

From: Whittingham, Councillor David
Sent: 05 April 2016 20:39
To: Doran, Paul
Subject: RE: Complaint

Dear Paul

After reading through your report being submitted to the Audit and Governance-Standards Sub-Committee on 13th April 2016 subject: Allegation of a Breach of the Members Code of Conduct. I find it confusing and misinterpreted.

It states;

On page 2 meeting with Cllr Whittingham, the monitoring officer put the allegations to him.

paragraph 8 (A) That during a conversation with officer A, he was heard to say " I was talking to an Officer earlier and told them that I did not want foreigners living in my road.

Paragraph 8 (B) That he subsequently said again to officer A, that he "did not want any foreigners in his (housing) stock".

Paragraph 8 (C) shortly afterwards he started talking in an accent that sounded like a person of Indian/Pakistani origin attempting to speak English.

I will answer the above allegations in due course after explaining what actually happened.

On Sunday 20th march 2016 I had to collect 10 signatures to submit to the council offices on Monday for my application to stand in the Mays elections as an independent councillor.

Out of 18 resident I asked 8 of them to my astonishment were not on the electoral register, 3 in Hammond Road (none of which you stated are "foreigners"). I went to the Hill Park Working Men's Club that dinner time to get the others that had said they would sign the application form for me and found another 5 residents with the same problem. One being a local resident who had moved in to my ward some months ago, also not a "foreigner" as I have been accused of saying.

On Monday 21st April 2016 I visited the council offices and went up to the 6th floor to ask why those residents were not on the electoral registrar. Meeting with an Officer in Democratic Services I explained my concerns, I was with this Officer for about 30 minutes discussing my findings. That Officer told me of some of the reasons why this could happen and one of the reasons given was that some time illegal immigrants may be housed and would not go on to the electoral registrar straight away and could not answer to why I have 8 long term residents not listed.

I told the Officer that being the councillor for the last 4 years in the North West Ward of Fareham I know of a great number of residents on the waiting list for some considerable time, some living with family and others over crowded. To house illegal immigrants in the my ward would not go down to well with the residents if this happened. The Officer told me to ask xxx department on the yyy floor if they could explain about the 8 residents, I thanked the Officer for helping and proceeded to xxx on floor yyy.

I saw officers A and C talking, I said good morning to them both. I asked if XX was in the office, Officer A told me he was not and could they help, I explained that I had just been to see an Officer in Democratic Services with regards to my findings and that they told me to ask another department, I explained about the 8 residents that were not on the electoral register with one in particular (which

was a great concern to me). Officer A told me that a letter had been sent out to them and the reason why they were not listed was because they did not know their National Insurance Number which had to be submitted. I told her that I would contact him and get it.

I then went on to tell them that the Officer did not know why some of my residents were not on the register. Then the Officer also explained to me about why sometimes there may be an occasion to house illegal immigrants family where upon Officer C said 'That's that Officer's opinion' and told me that the Officer should not have said that. I did not find anything wrong in that Officer's explanations, I told them both what I said to that Officer regarding being a councillor for the past 4 years in the North West Ward. Knowing we do not have the housing stock to rehouse many who are already waiting and that there were a lot of residents living in the ward on the waiting list still waiting to be housed. In my opinion it would not be ideal to house an illegal immigrant family in the ward. This is where I felt that officer A and officer C have misinterpreted what I said which is laid out on page 2 paragraph 8 (A) "not wanting foreigners living in my road", also page 2 paragraph 8 (B) "not wanting foreigners in my housing stock".

Later in our conversation I was explaining that I repeatedly get telephone calls one of which was from either Vodafone or Santander with regards to my billing. I tried to mimic the callers voice to officer s A and C and I must admit not very well in an Asian voice. I told the two officers that I could not understand a word the caller was saying, unaware to me that officer B was in ear shot behind me. In no way did my interpretation, which may I add how else can you interpret an accent, (whether it being Asian, Welsh or even English for that matter), nor the comments I made on that day have any racial malice or meaning behind them.

After reading the report that has been sent to me and looking at appendix B, C and D from meeting 21st march 2016, none of the corresponding statements are reflective with one another. Looking at the phrases I had said along with the replies from my colleagues, I must have been having a separate conversation with them all. The story that seems to have been fabricated has the same draft but the details are conflicting;

You need only look at the dialogue of the office staff that does not marry up. Something that was obviously so disturbing I'm sure would have been fresh in the memories of the people that were participating in the conversation.

Also I would like to add that stated from my meeting with monitoring officer Mr Paul Doran on march 23rd 2016 it said "I did stress the council takes any allegations of potential racist behaviour very seriously and Cllr Whittingham said that he understood this".

There was never a time during this meeting did Paul or I mention racial behaviour, hence why I asked for a full report of proceedings against me, so I could see what charges were actually being brought against me.

Item 3.13 "Valuing your colleagues and officers of the council and engaging with them in an appropriate manner".

Item 3.14 "Always treating all people and organisations with respect and propriety".

I was in no way disrespectful to anyone personally nor did I diminish the reputation or value of anyone of my colleagues in the council offices. As everyone knows I hold the staff in the civic offices

with the utmost respect and humility. As with item 3.14. I did not state that the person I spoke to on the phone was any less of an equal than myself or any other person, nor did I slander the reputation of an organisation.

This is a serious misinterpretation of my wording (as some of the statements from my colleagues has suggested). There is no way that I would ever be this disrespectful of another human being, and I would also like to add that with my current campaign to extend my position as a councillor underway I would no way wish to tarnish my reputation, both with my colleagues or my residents, with the election date just around the corner.

I feel a simple misinterpretation has become a larger situation, with the possible outcome of damaging my image and character. This in turn can and most likely will have huge repercussions on my continuing campaign. I would also like to add that my judge, jury and execution will be determined by the party who have already stated that they do not wish me to continue my services with them in the forthcoming election and would benefit from me losing votes which could possibly lose me a further term I am certain I would retain.

It is due to the statements I have made above that I will not be attending the meeting dated 13th march 2016 and would like you to submit this statement/document to the audit and governance standards subcommittee as my defence during the forthcoming hearing.

Could I take a moment to apologise to the staff involved and wish to state once more that I was not malicious or racist in any way.

Kind regard

Cllr David. M. Whittingham