

1. My name is Ray Hanslip and for the last three years I have been the Chairman of Fareham Conservative Association and an active Conservative Party member for many years prior to that.
2. I have been asked to comment on the allegations brought against Councillor Seán Woodward.
3. I cannot comment on the grant funding allegations of which I have no knowledge.
4. On 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019 the Association took action to expel [REDACTED]. The reasons for his expulsion were [REDACTED] but the most prevalent ground was approving the application for Conservative Party membership of PC Collier without approval of either the Chairman or the officers after Titchfield Branch had expressed its objection.
5. PC Collier attempted to join the Party in the summer of 2019. As is normal prior to being admitted a member of the Party local branches are consulted by the Association. When Titchfield Branch was consulted members objected to PC Collier being admitted to membership due to allegations of assault against one of our members [REDACTED] having been made against him as well as alleged subsequent threats to pursue her into the Fareham Conservative Association. The Association was also made aware of an ongoing police investigation through the Professional Standards Department of Hampshire Constabulary. The Association officers took the decision that whilst the allegations against PC Collier were at that time unproven to them, they would take the precautionary approach and reject the application for the safety of our membership until the outcome of the investigation.
6. [REDACTED] openly objected to the rejection of PC Collier's membership application. In a manner which his colleagues felt likely to prejudice an ongoing police investigation, it became apparently obvious from email exchanges on the matter that, against his fellow officers' wishes, [REDACTED] took it upon himself to visit PC Collier to discuss the alleged assault on [REDACTED] which had been allegedly witnessed by Councillor Woodward.
7. [REDACTED] reported back that after his unauthorised meeting with PC Collier that the allegations in his opinion were unfounded and it was all the fault of Cllr Woodward against whom he had openly held a dislike for some time within the Association. The rest of the officers decided to let the police investigation run its course and reminded [REDACTED] not to interfere with an ongoing police investigation as it was not the business of the Association to get involved and the member's application would be decided on the outcome of the police investigation. [REDACTED] then decided to access the Association's membership system without the Chairman's or officers' authorisation and

admit PC Collier as a member contrary to the decision of his colleagues who were trying to protect the wellbeing of a member from potential harm. This was on discovery reversed and was the main contributing fact leading to his expulsion from the Party on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019. An expulsion which stands to this day.

8. At the expulsion meeting and beforehand [REDACTED] made it clear to members and was heard to say that he and others and would ensure that Cllr Woodward got his “comeuppance” and during the hearing made his criticism and dislike of Cllr Woodward clear. [REDACTED] openly blamed his demise on Cllr Woodward during the suspension stage, before, during and after the expulsion hearing so it comes as no surprise to see the complaints submitted by PCs Collier and Morris appear to be influenced by [REDACTED]’s interaction after their meeting. To demonstrate [REDACTED]’s interaction with PC Collier I attach just one example of an email between us – (attachment RH1)
9. I would also like to bring to the attention of the Panel that whilst I have not been presented with any evidence from any of the parties of the allegations I would like to point out my observations on the chronology of the sequence of events all within approximately 3 months of each other and the timings are very conveniently coincidental:
  - a) Alleged assault against [REDACTED]
  - b) Alleged Investigation through the Professional Standards Department of Hampshire Constabulary
  - c) Application for membership by PC Collier
  - d) Application rejected
  - e) Expulsion of [REDACTED]
  - f) Complaint filed against Cllr Woodward to Hampshire County Council and others
10. I have been asked to give my opinion on the complaint and whilst the majority of the facts are held at the Association office on record regarding [REDACTED]’s expulsion and PC Collier’s membership application. I would like my opinion to be noted as purely that, an opinion and would speculate with the balance of probability it would be logical to surmise that looking at the sequence of events above that two parties have simply fallen out with each other. From the email provided it is clear that [REDACTED] has interacted with PC Collier, otherwise how would he know of a counter claim without talking to the proposed claimant. One had his membership rejected, the other was expelled, at least one has on record held a dislike for Cllr Woodward so in the balance of probability it is more than likely that the pair have collaborated and as Cllr Woodward is a politician and if retaliation is in mind the easiest way is to launch a character assassination designed to irrevocably damage his reputation and political career.
11. In closing I can confirm that an identical complaint was submitted against Councillor Woodward to the Conservative Party nationally . The Party chose not to pursue as they said it was politically motivated.

*R. Hanslip*

Ray Hanslip, Chairman, Fareham Conservative Association. Dated 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020