]
If you have a freedom of information request please email directly to ccbs.foi@hants.gov.uk. Any statutory timeframe will not commence until the request is received at this address.

From: Woodward, Cllr S
Sent: 20 March 2019 15:53
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: RHCF application summary

Dear [REDACTED]

Do you mean the links below? If so they are the ones that have failed.
Best wishes

Councillor Seán D T Woodward
Executive Member for Recreation & Heritage
County Councillor for Sarisbury Division



Hampshire
County Council

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 March 2019 10:53
To: Woodward, Cllr S
Subject: RE: RHCF application summary

Dear Councillor Woodward,

Thank you for passing on this concern which is very troubling. I have shared it with the IT department and asked them to look into it. In the meantime, I can see the links to their two applications in progress which I will forward through to them.

Yours,

Senior Project Officer
CCBS Grants / Library Service
Culture, Communities and Business Services
Hampshire County Council

[REDACTED]

If you have a freedom of information request please email directly to ccbs.foi@hants.gov.uk. Any statutory timeframe will not commence until the request is received at this address.

From: Woodward, Cllr S

Sent: 19 March 2019 21:11

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: RHCF application summary

Dear [REDACTED]

I had a concern raised to me by the Rockets Motorcycle display team that they had completed a grant application and saved it on 3rd March then again on 9th March. They went back in using the generated link to submit and it was gone. Can you trace it for them please? The two emails containing the links are here – certainly not 30 days old:

From: grants@hants.gov.uk

Date: 9 March 2019 at 15:29:59 GMT

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Your Hampshire County Council Grant Application

Your Hampshire County Council grant application has been saved.

Please follow this link to resume your application:

[Your Saved Grant Application Form](#)

Begin forwarded message:

From: grants@hants.gov.uk

Date: 3 March 2019 at 12:43:30 GMT

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Your Hampshire County Council Grant Application

Your Hampshire County Council grant application has been saved.

Please follow this link to resume your application:

[Your Saved Grant Application Form](#)

Councillor Seán D T Woodward
Executive Member for Recreation & Heritage
County Councillor for Sarisbury Division



Hampshire
County Council

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 15 March 2019 17:42

To: Woodward, Cllr S

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RHCF application summary

Dear Councillor Woodward,

Please find attached the latest application summary for the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund.

The next update summary is scheduled for 29 March, but I will be on leave that week so will send it as soon as possible on my return.

Yours,

[Redacted]

Senior Project Officer
CCBS Grants / Library Service
Culture, Communities and Business Services

Hampshire County Council
Office 2
Second Floor
Castle Hill
Winchester
SO23 8UH

[Redacted]

If you have a freedom of information request please email directly to ccbs.foi@hants.gov.uk. Any statutory timeframe will not commence until the request is received at this address.

Simon Goacher

From: Roe, Felicity <f[REDACTED]>
Sent: 18 April 2019 07:07
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Re-scheduled May Decision Day

Ok. That wording can come out on both entries now that dd has been changed.

From: "[REDACTED]"
Sent: Wednesday, 17 April 2019 17:11
To: "Roe, Felicity" <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Re-scheduled May Decision Day

Dear Felicity,

[REDACTED] advised me verbally that Cllr Woodward was keen to make some decisions before the next decision day, ideally before the end of April.

Yours,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Senior Project Officer
CCBS Grants / Library Service
Culture, Communities and Business Services
Hampshire County Council

[REDACTED]

If you have a freedom of information request please email directly to ccbs.foi@hants.gov.uk. Any statutory timeframe will not commence until the request is received at this address.

From: Roe, Felicity
Sent: 17 April 2019 17:02
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Re-scheduled May Decision Day

Hi [REDACTED]
Thanks for the additional information . Where did the suggestion to make an April decision on the Rockets come from? It seems strange as the lorry won't be ready for this summer season.

Thanks
Felicity

Felicity Roe
Director
Culture, Communities and Business Services
Castle Avenue,
Winchester

S023 8UL

[REDACTED]

From [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 April 2019 13:03
To: Roe, Felicity <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: Re-scheduled May Decision Day

Hi Felicity – the grants being put forward to the May Decision Day are the ones under the 'Applications assessed since last update' section.

Many thanks.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

PA to:
Felicity Roe, Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

[REDACTED]

From [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 April 2019 12:54
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Re-scheduled May Decision Day

Hi [REDACTED],

Here is the latest grants summary I shared with Cllr Woodward – I should have it worked up into report format tomorrow. It would be the 'Applications assessed since last update' section that goes into the report. Hope this is ok?!

Yours,

[REDACTED]

Senior Project Officer
CCBS Grants / Library Service
Culture, Communities and Business Services
Hampshire County Council

[REDACTED]

If you have a freedom of information request please email directly to ccbs.foi@hants.gov.uk. Any statutory timeframe will not commence until the request is received at this address.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 April 2019 12:03

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Re-scheduled May Decision Day

[REDACTED] - apologies, but Felicity has asked if you could let her know what grants (and what area they are in) would be put forward to this Decision Day please.....!

Many thanks.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PA to:

Felicity Roe, Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 17 April 2019 11:37

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Re-scheduled May Decision Day

Hi [REDACTED] – I don't think you were copied into the note below! Will it be possible to have the final reports ready for publication on 26th April!?!

Many thanks.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

Felicity Roe, Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 17 April 2019 11:35

To: Roe, Felicity <[REDACTED]>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Re-scheduled May Decision Day

Dear Felicity,

Please see below further to our emails regarding Councillor Woodward's May Decision Day. He would like to go for 9am on 7 May. This would mean that papers would need to be published by close of play on Friday 26 April. Would this be possible?

Of course, the timings would not allow for the normal lead in (officer/chairman virtual briefing) but reports could be emailed to Cllr Woodward in advance for his review if necessary.

If you could confirm at your earliest convenience, I would be grateful.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: Woodward, Cllr S
Sent: 17 April 2019 11:29
To: C [REDACTED] >
Subject: Re: Re-scheduled May Decision Day

Could we do 9am on 7th May please?

Councillor Seán D T Woodward
Executive Member for Recreation & Heritage
County Councillor for Sarisbury Division

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@hants.gov.uk>
Date: 17 April 2019 at 09:07:50 BST
To: Woodward, Cllr S <Sean.Woodward@hants.gov.uk>
Subject: Re-scheduled May Decision Day

Dear Councillor Woodward,

I understand that you would like to move your 23 May Decision Day forward. Due to the advance publication deadlines, and accounting for Bank Holidays, it would be difficult to hold a Decision Day in April as we would need to publish papers within the next day or two.

My proposal would be to schedule a Decision Day earlier in May. I could schedule something in the afternoon on 7 May – will you already be in Winchester that morning for your group meeting?


Kind regards


[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Senior Democratic Services Officer
Democratic and Member Services
Corporate Services – Law and Governance

[REDACTED]

 <http://democracy.hants.gov.uk/>

 Think Green - don't print this e-mail unless necessary

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Simon Goacher

From: Woodward, Cllr S <Sean.Woodward@hants.gov.uk>
Sent: 19 June 2019 19:49
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: The Rockets Motorcycle team

Dear [REDACTED]

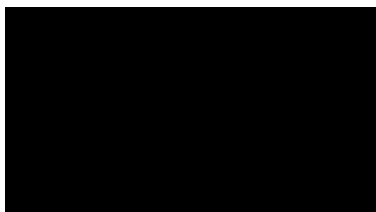
Just to let you know that FBC has cancelled their grant application.

Best wishes

Councillor Seán D T Woodward

Executive Member for Recreation & Heritage

County Councillor for Sarisbury Division



Hampshire
County Council

From: [REDACTED] >
Date: 19 June 2019 at 15:46:27 BST
To: Woodward, Cllr S <Sean.Woodward@hants.gov.uk>
Subject: The Rockets Motorcycle team

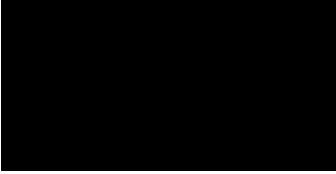
Dear Seán,

Following our telephone conversation this morning, Legal have asked for details of the Police Investigation into the assault on one of the directors of the original Rockets CIC.

Would you be able to let me have the investigation number please?

Many thanks,

Best wishes,



Assistant Director - Community and Regulatory Services,
Culture, Communities and Business Services department,
Hampshire County Council,
Three Minsters House, 76 High Street,
Winchester, SO23 8UL



Community and Regulatory Services includes Libraries, Trading Standards, Registration, Asbestos, Coroners,
Hampshire Scientific Services and Community Support

Simon Goacher

From: CCBS Grants <CCBSGrants@hants.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 June 2019 08:33
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Confirmation of Fareham BC's decision not to award the grant

FYI

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: 19 June 2019 21:00
To: CCBS Grants <CCBSGrants@hants.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] >
Subject: RE: Re:

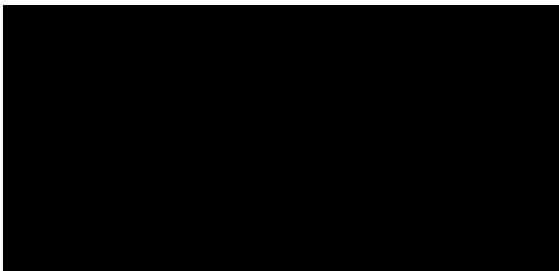
Dear [REDACTED],

Further to your email below, Claire is off at the moment, but I am dealing with this matter in Claire's absence.

Having sought legal advice, this afternoon, we, Fareham Borough Council informed The Team Green Rockets Children's Motorcycle Display Team CIC, company number [REDACTED] who applied to the Council for match funding of £15,000, that we had taken the difficult decision not to award any community grant funding in respect of this application. This includes the transferring of the funds to the new Green Rockets Motorcycle Display Team CIC, company number [REDACTED]

I am not in the office tomorrow, but if you wish to discuss this in more detail, I can be contacted on my mobile – [REDACTED]

Kindest regards,



From: CCBS Grants [mailto:CCBSGrants@hants.gov.uk]
Sent: 19 June 2019 12:48
To: [REDACTED] >
Subject: RE: Re:

Hi [REDACTED],

[REDACTED] has asked me to inform you that we are in discussion with our legal department regarding the issue.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]
Senior Administrative Officer
Culture, Communities & Business Services (CCBS)
Hampshire County Council

[REDACTED]
ccbsgrants@hants.gov.uk
Castle Avenue, 76 High Street, Winchester, SO23 8UL

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: 18 June 2019 12:45
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]; CCBS Grants
<CCBSGrants@hants.gov.uk>
Subject: Re:

Dear [REDACTED]

Many thanks. This seems like a very sensible approach.

The solicitor will have received my out of office which gives us a little time to understand the situation better.

[REDACTED] - could you please inform Cllr Woodward that I am on leave but we are in conversation with Legal so we can understand our obligations.

Thank you,

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]k>
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 12:34 pm
To: B [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] ccbsgrants@hants.gov.uk
Subject: Re:

Dear [REDACTED] I have been made aware of some serious issues. Please put all monies on hold. I know you are on holiday so I will catch up with [REDACTED]. Regards. [REDACTED]

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 12:13 pm

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject:

Dear Councillor [REDACTED]

Please be advised that we have received an email from a solicitors representing the 2 remaining directors of Team Green Rockets, looking to establish that the original funding stands and that it will not be transferred to [REDACTED]'s new CIC.

I would be grateful for a considered view before I respond to anyone.

[REDACTED] - could you please provide us with an update on Hampshire's approach regarding this matter for your own funding arrangements?

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Leisure and Community Officer
Fareham Borough Council
[REDACTED]

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This email is confidential but may have to be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018 or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. If you are not the person or organisation it was meant for, apologies. Please ignore it, delete it and notify us. Emails may be monitored.

Simon Goacher

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 March 2020 09:38
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Motorcycle team grant application

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: 24 October 2019 11:08
To: CCBS Grants <CCBSGrants@hants.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Application to Recreation and Heritage Community Fund Grant Ref:CG00019876

To whom it may concern;

I have recently applied for a Recreation and Heritage community grant and thought it may be helpful to provide further details outlining "The Showmen's Guild" conversion and the benefit of what this would provide to the team.

To own or operate a HGV you must comply with the criteria set by the Traffic Commissioners and VOSA meaning all HGV/LGV vehicles must comply with the following conditions;

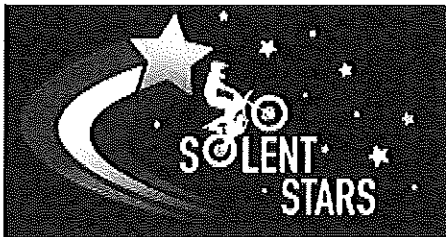
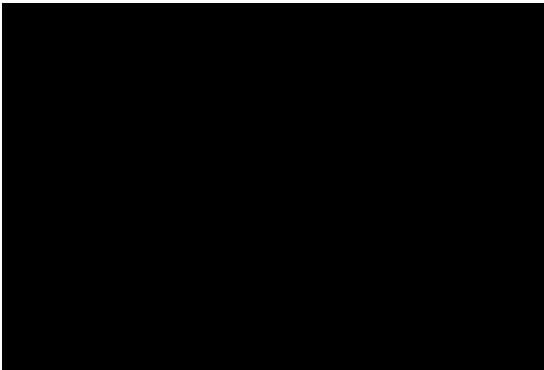
- Employ a qualified Transport Manager with a Certificate of Professional Competence (operator's CPC)
- Have an approved operating centre (approved by the Traffic Commissioner's Office)
- Hold an Operators Licence for the vehicle
- Operate with a 6 weekly maintenance schedule with an approved centre
- In addition to the driver holding a valid HGV licence they must also be CPC qualified and hold a valid Drivers CPC card
- Road fund licence based on the vehicle weight plating and axle configuration

All of the above would have a significant financial impact on the Club's annual operating costs and we would need to as a minimum employ an HGV Driver and Transport Manager. However, if we operate under "The Showmen's Guild" regulations it will take us out of scope for all of the above avoiding such costs and additional complications, but to transfer a HGV to a Special Vehicles category (a showman's vehicle) one must satisfy DVLA that the vehicle has been modified for the purpose of what one intends to use it for. This includes portable power, a living area, a restroom, heating, lighting, sleeping and catering facilities.

The addition of such equipment would not only meet DVLA conditions but will provide the children and their families with much needed essentials to support them during training season and many months of weekends away whilst at events performing. Without this conversion the Club would not be able to operate as the safety and wellbeing of our members and their families is paramount. The Club is operated and run by the parents all giving their time as volunteers. There is no financial gain to any member meaning we are confident without unnecessary operating costs and wages we are financially viable for future years. This is why we

are a Community Interest Company

I do hope the above information has provided you with a more in depth understanding of our project.



www.solentstars.co.uk



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From: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 019 16:20

To: 'CCBS Grants' <CCBSGrants@hants.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Application to Recreation and Heritage Community Fund Grant Ref:CG00019876

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

As requested please find attached documents. You will find the reserves policy within the business plan.

Hopefully you know have all the necessary documentation and I look forward to hearing from you.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: CCBS Grants <CCBSGrants@hants.gov.uk>

Sent: 04 October 2019 10:47

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Application to Recreation and Heritage Community Fund Grant Ref:CG00019876

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your application to the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund. It appears your application is missing the following supporting documentation.

- Constitution
- Reserve Policy
- Estimates for the works
- 3 yr business plan

We are hoping to take your application to the next decision day in November which we are currently putting the report together for, would you be able to send these documents as soon as possible so that the grants officer is able to make the application assessment and add it to the report in time?

If you have any questions about the supporting documentation then please let me know as I will be happy to help.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

Senior Administrative Officer
Culture, Communities & Business Services (CCBS)
Hampshire County Council

T [REDACTED]
ccbsgrants@hants.gov.uk
Castle Avenue, 76 High Street, Winchester, SO23 8UL

Simon Goacher

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 November 2019 16:10
To: Roe, Felicity; [REDACTED]
Subject: Motorcycle org withdrawing their application, work underway

For your information, we have received an email from the Solent Stars Motorcycle Display Team, below, withdrawing their application.

Yours,

[REDACTED]
Senior Project Officer
CCBS Grants / Library Service
Culture, Communities and Business Services
Hampshire County Council

[REDACTED]

If you have a freedom of information request please email directly to ccbs.foi@hants.gov.uk. Any statutory timeframe will not commence until the request is received at this address.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 November 2019 17:22
To: CCBS Grants <CCBSGrants@hants.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Application to Recreation and Heritage Community Fund Grant Ref:CG00019876

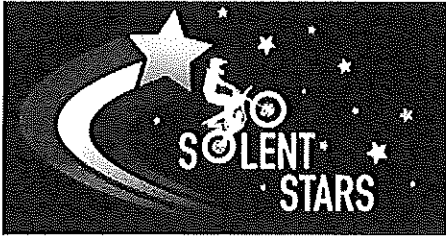
Dear [REDACTED]

I would like to bring you up to speed with our progression and delighted to say it's all moving in the right direction. We have many new recruits and a number of confirmed show bookings for 2020. With such positive progress we are now able to fund our project and the trailer conversion is very much underway. For this reason I realise we would no longer qualify so kindly request to withdraw our application. However, as we continue to grow and develop so will our ambitions so hope in time we can consider future grant funding for different a project.

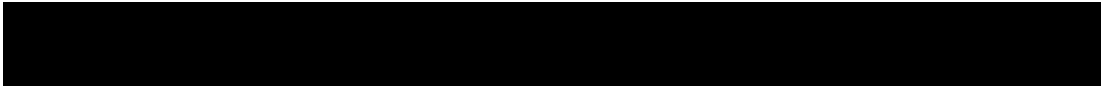
If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]



www.solentstars.co.uk



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Hampshire County Council

Weightmans' reference: SG/112705/2

Report of an investigation into an allegation concerning the
conduct of Councillor Sean Woodward of Hampshire County
Council

SG 14

COMMENTS OF COUNCILLOR SEÁN WOODWARD

BACKGROUND

16. I asked for my decision day to be changed in April 2019. The Leader of the Council was unchanged at that time so there had not “been a change of Leader.” Having consulted my diary, on 23rd May I was invited to present certificates at a Royal Naval gliding course at Solent Airport in Fareham which clashed with the originally proposed decision day timing which would have been the reason I asked for it to be moved. In fact, having also checked my Facebook page the posting of 23rd May is on it and is attached. I arranged for the date to be changed due to another engagement.

COLLIER

31. I have never had a conversation with PC Collier about grants or on any other matter. A new Cabinet was not being appointed at 10am on that day or even that week.
32. I attended a training event with my son at the end of 2018. I occasionally attended training. The only shows I attended where the Rockets were present were when I was invited by the organisers – nothing to do with the Rockets. The only one I attended out of the Fareham area was Abingdon Air Show which I was invited to by the organiser to assist with planning for an upcoming air show in Fareham. I also presented prizes at an awards evening at the end of 2018 to which I was invited by PC Morris.
34. Not relevant but I was passing [REDACTED] property to attend a meeting with the Harbourmaster at the end of the same road. And I live 3 miles away and my mother lives around the corner.
35. Untrue.
36. I did not contact the school.
37. Untrue except I was indeed on the telephone to [REDACTED] Fareham’s District Commander, when I witnessed PC Collier’s assault on [REDACTED] which was on the highway outside his home, not hers. [REDACTED] instructed me to call 999.
38. I have no influence to get anyone placed on directed duties albeit this does prove that he was indeed under investigation by professional standards.
40. As you have already stated I did not approve any grant applications therefore PC Colliers’s statements are untrue. I readily agree I give all possible help and support to all community grant applicants.

41. There was no such conversation. And as for saying they no longer needed the ramps – half the ramps were supplied and delivered and I was invited to a training session to see them. The problem was they were not paid for.

MORRIS

47. Not true. The ramps were not free. If they were the grant would not have been approved.
49. This is all hearsay. As well as untrue. FBC did not increase the grant from £5,000 to £15,000. The application was for £15,000.
50. Untrue. [REDACTED] has supplied the evidence for you of PC Morris's text messages, the injuries she received from PC Collier and a willingness to be interviewed.
51. Untrue.
53. Untrue. A council would never insure a councillor to drive a car.

FELICITY ROE

61. The grant system was changed from a reliance on ongoing revenue funding to a limited number of organisations to generally capital grants at my request. This was to increase the amount of funding available for capital grants for organisations looking to improve buildings or purchase equipment. I became Executive Member in May 2018 and within 2 weeks started discussions with officers on the changes which were finalised in June 2018. I then spent months visiting all of the organisations that would be affected by these changes to revenue funding before making the decisions on them as part of the budget setting process in January 2019. As well as a briefing to the Select Committee letters were also sent to Councillors in September 2018 to advise them of the new system I was proposing. This was not something which did not happen until January 2019.

I first met the Rockets in August 2018 so any suggestion of creating a new grant scheme to accommodate a possible grant application seven months later from an organisation I had never met is absurd. At that time, they requested my help in finding them a training ground. The £15,000 grant request was not submitted until March 2019. I exchanged emails with officers following complaints from the applicants that the new online application system had failed.

62. I regularly forewarn officers about grants that I am aware will be submitted as I am very pro-active in signposting potential applicants to the grant scheme. Also, in assisting them on occasion with getting through the paperwork and visiting them. I have assisted organisations in achieving sizeable grant support over the last two years including one to a Hampshire museum for £100,000 agreed by the Leader of

the Council after we visited the site. Also, I was involved in a grant, again agreed by the Leader, to help purchase a countryside site for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. My message here is that I have absolute community focus and work with many organisations to help them achieve their aspirations with support from the county council and other bodies all in support of the Recreation and Heritage aims of my portfolio. I see my role in this as bringing organisations and support together and many organisations have directly benefited from significant capital grants including village halls, churches, community centres, bowling clubs, etc throughout Hampshire.

63. My preferred approach to grants was already in place – it was the subject of the decisions I had made and was formulated in June 2018.
64. The online grant application process was troublesome, and I did indeed receive and pass on complaints about it hence the email exchanges.
65. As officers will I know testify, I have always been very keen to get all applications before a decision day as quickly as possible – I offered to hold these events as often as necessary to get rapid decisions. I even said I was happy to do them weekly if needed and certainly monthly. If an applicant asks me when a decision is to be made, I contact the grants officers to ask.
67. Felicity Roe and I share a passion for horses, so I did mention to her that I was pursuing a long-held ambition in taking my HGV tests to enable me to get a larger lorry for transporting horses. I really do question how that private conversation is in any way relevant to a complaint about the handling of a grant application. I believe I mentioned it twice in conversations by way of small talk before or after one of our regular briefing meetings. Once when I gained the C licence and once when I gained the C+E licence.

For the record I did not speak to her about gaining my licence “throughout March and April”. From my diary my only contact with her during those two months was at three meetings.

68. I do recall in April 2019 finding a proposed decision date inconvenient so asked for it to be moved. Having consulted my diary, on 23rd May I was invited to present certificates at a Royal Naval gliding course at Solent Airport in Fareham which clashed with the originally proposed decision day timing which would have been the reason I asked for it to be moved. In fact, having also checked my Facebook page the posting of 23rd May is on it and is attached. I arranged for the date to be changed due to another engagement.
69. I was offered 7th May in the afternoon but due to having four meetings in Fareham in the afternoon asked if it could be in the morning prior to a 10am meeting. It was set for 9am.

70. The new Leader was appointed by the Council on the morning of 17th May NOT the afternoon of 7th May. On 17th May the new Leader would announce his Executive Members. The date of 7th May therefore had no significance whatever and Mrs Roe is mistaken in her statement.
71. I did not ask Cllr Heron to make the decision. That was a matter for the Leader as I had declared an interest in February and decided not to take the decision. The Leader deputed Cllr Heron to take the decision.
72. I was NOT in the room as my decision day was over and I had left the room. In fact, Cllr Heron advised me at a meeting we had together at 10am that he had made the decision. There were probably six other people in the meeting who would be aware that I left the room, not least the committee clerk.
73. As stated, the decision to move the meeting was because I was unavailable for the initial date. If Mrs Roe or any of her officers had any concerns whatsoever through the process, she could have contacted me. She did not. Also, there were many grant applications on the same agenda, not just the Rockets one.
75. I did not state that FBC would be transferring its grant. I said it had received the same request. In the event it decided not to pay the grant. My query was to state that I had been asked whether the council could transfer the grant.
77. I did say that in my view neither organisation should be paid the grant and it should be open to them to apply again if they wished. Thankfully due to my intervention the grant was not paid to either organisation.
78. You have details of the assault. I am advised that on 19th August 2020 Hampshire Constabulary Professional Standards Department advised the victim in writing that evidence of the assault case is now being reviewed.
81. I do not recall such a conversation and can find no record of such a conversation. If the Director had any concerns about my handling of any issues within my portfolio, she could have raised them with me. No officer ever expressed any concerns about any issues relating to grants and nor was I ever provided with any training on how to handle grant applications.
82. It was natural that I would query the email regarding the grant as I was aware that it was similar to the grant that was originally written up for approval. I was passed from officer to officer until I received an answer. I prefaced each call with the fact that as I had a personal interest, I would not be involved in taking the eventual decision.
87. I discussed Solent Stars' application with officers simply because I was confused to understand why it had not been added to the spreadsheet of applications. I prefaced my comments with the fact that I had an interest and would not be involved in making the decision. There is nothing in writing to that effect as the

grant application was never formalised into the spreadsheet and was withdrawn within six weeks and before it could be considered.

I did indeed show someone a video of me driving a lorry – that was three months after the grant application was withdrawn and approaching a year after I had passed my tests. I really cannot see it of being of any relevance and it concerns me that there is an attempt to conflate the two issues. Again, a private matter that has no place in this investigation.

CLLR HERON

94. I DID leave the room. There was no “rest of the meeting” as the decision Cllr Heron was making was the one and only item for him for decision. I had made my decisions on a number of grants, ended the meeting and left.

CLLR WOODWARD

116. It was on 2nd February 2019 that I sent a spreadsheet to [REDACTED] highlighting my interest and that I would not be taking the eventual decision. This was before the grant application was even submitted.

119. Having consulted my diary, on 23rd May I was invited to present certificates at a Royal Naval gliding course at Solent Airport in Fareham which clashed with the originally proposed decision day timing which would have been the reason I asked for it to be moved. In fact, having also checked my Facebook page the posting of 23rd May is on it and is attached. I arranged for the date to be changed due to another engagement.

127 The other complainant was MR Morris

135. My solicitor advises that he did respond to your email of 27th May 2020.

139. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

FINDINGS OF FACT

140

b. The decision day involved grants to many organisations, not just one.

- c. This is untrue. I was not determining the application therefore it was irrelevant whether or not I was any sort of Cabinet member. Any changes to Cabinet positions can be made by whoever is the Leader at any time and without notice. The new Leader was not appointed until 17th May 2019. The date was changed due to a prior engagement I had as described and to which I received an invitation in April 2019.
- e. This is untrue. I was not in the room. I made my decisions on other grants and left.
- f. This is untrue. I made it clear in February 2019 that one of the applicants was known to me therefore I would not be making the decision. This was a full month before the application was even submitted.
- j. I did not support the application. I asked questions around its progress.

141

- b. The evidence from the complainants attributed to [REDACTED] is untrue and is hearsay. Your statement is inferring false motive to my request to change the date.
- c. The comments attributed to me and to [REDACTED] are untrue. Also, the new Leader could not appoint his Cabinet until 17th May when he became the new Leader so the date of 7th May was irrelevant – morning or afternoon. Having consulted my diary, on the afternoon of 23rd May I was invited to present certificates at a Royal Naval gliding course at Solent Airport in Fareham which clashed with the originally proposed decision day timing which would have been the reason I asked for it to be moved. In fact, having also checked my Facebook page the posting of 23rd May is on it and is attached. I arranged for the date to be changed due to another engagement. The claim by the complainants is therefore false on any balance of probabilities and there is no evidence to support it but plenty to contradict it.
- e. I have stated I was not present, and I was not. Cllr Heron did not state categorically that I was present. Half a dozen other attendees will I hope be able to recall me leaving the room although we are talking about a 10 minute event well over a year ago. As there were 6 other people in the room the balance of probabilities does not suggest I am not telling the truth. You would need to have interviewed all of them which you have not.
- f. There is no requirement to state the nature of an interest – only whether it is personal in which case a Member can take a full part in decision and voting or disclosable pecuniary in which case the Member must take no part in the determination and must leave the room. I had a personal interest so according to the Code could have taken a full part in the process AND decision. In the event I went beyond the requirements and took no part in the decision.
- j. I do dispute this for the reason given above.

157. I did not raise the application at my first decision day. In fact, at that time it had not even been made. My interest and involvement in many applications is extensive; I have visited recipients of regular revenue funding to hear their views, explain mine and generally engage with them and learn more about their organisations. I have also visited a number of organisations prior to applications and after decisions on their grant applications. Sometimes these visits and contacts have resulted in email and telephone exchanges with officers, sometimes they have not. If this level of interest and contact is inappropriate such has never been suggested to me until now. I therefore refute the claim that my interest in these two applications was unusually close.
158. You and Felicity Roe have sought to conflate the matter of applications from these teams with me studying for HGV licences. You appear to be claiming that I supported a grant just so I could drive a particular HGV. I have owned HGVs for years and if I ever want to drive one I can drive my own HGV. There was no connection whatever between the two. My private ambition to achieve further HGV licensing was just that – private. That is why I was reluctant to discuss my private life with you. Your statement that this was the “true motive” for my support for the application is simply not true. This means that the fact I take a true community interest in the progress and council support for many organisations is not possible as I must have some other motive for this. Perhaps also for the 34 years of public service I have given as a Councillor. The fact I have HGV licensing was not a part of the original complaints but is something that you have brought into the investigation to try and find motive for what you appear to have decided to be fact.
159. You state “it was only very shortly before the decision was made” that I notified officers I would not be making the decision myself. In fact, I advised officers on the afternoon of Sunday 2nd February 2019 (your paragraph 116 wrongly states that to have been in April 2019 and that was my fault in not noticing the error in your original record of my statement at paragraph 15) and my comment is attached. This was a full month before the application was even submitted. I therefore advised officers of my interest over three months before the decision was made and for a second time on 12th April and of the reason for it.

I did not “line” anything up and I have not seen in any of the evidence you have gathered any suggestion whatever by any officer that the recommendation to Cllr Heron to approve the grant was anything other than their own recommendation. I have no doubt the officers would have recommended refusal if they had any concerns. An Executive Member can be removed at any time by whoever is the Leader. If I really had “lined” everything up as you state, then whether or not I was still an Executive Member would have been irrelevant.

160. I say again the recommendation to Cllr Heron was the officers’ recommendation. To suggest that any of them would bow to pressure and that such pressure would extend all the way up the line to the Director is discourteous to the officers concerned. The decision day included a number of organisations very keen to see

their grant applications decided and I have already explained why I had the date changed.

161. *3.2 Dealing with representations or enquiries from residents, members of communities within the administrative area of Hampshire County Council and visitors fairly, appropriately and impartially.*

I am not clear how a grant application is a “representation or enquiry”. You have not provided any evidence that I was influenced by anyone in reaching this conclusion. If helping organisations with grant applications is unfair, inappropriate and partial then I am surprised. I agree I was predisposed to support the application, but I was certainly not predetermined; in fact, I could not have been as I was never going to make the decision.

162. *3.3 Not allowing other pressures, including the financial interests of yourself or others connected to you, to deter you from pursuing constituents' casework, the interests of the County Council's area, or the good governance of the County Council in a proper manner.*

I had no other pressures and certainly no financial interest as I already own my own HGV which I use for my horses. My lifelong ambition to achieve additional HGV licences is nothing whatever to do with an unpaid grant to a motorcycle display team. I booked and paid for the training in 2018 long before the grant applications were discussed or indeed made and can prove same. The fact I made a number of suggestions of onerous conditions on any possible grant award should suggest the good governance of the County Council was high on my list of priorities. As should the fact that despite this only being a personal interest I withdrew from the eventual decision-making. The Code is clear that I could, with a personal interest, have made the decision. I chose not to.

██████████ had no “other pressures” to bring to bear and nor was she “connected to me.” She runs a not-for-profit community interest company.

163. *3.4 Exercising independent judgement and not compromising your position by placing yourself under obligations to outside individuals or organisations who might seek to influence the way you perform your duties.*

I was clear early on that I had an interest due to knowing one of the applicants. Nobody asked me to elaborate on that. This is the usual way for a personal interest to be declared – that one has such, not precisely what it is. This alleged failure can only be the case if I was intending making a decision on the matters. My judgement is my judgment – views arrived at by me and nobody else. The same will be true of the officers. Their views too are independent and need to go high up an officer chain of command to be approved as recommendations. I did not place myself under any obligations and nobody sought to influence me.

164. *3.7 Contributing to making the County Council's decision-making processes as open and transparent as possible.*

I did declare my interest in the application at the earliest possible stage and stated what it was – before even it became an application and was submitted. I could not do it earlier than that. Nowhere in the Code does it state that the nature of a personal interest must be stated – merely that there is a personal interest. Again, I went further than required and declared that I knew one of the applicants. By his own admission I did not attempt to influence the decision maker and further I left the room while he made his decision.

165. I did declare my interest again and left the room. Nothing could be clearer than that.

167. I did not refuse to disclose any correspondence with the police – I sent you the detailed letter I wrote to them describing my concerns.

170.

171.

173. I did not refuse to co-operate. I questioned what was being asked for which I construed to be moving into my private life such as my driving licence. You repeatedly avoided answering my questions necessitating me needing to engage a solicitor. You still failed to answer what I believe were reasonable questions but, in the event, to ensure I was being as helpful as possible I instructed him to supply you with the information that you sought.

176. I did not understand your line of questioning and how it related to the enquiry into the complaints and this is why I was reluctant to provide you with information on my HGV licence status as it did not form part of the complaint. After taking my own legal advice because the Council's spare Independent Member would not assist me I was advised that I should answer the questions that were related to the complaints.

178. You state at 165 that you do not find me to have failed to comply with the Code in relation to Part 5. Here you state that I have failed to comply. This is inconsistent. What is your view please?

I would be grateful if you would also confirm in the report that there was no failure by me to comply with the Code of Conduct insofar as it related to the other (£2,000) grants.

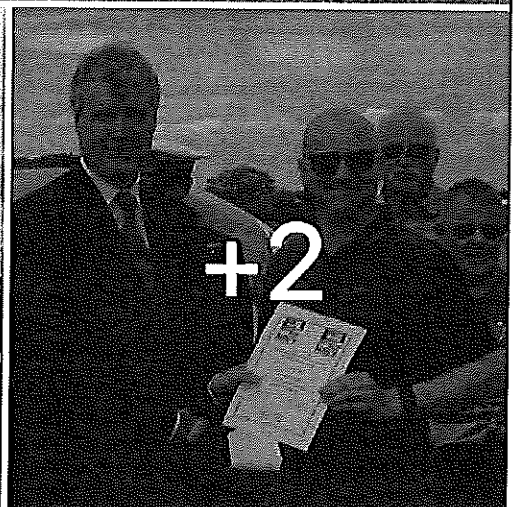
Throughout your report you refer to a [REDACTED]

My overall comment on this remaining issue, you I understand having effectively dismissed the allegations around the two £2,000 grants a [REDACTED] [REDACTED], relates to the officer support around the grant application process.

I have already pointed out that I have not to my knowledge had any Code of Conduct training as a Member of the County Council. I can categorically state that I received no training around the issue around the handling of Recreation & Heritage grant determinations. If any officer had any concerns whatsoever around my handling of or involvement in any grant applications they were bound to pass their concerns on, presumably to their Director (Felicity Roe), or even to the Chief Executive Officer or Monitoring Officer, in order for them to raise them with me if they felt unable to do so. If I had received a single concern from an officer, I would immediately have reviewed the way I dealt with grant applications. I have helped many organisations with their grant applications as the application process is not easy. My motivation in this was purely out of a desire to help the organisations concerned, not for any personal gain for me or anyone I know.

Finally, a number of the conversations with officers took place 6 – 12 months prior to your investigation and I really am not surprised that some of the versions of event do not tally and you do point out that no records were kept of these alleged conversations.

It was great to join Portsmouth Naval Gliding Centre Chief Instructor [REDACTED] [REDACTED] on behalf of the Royal Naval Gliding and Soaring Association at Solent Airport@Daedalus today. Pleased to present the certificates and to enjoy a flight. It is good to see so many visitors to enjoy the facilities we have on offer. As always fantastic to be joined by a Boulton Paul Spitfire.



4,196
People reached

1,363
Engagements

Boost post