



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Report of an investigation by Wilkin Chapman LLP, appointed by the Monitoring Officer for South Kesteven District Council, into allegations concerning Councillor Tim Harrison.

Dated: 12 November 2024

VOLUME 2

SCHEDULE OF EVIDENCE

wilkin chapman llp
solicitors

Cartergate House,
26 Chantry Lane,
Grimsby
DN31 2LJ

a limited liability partnership registered in England number OC343261
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Appendix A

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SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT

(Adopted by South Kesteven District Council at Council on 25 November 2021)

Purpose of the Code of Conduct

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to assist you, as a Councillor, in modelling the behaviour that is expected of you, to provide a personal check and balance, and to set out the type of conduct that could lead to action being taken against you. It is also to protect you, the public, fellow Councillors, Local Authority Officers, and the reputation of local government. It sets out general principles of conduct expected of all Councillors and your specific obligations in relation to standards of conduct. The Local Government Association encourages the use of support, training and mediation prior to action being taken using the Code. The fundamental aim of the Code is to create and maintain public confidence in the role of Councillor and local government.

General principles of councillor conduct

Everyone in public office at all levels; all who serve the public or deliver public services, including ministers, civil servants, Councillors, and local authority officers; should uphold the Seven Principles of Public Life, also known as the Nolan Principles.

Building on these principles, the following general principles have been developed specifically for the role of Councillor:

In accordance with the public trust placed in me, on all occasions:

- I act with integrity and honesty
- I act lawfully
- I treat all persons fairly and with respect
- I lead by example and act in a way that secures public confidence in the role of Councillor.

In undertaking my role:

- I impartially exercise my responsibilities in the interests of the local community
- I do not improperly seek to confer an advantage, or disadvantage, on any person
- I avoid conflicts of interest
- I exercise reasonable care and diligence
- I ensure that public resources are used prudently in accordance with my Local Authority's requirements and in the public interest

Application of the Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct applies to you as soon as you sign your declaration of acceptance of the office of Councillor or attend your first meeting as a co-opted member and continues to apply to you until you cease to be a Councillor.

This Code of Conduct applies to you when you are acting in your capacity as a Councillor which may include when:

- You misuse your position as a Councillor
- Your actions would give the impression to a reasonable member of the public with knowledge of all the facts that you are acting as a Councillor

The Code applies to all forms of communication and interaction, including:

- At face-to-face meetings
- At online or telephone meetings
- In written communication
- In verbal communication
- In non-verbal communication
- In electronic and social media communication, posts, statements, and comments

You are also expected to uphold high standards of conduct and show leadership at all times when acting as a Councillor.

Your Monitoring Officer has statutory responsibility for the implementation of the Code of Conduct, and you are encouraged to seek advice from your Monitoring Officer on any matters that may relate to the Code of Conduct. Town and parish councillors are encouraged to seek advice from their Clerk, who may refer matters to the Monitoring Officer.

Standards of councillor conduct

This section sets out your obligations, which are the minimum standards of conduct required of you as a Councillor. Should your conduct fall short of these standards, a complaint may be made against you, which may result in action being taken.

Guidance is included to help explain the reasons for the obligations and how they should be followed.

General Conduct

1. Respect

As a councillor:

- 1.1 I treat other councillors and members of the public with respect.**
- 1.2 I treat local authority employees, employees and representatives of partner organisations and those volunteering for the local authority with respect and respect the role they play.**

Respect means politeness and courtesy in behaviour, speech, and in the written word.

Debate and having different views are all part of a healthy democracy. As a Councillor, you can express, challenge, criticise and disagree with views, ideas, opinions, and policies in a robust but civil manner.

You should not, however, subject individuals, groups of people or organisations to personal attack.

In your contact with the public, you should treat them politely and courteously. Rude and offensive behaviour lowers the public's expectations and confidence in Councillors.

In return, you have a right to expect respectful behaviour from the public. If members of the public are being abusive, intimidatory or threatening you are entitled to stop any conversation or interaction in person or online and report them to the local authority, the relevant social media provider, or the police. This also applies to fellow councillors, where action could then be taken under the Councillor Code of Conduct, and local authority employees, where concerns should be raised in line with the local authority's councillor officer protocol.

2. Bullying, harassment and discrimination

As a councillor:

2.1 I do not bully any person.

2.2 I do not harass any person.

2.3 I promote equalities and do not discriminate unlawfully against any person.

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) characterises bullying as offensive, intimidating, malicious or insulting behaviour, an abuse or misuse of power through means that undermine, humiliate, denigrate, or injure the recipient. Bullying might be a regular pattern of behaviour or a one-off incident, happen face-to-face on social media, in emails or phone calls, happen in the workplace or at work social events and may not always be obvious or noticed by others.

The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 defines harassment as conduct that causes alarm or distress or puts people in fear of violence and must involve such conduct on at least two occasions. It can include repeated attempts to impose unwanted communications and contact upon a person in a manner that could be expected to cause distress or fear in any reasonable person.

Unlawful discrimination is where someone is treated unfairly because of a protected characteristic. Protected characteristics are specific aspects of a person's identity defined by the Equality Act 2010. They are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

The Equality Act 2010 places specific duties on local authorities. Councillors have a central role to play in ensuring that equality issues are integral to the local authority's performance and strategic aims, and that there is a strong vision and public commitment to equality across public services.

3. Impartiality of officers of the council

As a councillor:

3.1 I do not compromise, or attempt to compromise, the impartiality of anyone who works for, or on behalf of, the local authority.

Officers work for the local authority as a whole and must be politically neutral (unless they are political assistants). They should not be coerced or persuaded to act in a way that would undermine their neutrality. You can question officers in order to understand, for example, their reasons for proposing to act in a particular way, or the content of a report that they have written. However, you must not try and force them to act differently, change their advice, or alter the content of that report, if doing so would prejudice their professional integrity.

4. Confidentiality and access to information

As a councillor:

4.1 I do not disclose information:

- a) **given to me in confidence by anyone**
- b) **acquired by me which I believe, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature, unless:**
 - i. **I have received the consent of a person authorised to give it.**
 - ii. **I am required by law to do so.**
 - iii. **The disclosure is made to a third party for the purpose of obtaining professional legal advice provided that the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person; or**
 - iv. **the disclosure is:**
 - 1. **reasonable and in the public interest; and**
 - 2. **made in good faith and in compliance with the reasonable requirements of the local authority; and**
 - 3. **I have consulted the Monitoring Officer prior to its release.**

4.2 I do not improperly use knowledge gained solely as a result of my role as a Councillor for the advancement of myself, my friends, my family members, my employer, or my business interests.

4.3 I do not prevent anyone from getting information that they are entitled to by law.

Local authorities must work openly and transparently, and their proceedings and printed materials are open to the public, except in certain legally defined circumstances. You should work on this basis, but there will be times when it is required by law that discussions, documents, and other information relating to or held by the local authority must be treated in a confidential manner. Examples include personal data relating to individuals or information relating to ongoing negotiations.

5. Disrepute

As a councillor:

5.1 I do not bring my role or local authority into disrepute.

As a Councillor, you are trusted to make decisions on behalf of your community and your actions and behaviour are subject to greater scrutiny than that of ordinary members of the public. You should be aware that your actions might have an adverse impact on you, other councillors and/or your local authority and may lower the public's confidence in your or your local authority's ability to discharge your/its functions. For example, behaviour that is considered dishonest and/or deceitful can bring your local authority into disrepute.

You are able to hold the local authority and fellow councillors to account and are able to constructively challenge and express concern about decisions and processes undertaken by the council whilst continuing to adhere to other aspects of this Code of Conduct.

6. Use of position

As a councillor:

6.1 I do not use, or attempt to use, my position improperly to the advantage or disadvantage of myself or anyone else.

Your position as a member of the local authority provides you with certain opportunities, responsibilities, and privileges, and you make choices all the time that will impact others.

However, you should not take advantage of these opportunities to further your own or others' private interests or to disadvantage anyone unfairly.

7. Use of local authority resources and facilities

As a councillor:

7.1 I do not misuse council resources.

7.2 I will, when using the resources of the local authority or authorising their use by others:

- a) act in accordance with the local authority's requirements; and**
- b) ensure that such resources are not used for political purposes unless that use could reasonably be regarded as likely to facilitate, or be conducive to, the discharge of the functions of the local authority or of the office to which I have been elected or appointed.**

You may be provided with resources and facilities by the local authority to assist you in carrying out your duties as a councillor.

Examples include:

- Office support
- Stationery
- Equipment such as phones, and computers
- Transport
- Access and use of local authority buildings and rooms

These are given to you to help you carry out your role as a councillor more effectively and are not to be used for business or personal gain. They should be used in accordance with the purpose for which they have been provided and the local authority's own policies regarding their use.

8. Complying with the Code of Conduct

As a Councillor:

8.1 I undertake Code of Conduct training provided by my local authority.

8.2 I cooperate with any Code of Conduct investigation and/or determination.

8.3 I do not intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person who is likely to be involved with the administration of any investigation or proceedings.

8.4 I comply with any sanction imposed on me following a finding that I have breached the Code of Conduct.

It is extremely important for you as a councillor to demonstrate high standards, for you to have your actions open to scrutiny and for you not to undermine public trust in the local authority or its governance. If you do not understand or are concerned about the local authority's processes in handling a complaint you should raise this with your Monitoring Officer.

Protecting your reputation and the reputation of the local authority

9. Interests

As a councillor:

9.1 I register and disclose my interests.

Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011 requires the Monitoring Officer to establish and maintain a register of interests of members of the authority.

You need to register your interests so that the public, local authority employees and fellow councillors know which of your interests might give rise to a conflict of interest.

The register is a public document that can be consulted when (or before) an issue arises. The register also protects you by allowing you to demonstrate openness and a willingness to be held accountable. You are personally responsible for deciding whether or not you should disclose an interest in a meeting, but it can be helpful for you to know early on if others think that a potential conflict might arise. It is also important that the public know about any interest that might have to be disclosed by you or other councillors when making or taking part in decisions, so that decision making is seen by the public as open and honest. This helps to ensure that public confidence in the integrity of local governance is maintained.

You should note that failure to register or disclose a disclosable pecuniary interest as set out in **Table 1**, is a criminal offence under the Localism Act 2011.

Appendix B sets out the detailed provisions on registering and disclosing interests. If in doubt, you should always seek advice from your Monitoring Officer.

10. Gifts and hospitality

As a councillor:

- 10.1 I do not accept gifts or hospitality, irrespective of estimated value, which could give rise to real or substantive personal gain or a reasonable suspicion of influence on my part to show favour from persons seeking to acquire, develop or do business with the local authority or from persons who may apply to the local authority for any permission, licence, or other significant advantage.**
- 10.2 I register with the Monitoring Officer any gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £50 within 28 days of its receipt.**
- 10.3 I register with the Monitoring Officer any significant gift or hospitality that I have been offered but have refused to accept.**

In order to protect your position and the reputation of the local authority, you should exercise caution in accepting any gifts or hospitality which are (or which you reasonably believe to be) offered to you because you are a councillor. The presumption should always be not to accept significant gifts or hospitality. However, there may be times when such a refusal may be difficult if it is seen as rudeness in which case you could accept it but must ensure it is publicly registered. However, you do not need to register gifts and hospitality which are not related to your role as a councillor, such as Christmas gifts from your friends and family. It is also important to note that it is appropriate to accept normal expenses and hospitality associated with your duties as a councillor. If you are unsure, do contact your Monitoring Officer for guidance.

Appendix A – The Seven Principles of Public Life

The principles are:

Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must disclose and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

Openness

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

Appendix B – Registering interests

Within 28 days of becoming a member or your re-election or re-appointment to office you must register with the Monitoring Officer the interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 1 (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests)** which are as described in “The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012”. You should also register details of your other personal interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 2 (Other Registerable Interests)**.

“Disclosable Pecuniary Interest” means an interest of yourself, or of your partner if you are aware of your partner's interest, within the descriptions set out in Table 1 below.

"Partner" means a spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom you are living as if you are civil partners.

1. You must ensure that your register of interests is kept up-to-date and within 28 days of becoming aware of any new interest, or of any change to a registered interest, notify the Monitoring Officer.
2. A 'sensitive interest' is as an interest which, if disclosed, could lead to the councillor, or a person connected with the councillor, being subject to violence or intimidation.
3. Where you have a 'sensitive interest' you must notify the Monitoring Officer with the reasons why you believe it is a sensitive interest. If the Monitoring Officer agrees they will withhold the interest from the public register.

Non participation in case of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

4. Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in **Table 1**, you must disclose the interest, not participate in any discussion, or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest. Dispensation may be granted in limited circumstances, to enable you to participate and vote on a matter in which you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest.
5. Where you have a disclosable pecuniary interest on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet Member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it.

Disclosure of Other Registerable Interests

6. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your Other Registerable Interests (as set out in **Table 2**), you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Disclosure of Non-Registerable Interests

7. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to your financial interest or well-being (and is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest set out in Table 1) or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise, you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.
8. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **affects** –
- a) Your own financial interest or well-being.
 - b) A financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate; or
 - c) a financial interest or wellbeing of a body included under Other Registrable Interests as set out in **Table 2**

You must disclose the interest. In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied:

9. Where a matter (referred to in paragraph 8 above) **affects** the financial interest or well-being:
- a) To a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
 - b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise, you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

10. Where you have an Other Registerable Interest or Non-Registerable Interest on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet

member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it.

Table 1: Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

This table sets out the explanation of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012.

Subject	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 council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	<p>Any contract made between the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the council</p> <p>(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and</p> <p>(b) which has not been fully discharged.</p>
Land and Property	Any beneficial interest in land which is

	<p>within the area of the council. 'Land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.</p>
Licenses	<p>Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer</p>
Corporate tenancies	<p>Any tenancy where (to the councillor's knowledge):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the landlord is the council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of
Securities	<p>Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) that body (to the councillor's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and (b) either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (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 councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were

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* 'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

* '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 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

Table 2: Other Registrable Interests

You must register as an Other Registerable Interest:

- a) any unpaid directorships
- b) any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority
- c) any body:
 - (i) exercising functions of a public nature
 - (ii) directed to charitable purposes or
 - (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union)
 of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management

From: Cllr Ben Green <Ben.Green@southkesteven.gov.uk>
Sent: Saturday, March 2, 2024 5:28 PM
To: Graham Watts <Graham.Watts@southkesteven.gov.uk>
Cc: Karen Bradford <Karen.Bradford@southkesteven.gov.uk>; Cllr Graham Jeal <graham.jeal@southkesteven.gov.uk>; Cllr Penny Milnes <penny.milnes@southkesteven.gov.uk>; Cllr Richard Dixon-Warren <Richard.Dixon-Warren@southkesteven.gov.uk>
Subject: Councillor Tim Harrison Social Media Behaviour - Code of Conduct Complaint
Importance: High
Sensitivity: Confidential

Dear Graham,

It is with regret that I must bring to your attention behaviour, which I believe conclusively demonstrates harassment, exhibited by Councillor Tim Harrison [on social media](#).

Over the course of approximately one to two hours on **9 February**, Cllr Harrison extensively combed my Facebook profile and proceeded to share multiple posts, accompanied with vitriolic attacks, to his own feed. To exacerbate matters, he went so far as to edit a video still of me, incorporating his own commentary.



Cllr Ben Green

4 February · 🌐



📌 A1 littering is a disgrace, but it's SKDC's job to clean it up! Help out by sharing grot spots at ben.green@southkesteven.gov.uk. 📌

The Rainbow Alliance of Independents, Labour, and others, is finally taking action after outright litter denial and my lobbying!

[#StopLittering](#) [#A1Cleanup](#)



Cllr Tim Harrison



18 w Like Reply ❤️



Cllr Tim Harrison

9 February · 🌐

...

There is no u-turn on the A1. This man originally wanted to send out volunteers in groups of three with an air horn to clean the A1. He had no idea of how to fund it claiming that was how Newark & Sherwood had done it. A quick google search showed that they had in fact contracted Amey, the professionals. He actually wanted to risk volunteers lives. His recklessness knows no bounds, for an election photo opportunity he stood on the side of the A1 washing a sign down with no hi-viz. I have now had enough of this, I sent him a polite email a number of months ago asking him to stop the nonsense. He has chosen not to do so, now I will highlight it.



Cllr Ben Green

4 February · 🌐

📌 A1 littering is a disgrace, but it's SKDC's job to clean it up! Help out by sharing grot spots at ben.green@southkesteven.gov.uk. 📌

The Rainbow Alliance of Independents, Labour, and others, is finally taking action after outright litter denial and my lobbying!

[#StopLittering](#) [#A1Cleanup](#)



Cllr Tim Harrison

9 February · 🌐



The litter myths

Jenga Tower of Myth?? Yes he actually said that. Here is his claim that they did it with groups of three and an air horn. So please Cllr Green, tell me who at Newark said they did this ?



Cllr Ben Green

11 July 2023 · 🌐

The problem of A1 littering is more significant than we realise. It's not just about cleanliness; it's about how our District is perceived by the world.

Every day, 50,000 vehicles pass along the A1 in South Kesteven, amounting to a staggering 18 million annually. The cleanliness along this stretch of road leaves a lasting impression on motorists. Sadly, we've witnessed a decline in the quality of this cleanliness, which discourages people from stopping here or investing in our area. Enough is enough, especially for the residents of Isaac Newton Ward.

If we fail to take action now, we risk facing Litter Abatement Orders under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, triggered by concerned members of the public that will force the Council to act. The longer we wait, the more the problem will escalate, and the costs will soar.



Cllr Tim Harrison

9 February · 🌐

...

Here is Cllr Green yet again with the childish rainbow alliance jibe moaning about the cost of green bins going up less than the cost of inflation and less than the £5 that the Tories previously put it up. A green bin for a year gives you roughly a 12 yard slip of green waste. Which would cost you in the region of £260 and you would have a skip on your drive for a year. I would hazard a guess that the green bin going up affects more Tory voters' lives than it does the average resident of South Kesteven. Also if Cllr Green comes out from behind his faux horror, maybe he would prefer to compost and save the green bin charge altogether. 🙄



Cllr Ben Green

7 February · 🌐

The SKDC Rainbow Alliance of Independents, Labour, and even Greens, is hitting us with higher charges for our green bins. 🗑️😞 We pushed for a freeze on the collection charge, but unfortunately, they voted against it not once, but twice. 🙄❌



Cllr Tim Harrison

9 February · 🌐

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It's been marching up relentlessly over 8 or 9 years he says.....who was in charge then Cllr Green



Cllr Ben Green

16 January · 🌐

🔔 Budget Alert: Fighting the Green Bin Stealth Tax! 🗑️

Hey everyone,

As we gear up for the 2024-5 Budget, I couldn't help but notice the need for South Kesteven District Council to share in our community's challenges. The Council should tighten its belt too, trimming catering costs, scaling back on conferences, and re-evaluating consultancy fees. The goal? Putting a stop to unnecessary tax increases.

Take, for instance, the ruling Rainbow Alliance's proposal for a green bin stealth tax, hiking the collection charge to £51. It's been climbing above inflation for too long, while other authorities are freezing theirs or charging less. It's now time we reconsidered.

I proposed a solution, freezing the collection charge, offset by savings, but unfortunately, the Rainbow Alliance (made up of Independents, Labour, and other parties) shot it down. One member even stated they're okay with the District Council 'taxing the life out of him!' 😞

What's your take on this? I gave it my best shot, but I'd love to hear your thoughts! 💬 Let's discuss and make our community's voice heard. 🗣️

#CommunityFirst #Budget2024 #SouthKesteven



Cllr Tim Harrison

9 February · 🌐

...

Calling all my Veteran Friends. This is another of Cllr Green's hair brained ideas. Truth be told Cllr Green initially wanted this for ALL VETERANS. He thought the term veteran meant active service. I was then told by my veteran friends that, in their words, "one of their breakfast meetings was hijacked by the Tories offering them council tax relief". They offered no explanation of where the money would come from or that it would most likely need an increase in everyone's council tax. Meaning a single parent struggling to make ends meet could in theory be subsidising a brigadier living in a mansion. It was only after I pointed out his complete misunderstanding of pretty much everything, that he decided to swap it to employed veterans in band A properties. For clarification a veteran is anyone who signed on for service, even if they lasted only a day. These ridiculous attempts by Cllr Green to coerce ill will to the current administration are laughable. I would appreciate yet again veterans opinions

shopping village on Spittlegate Level?

Meanwhile, the private car park in Greenwoods Row is always full of cars with a simple rate of roughly 60p per hour, with a maximum charge of £3.80 for up to a 24 hour stay. Even Grantham Station must make a profit by charging £5.95 for up to 24 hours, rather than an eye-watering £10.40 for stays of 4 or 6 hours in Grantham's Wharf Road and Welham Street.

I hope SKDC will seriously consider keeping our free evening and Sunday parking times and even reduce the extortionate long stay charges in their 2 main car parks, which were vastly increased when Covid restrictions were lifted. Car parking should be considered an asset in a town, not a cash cow for an extravagant council which has wasted an incredible amount of tax-payers money in recent years.

Lynda North
By email

TAX

I will walk this path until veterans receive support

I'm reaching out to keep our community informed about

our ongoing efforts to secure council tax relief for our most vulnerable veterans. A recent consultation showed that over 70% of people support the proposal. This was shared in the latest Finance Committee meeting, where we were deciding whether to look into providing 5% or 10% relief for employed veterans in Band A properties. Despite strong public support, the vote barely passed, with five members in favour and four against. The South Kesteven Coalition is confident that this relief won't strain our finances, especially with the new national council tax surcharges for second home owners covering the costs. Unfortunately, not everyone shares this perspective. Some members of our political counterparts within the governing Rainbow Alliance of Independents, Labour, and other parties dismissed the consultation response as 'nonsense'. Instead, they opted to publicise results from questionable social media surveys. Additionally, they had previously labelled our tax relief proposal as a 'Brigadiers' discount'. Even more disheartening is the fact that the Rainbow Alliance Administration encouraged us to advocate for increased

support for veterans at the national level, neglecting their own potential to send a strong message through their local tax priorities. That is weak leadership.

Tellingly, South Kesteven's Armed Forces Champion has expressed concerns that the declared commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant appears less than 'unwavering'. A veteran himself, he takes the view that SKDC members should start from a position of support for the Armed Forces Community when discussing a proposal to consider the cost of focussed council tax relief for selected veterans, rather than dismissing it out of hand. What seems a no-brainer to our Coalition evidently isn't to everyone. Nevertheless, we're gaining insights into this Administration's stance on our veteran community. Despite the challenges, I am committed to tirelessly championing council tax relief for veterans who started their careers late due to their service to our country. We can make a difference, we can do this. Whether or not the Administration decides to join in, I'll continue walking this path until our veterans receive the support they deserve.

Coun Ben Green
Isaac Newton Ward.

More gravely, today, **2 March**, [ClIr Harrison incited local animal rights campaigners](#) to bombard my email address and displayed mobile phone number because of my party affiliation. This is personal, disturbing and, to my mind, a wholly unacceptable breach of the Code of Conduct and Nolan Principles. I am minded to also log this incident with the Police.



Cllr Tim Harrison

34 m · 🌐



Lincolnshire Against the Cull

2 h · 🌐

This is Cllr Ben Green from the Conservative Party at South Kesteven District Council, he is the Cllr for the Isaac Newton Ward which sits to the south of Grantham.

Cllr Green's entire ward sits within the badger cull zone, this zone is on an eradication zone, ALL badgers are to be killed, needlessly.

Like most in his party, Cllr Green is a hypocrite when it comes to wildlife, he feels the wildlife of his ward is fair game (no pun intended) to be used in political arguments. We take particular offence at his pretending to care about badgers, when his entire ward is in the current Lincolnshire cull zone and he takes no interest. Cllr Green has been totally silent and none engaging when it comes to the badger cull in Lincolnshire and indeed his ward, he has said literally NOTHING.

In 2013 the cull was brought into existence, since then, 243,000 badgers have been slaughtered across England, people like Cllr Green are guilty by association of this slaughter. Cllr Ben Green has remained very very quiet on this topic so we thought he should have his 5 minutes of fame. His contact details are below

<https://moderngov.southkesteven.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx...>

We think Cllr Green is a disgrace and should apologise in using the deaths of animals in his ward as political pawn.

<https://www.facebook.com/councillorben/>

Taken together, I regard this body of evidence as a torrent of highly-personalised, intimidating and aggressive online behaviour that has significantly degraded the discourse. It also has strong potential to affect my wellbeing, mental and physical. I would appreciate your confirmation these incidents will inform an investigation into whether Cllr Harrison has, indeed, breached our Code of Conduct.

Regards,

Cllr Ben Green

Isaac Newton Ward



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 March 2024 16:46
To: Cllr Ben Green
Cc: Graham Watts
Subject: FW: Code of Conduct Complaint - Cllr Tim Harrison

Good afternoon Cllr Green

Thank you for your further email, which will be reviewed by the Monitoring Officer as part of his enquiries.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
South Kesteven District Council
Council Offices, The Picture House
St Catherine's Road
Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6TT
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Cllr Ben Green <Ben.Green@southkesteven.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 3:46 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Code of Conduct Complaint - Cllr Tim Harrison

[REDACTED]

Further, it is important to note that, beyond the initial complaint, Cllr Harrison's incitement contributed to a death threat against me which was countered with a Fixed Penalty Notice. I reproduce that below. He also shared the link to the anti-cull post *after* being told it was offensive by the Police. He has admitted no responsibility nor contrition, which is distressing.

At least two Parish Council meetings have been cancelled in my ward due to the specific threat which Cllr Harrison has promoted.



Lincolnshire Against the Cull

8 h · 🌐

This is Cllr Ben Green from the Conservative Party at South Kesteven District Council, he is the Cllr for the Isaac Newton Ward which sits to the south of Grant... [See more](#)



3

3 comments

Like

Share

What paltry excuse are they giving for killing these badgers ?

4 h · Like

What's the chance of me culling this waste of space, I'm sure nobody would notice him missing from his ward.

4 h · Like

I've seen nothing that the police should be getting involved in, but these days they'd rather investigate thought 'crime' than actual crime.

1 d · Like



4



Cllr Tim Harrison

the police were not calling about my posts but about a comment on them. The Tory complaints are about my posts. Apparently the comment was a tongue in cheek remark about culling. 🙄

1 d · Like



3

Thank you,

Cllr Ben Green

Isaac Newton Ward

From: Cllr Ben Green <Ben.Green@southkesteven.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 3:23 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Code of Conduct Complaint - Cllr Tim Harrison

Thank you for your formal acknowledgement of this, [REDACTED]. I look forward to the outcome.

Best regards,

Cllr Ben Green

Isaac Newton Ward

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 1:52 PM
To: Cllr Ben Green <Ben.Green@southkesteven.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Code of Conduct Complaint - Cllr Tim Harrison

Good afternoon Cllr Green

Re: Code of Conduct Complaint

Please accept this email as acknowledgement of receipt of your recent complaint against Cllr Tim Harrison. We have logged your complaint and will review the circumstances surrounding the complaint. We will come back to you with a response as soon as we can. In the meantime, we would appreciate your patience whilst we review the matter.

We attach a copy of our Complaints Procedure for your information.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

South Kesteven District Council
Council Offices, The Picture House
St Catherine's Road
Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6TT
Tel: 01476 406133

[REDACTED]

From: Graham Watts <Graham.Watts@southkesteven.gov.uk>
Sent: 03 March 2024 19:30
To: Cllr Graham Jeal
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Code of conduct complaint against cllr Tim Harrison

Good evening Councillor Jeal,

Thank you for your complaint – a formal acknowledgement will be sent to you in due course.

Regards
 Graham

Graham Watts
Assistant Director (Governance and Public Protection) and Monitoring Officer

South Kesteven District Council,
 Council Offices, The Picture House,
 St Catherines Road, Grantham,
 Lincolnshire, NG31 6TT
 Tel: (01476) 406224
 Email: graham.watts@southkesteven.gov.uk
www.southkesteven.gov.uk



From: Cllr Graham Jeal <graham.jeal@southkesteven.gov.uk>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 2:09 PM
To: Graham Watts <Graham.Watts@southkesteven.gov.uk>
Cc: Cllr Ben Green <Ben.Green@southkesteven.gov.uk>; Cllr Penny Milnes <penny.milnes@southkesteven.gov.uk>
Subject: Code of conduct complaint against cllr Tim Harrison

Graham,

I would like to place a code of conduct complaint against cllr Tim Harrison for the attached social media post.

In accepting the role of councillor we all agree to follow the South Kesteven District Council Code of Conduct which incorporates the Nolan Principles. I believe that this post is in breach of all 7 of the 7 Nolan principles. Namely:

- **Selflessness:** Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest. This social media post is a clear incitement of hatred against a fellow councillor and an invitation for animal rights extremists to target a specific councillor. This is not in the public interest.
- **Integrity:** Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

It is not clear whether cllr Harrison or members of his group have relationships to the given animal rights group. My understanding is that there is at least one member of his group that is a member of

the group he is promoting here in his attempt to get the general public to attack a member of the council.

- **Objectivity:** Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

It is totally false to claim to make a public claim about Cllr Green who has not made any position public on this matter – it is a deliberate slur on a councillor without any objective evidence. By placing a picture of Cllr Green and combining it with an annotated picture of his ward suggesting that the opinion that badgers will be “killed here” has no evidence and is deliberately misleading.

- **Accountability:** Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

In supplying this false information in the public domain and then inviting members of the public to comment, Cllr Harrison acted without accountability and recklessly bringing the authority into disrepute. As you know I made you aware that a death threat had been made towards Cllr Green on the Saturday evening and I was encouraged to call the police. The police took this extremely seriously and issued a Fixed Penalty Notice to the person who placed the threat which was promoted by Cllr Harrison. Cllr Harrison even after learning that a fixed penalty notice had been issued failed to withdraw the totally false and deliberately provocative post.

- **Openness:** Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

By posting false information without evidence or discussion, Cllr Harrison failed to act in a transparent manner. Indeed by doing this he behaved in a deceitful manner.

- **Honesty:** Holders of public office should be truthful.

The post and its inference that Cllr Green has an opinion on the post is totally factually incorrect and dishonest.

- **Leadership:** Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

Cllr Harrison holds a leadership position within the council as chair of a committee. He brings himself and the council into disrepute with this post, it is a clear and dangerous slur against a fellow council member, a direct attempt to intimidate another member from telling the truth about the failures of the administration and a failure to promote and uphold the highest possible standards in public life. This is corroborated by the ongoing police investigation and the requirement for the police to issue a fixed penalty notice against at least one of the comments below the post that Cllr Harrison promoted.

I know you will attend to this urgently, I reserve the right to present a copy of this complaint to the press – but I am sure that you will understand that I consider this behavior unbecoming of a councillor and should be attended to immediately

Yours faithfully

Graham Jeal

From: Graham Watts <Graham.Watts@southkesteven.gov.uk>
Sent: 03 March 2024 19:25
To: Cllr Sue Woolley
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Code of Conduct complaint - Cllr Tim Harrison

Good evening Sue,

Thank you very much for your complaint. You will receive a formal acknowledgment in due course.

Kindest regards
Graham

Graham Watts
Assistant Director (Governance and Public Protection) and Monitoring Officer
South Kesteven District Council,
Council Offices, The Picture House,
St Catherines Road, Grantham,
Lincolnshire, NG31 6TT
Tel: (01476) 406224
Email: graham.watts@southkesteven.gov.uk
www.southkesteven.gov.uk



From: Cllr Sue Woolley <sue.woolley@southkesteven.gov.uk>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 12:21 PM
To: Graham Watts <Graham.Watts@southkesteven.gov.uk>
Subject: Code of Conduct complaint - Cllr Tim Harrison

Dear Graham, over the weekend Cllr Tim Harrison has conducted a quite concentrated and vitriolic campaign against Cllr Ben Green, on social media.

I was particularly disturbed to see a death threat made towards Cllr Green by a [REDACTED] on Cllr Harrisons FB account, which Cllr Harrison made no attempt to remove. I do not propose to list further examples, there are many and these can be forwarded if requested.

I am most concerned that as a prominent chairman of one of the Council committees (Governance & Audit) Cllr Harrison appears not to be holding up the good name of the council.

Regards
Sue Woolley

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL
COMPLAINT AGAINST A DISTRICT COUNCILLOR
MONITORING OFFICER ASSESSMENT DECISION NOTICE

Subject Member: Councillor Tim Harrison

Complainant: Councillors Ben Green, Graham Jeal and Sue Woolley

Date of Assessment: 21 March 2024

Summary of complaints:

Councillor Jeal submitted a complaint relating to a re-post published by Councillor Tim Harrison on his Facebook profile which he perceived as a clear incitement of hatred against a fellow Councillor and an invitation for animal rights extremists to target a specific Councillor. Councillor Jeal highlights the leadership position Councillor Harrison holds as Chairman of the Governance and Audit Committee and believes he has brought himself and the Council into disrepute. Councillor Jeal also accuses Councillor Harrison of failing to promote and uphold the highest possible standards in public life, which is corroborated by the requirement for the Police to issue a fixed penalty notice against at least one of the comments associated with the post that Councillor Harrison promoted.

Councillor Ben Green, linked with the above-mentioned post, submitted a complaint which he believes conclusively demonstrates harassment against him exhibited on social media by Councillor Harrison. Over the course of approximately one to two hours on 9 February, Councillor Harrison is accused of extensively combing Councillor Green's Facebook profile, proceeding to share multiple posts accompanied with vitriolic attacks to his own feed. To exacerbate matters, he went so far as to edit a video still of Councillor Green, incorporating his own commentary. Councillor Green subsequently highlighted that Councillor Harrison's incitement contributed to a death threat against him which was countered with a fixed penalty notice by the Police and also shared the link to the anti-cull post after being told it was offensive by the Police. Councillor Green highlighted his concern that Councillor Harrison has admitted no responsibility nor contrition, which he has found personally distressing.

Councillor Sue Woolley submitted a complaint whereby she accuses Councillor Harrison of conducting quite a concentrated and vitriolic campaign against Councillor Green on social media. She was particularly disturbed to see what she perceived as being a death threat made towards Councillor Green by someone commenting on the Facebook post which Councillor Harrison made no attempt to remove.

Alleged breach of the Councillor Code of Conduct:

The Subject Councillor is alleged to have breached the following aspects of the Nolan Principles contained within the Councillor Code of Conduct:

- Selflessness
- Integrity
- Objectivity
- Accountability
- Openness
- Honesty
- Leadership

Specifically, taking into account the context of the three complaints received, the following specific aspects of the Councillor Code of Conduct are alleged to have been breached:

1. *Respect*

As a councillor:

1.1 *I treat other councillors and members of the public with respect.*

2. *Bullying, harassment and discrimination*

As a councillor:

2.1 *I do not bully any person.*

2.2 *I do not harass any person.*

5. *Disrepute*

As a councillor:

5.1 *I do not bring my role or local authority into disrepute.*

Summary of response from the Subject Councillor:

In respect of Councillor Green's complaint associated with claims of ongoing harassment, the Subject Councillor questions why it has taken so long for him to complain if he had found it so upsetting. In relation to the re-post on his Facebook profile the original post was not his and he was highlighting the hypocrisy, adding that the post was all over Facebook and that the perpetrator of the 'tongue in cheek' comment which spooked him has been dealt with by the Police. The Subject Councillor is of the view that if Councillor Green does not want responses to his Facebook posts he should not make comments in the public domain.

In response to Councillor Jeal's and Woolley's complaints, the Subject Councillor stated that he looked forward to a full and frank investigation.

In discussing these complaints with the Subject Councillor he explained that the perceived threat to kill related to the word 'cull' in the comment that was posted, adding that there is more than one definition of the word cull and that he cannot be held account for someone else's comment, as well as how other people interpret it.

Information considered:

I have reviewed the content of the complaints submitted by the three complainants, including screenshots of the social media posts referenced.

I have reviewed the content of responses of the Subject Councillor to the allegations made against him by the three complainants.

Assessment:

Councillor Harrison was elected to the Council in May 2023. He is Deputy Leader of the Council's Grantham Independent Group and Chairman of the Council's Governance and Audit Committee. Councillor Harrison has attended Councillor Code of Conduct training since the commencement of this municipal year.

Each of the posts referenced in the three complaints provide a clear link to the business of South Kesteven District Council. This demonstrates that the Subject Councillor is acting in an official capacity. The Councillor Code of Conduct was therefore engaged.

The first assessment stage in the procedure for dealing with complaints against Councillors consists of a jurisdictional test. The complaint, taking the above information into account, complied with the principles of the jurisdictional test which meant it passed through to the second assessment stage.

As part of the second assessment stage the following assessment was undertaken against the following criteria included in the procedure for dealing with complaints against Councillors:

Sufficient evidence

I am satisfied that there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate whether or not a potential breach of the Code of Conduct occurred in respect of this complaint. Screenshots of the posts in question have been provided as part of the complaint.

Alternative action

I have given due consideration to alternative, more appropriate, remedies that should be explored first, including the possibility of informal resolution between the two parties and whether any offer from the Subject Councillor to settle the complaint informally is reasonable.

The Subject Councillor refutes that a breach of Code of Conduct has occurred and that the complaint is vexatious in nature. In view of this, I do not consider there is any possibility of resolving the matter informally.

Robust political debate

Where a complaint is made by a Councillor against another Councillor, a greater allowance for robust political debate may be given, bearing in mind the right to freedom of speech.

The complaints submitted have been made by other Councillors. I believe that further investigation of these complaints should be undertaken and take into account whether the greater tolerance for robust political debate applies, together with rights associated with freedom of expression set out in Article 10 of the Human Rights Act, in the context of the breaches of the Councillor Code of Conduct that have been alleged.

Seriousness

I have given due consideration as to whether the complaint is malicious, vexatious, politically motivated or 'tit-for-tat'.

Given the involvement of the Police in relation to part of the complaint and the issuing of the fixed penalty notice to a person commenting on the post re-published by Councillor Harrison, I believe the seriousness of this case is heightened. I do not believe the complaints have been submitted in a malicious or vexatious manner and do not consider them to be politically motivated or tit-for-tat.

Public interest

I have given due consideration as to whether it would be in the public interest to refer the complaint for investigation or other action and whether it is serious enough to warrant any available sanctions.

In assessing the complaint, I did not feel it necessary to request further information from the complainants, Subject Councillor or any other witnesses.

Conclusion

Taking into account the above assessment, I believe there are sufficient grounds based upon the substance of the allegations made and the content of the respective complaints, in addition to the involvement of the Police, to refer these complaints for formal investigation.

Independent Person considerations:

The first Independent Person agrees that the Code of Conduct is engaged and that collectively, the boundary of freedom of speech has possibly been crossed. Given the context, the nature of the complaint and the level of seriousness, he believes that this unfortunately merits formal investigation.

The second Independent Person agrees that there is substance to these complaints, which warrant further investigation.

Monitoring Officer Decision:

That the three complaints submitted by Councillor Ben Green, Graham Jeal and Sue Woolley against Councillor Tim Harrison, as outlined above, be referred for formal investigation.

Graham Watts
Monitoring Officer
South Kesteven District Council

CONFIDENTIAL

STATEMENT FRONT COVER

Name:	Ben Green
Position Held	Councillor South Kesteven District Council

wilkin chapman llp
solicitors

Cartergate House,
26 Chantry Lane,
Grimsby
DN31 2LJ

a limited liability partnership registered in England number OC343261
authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

STATEMENT of:- Councillor Ben Green

1. I am a Conservative Councillor on South Kesteven District Council (the Council). I was first elected on 24 February 2022. I was re-elected on 4 May 2023. I represent the Isaac Newton Ward, a large rural ward south of Grantham. I sit on the Finance Committee.
2. I understand that Wilkin Chapman LLP solicitors have been asked to investigate complaints made against Councillor Harrison in respect of his conduct on social media. I am aware that other Councillors have made Code of Conduct complaints against Councillor Harrison in relation to his conduct on social media.
3. The Conservative Group on the Council are the largest group but not large enough for a majority. We have formed a coalition with three South Kesteven Independent councillors. There are multiple other parties and independents. My position is that of a back bench councillor, a member of the opposition.
4. This statement is made in relation to my complaint against Councillor Harrison. He combed my social media over a period of 1-2 hours on 9 February 2024 and proceeded to share multiple posts to his own feed, accompanied with vitriolic attacks. Councillor Harrison went so far as to edit a video still of me, incorporating his own commentary.
5. I am aware that two other councillors have made complaints against Councillor Harrison in a similar vein.
6. I consider social media to be a vital mode of communication. From time to time, I will put out an occasional press release. Sometimes there is quite a time lag before a press release, and I have no editorial control. I think press releases are entered into a queue and it takes time to get your turn, so to speak. It can be a very long, convoluted and sometimes difficult process. So, for me, Facebook, the only social media platform I use, is a great way for me to communicate with my residents.
7. Since late May, I have been Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group. There is an aspect to which we think about being in opposition and getting our distinctive message out. Being in opposition is inherently tough, you're not the administration so don't have responsibility and

your quotes aren't going in official Council press releases. To try and compensate for that disadvantage I have used Facebook to communicate quickly and directly to residents to get our message across.

8. First and foremost, it is about putting across a counter narrative. There is an expectation from the public that we hold the administration to account. It is important for democracy for rival opinions to be put across. It is something I feel my residents would expect me to do, I don't believe they would feel I was doing a good job if I did not hold the administration to account.
9. On 2 March 2024, accompanied by a picture of me and a picture of my ward with the wording "ALL BADGERS ARE TO BE KILLED HERE", Councillor Harrison put the following post on Facebook:

"This is Cllr Ben Green from the Conservative Party at South Kesteven District Council, he is the Cllr for the Isaac Newton Ward which sits to the south of Grantham.

Cllr Greens entire ward sits within the badger cull zone, this zone is on an eradication zone, ALL badgers are to be killed, needlessly.

Like most in his party, Cllr Green is a hypocrite when it comes to wildlife, he feels the wildlife of his ward is fair game (no pun intended) to be used in political arguments. We take particular offence at his pretending to care about badgers, when his entire ward is in the current Lincolnshire cull zone and he takes no interest. Cllr Green has been totally silent and none engaging when it comes to the badger cull in Lincolnshire and indeed his ward, he has said literally NOTHING.

In 2013 the cull was brought into existence, since then, 243,000 badgers have been slaughtered across England, people like Cllr green are guilty by association of this slaughter. Cllr Ben Green has remained very very quiet on this topic so we thought he should have his 5 minutes of fame. His contact details are below

<https://moderngov.southkesteven.gov.uk/mgUserInfor.aspx...>


We think Cllr Green is a disgrace and should apologise in using the deaths of animals in his ward as political pawn.

<https://www.facebook.com/councillorben/>

10. I consider this post by Councillor Harrison incited local animal rights campaigners to bombard me, fundamentally as a response to the post I made on 2 March about the administration refusing to support wildlife near the A1. I personally did not see my phone number or email address within the post. However, with a picture of me in the post, if you were to do a search for my name you could access that information.

11. A member of the public commented on Councillor Harrison's post:
- "What's the chance of me culling this waste of space, I'm sure nobody would notice him missing from his ward."*
12. This comment constituted a death threat against me resulting in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued.
13. After being told by the Police that his post was offensive, Councillor Harrison went to greater lengths to share the link to that post.
14. Due to the specific threat against me, which Councillor Harrison promoted, the March Parish Council meeting at South Witham was cancelled and the March Parish Council meeting at Great Ponton was postponed.
15. I am grateful that my personal address was not available, but I consider Councillor Harrison opened me up to what was credible danger.
16. There was a long period where it was very clear that Councillor Harrison could not stomach any criticism of the administration whatsoever so tends to come down like a tonne of bricks on absolutely anything anybody says which is negative about the administration. However, Councillor Harrison's behaviour appears to be obsessional in his criticism of me.
17. I do not consider Councillor Harrison's posts and comments about me on social media fall within the realm of political debate. They are attacks against me personally.

I, Councillor Ben Green, declare that this statement is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed  Date 12 July 2024

Signed640F49B32AD54A3.....Date

STATEMENT FRONT COVER

Name:	Graham Jeal
Position Held	Councillor South Kesteven District Council

wilkin chapman llp
solicitors

Cartergate House,
26 Chantry Lane,
Grimsby
DN31 2LJ

a limited liability partnership registered in England number OC343261
authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

STATEMENT of:- Councillor Graham Jeal

1. I am a Conservative Councillor for South Kesteven District Council (the Council). I am Leader of the Conservative Group. I am not formally a member of any of the Council's Committees but, as Leader of the Conservative Group, I attend most Scrutiny Committee meetings. I represent Grantham St Vincents ward.
2. I understand that Wilkin Chapman LLP solicitors have been asked to investigate my complaints against Councillor Harrison in respect of his conduct on social media.
3. Councillor Harrison first came on my radar just prior to the 2023 election when he did a series of social media posts/comments making fun of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
4. Councillor Harrison and [REDACTED] so Councillor Harrison made a particularly venomous attack on him. Councillor Harrison shared and promoted videos online of [REDACTED] suggesting he was asleep in public meetings [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] – this caused enormous distress to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The level of viciousness was reserved for somebody who was clearly unwell. This was something I have never seen before in public office.
5. Shortly after the election I did actually reach out to Councillor Harrison on a Governance and Audit issue in an attempt to help him. I have come to the view, clouded by his hounding of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] that he is not fit for public service and unfit to hold a leadership position in the Council such as Chair of Governance and Audit. I believe such behaviour towards [REDACTED] by Councillor Harrison contributed to the decline in [REDACTED] health.
6. The relationship between the groups at the Council has been toxic and unprofessional for a long time, but it has gotten significantly worse since the last election. Swearing in the Chamber has become normalised over the last couple of years. Coming from a professional background I have always found that slightly difficult. Overnight, when Ashley Baxter was

elected leader, you could see all of the sensible people in the Council sort of pushed to one side and louder more antagonistic councillors now in control.

7. The outcome of this behaviour deters people from the Council and is detrimental to getting officers to join the Council. There are good people on the Council and good officers but most of them now, frankly, are saying 'I've got better things to do with my time'. I find myself thinking, what on earth have I signed myself up for?
8. The small number of complaints being investigated are dwarfed; this is the absolute tip of the iceberg – there are dozens that have not made it to investigation. The Code of Conduct process is openly mocked now, and the fact that the behaviour is pushing good councillors away is a real threat to our local democracy and public service in general.
9. This complaint stems from a Facebook post by Councillor Harrison on 2 March 2024. Councillor Harrison's post contained an image of Councillor Green alongside an image of an area of Lincolnshire highlighted with the slogan, **"ALL BADGERS ARE TO BE KILLED HERE"**. Councillor Harrison's post contained the words:

"Lincolnshire Against the Cull

This is Cllr Ben Green from the Conservative Party at South Kesteven District Council, he is the Cllr for the Isaac Newton Ward which sits to the south of Grantham.

Cllr Greens entire ward sits within the badger cull zone, this zone is on an eradication zone, ALL badgers are to be killed, needlessly.

Like most in his party, Cllr Green is a hypocrite when it comes to wildlife, he feels the wildlife of his ward is fair game (no pun intended) to be used in political arguments. We take particular offence at his pretending to care about badgers, when his entire ward is in the current Lincolnshire cull zone and he takes no interest. Cllr Green has been totally silent and none engaging when it comes to the badger cull in Lincolnshire and indeed his ward, he has said literally NOTHING.

In 2013 the cull was brought into existence, since then, 243,000 badgers have been slaughtered across England, people like Cllr Green are guilty by association of this slaughter. Cllr Ben Green has remained very quiet on this topic so we thought he should have his 5 minutes of fame. His contact details are below

<https://moderngov.southkesteven.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx...>

We think Cllr Green is a disgrace and should apologise in using the deaths of animals in his ward as political pawn.

<https://www.facebook.com/councillorben/>"

10. Councillor Harrison's post attracted a comment from a member of the public which stated:

"What's the chance of me culling this waste of space, I'm sure nobody would notice him missing from his ward."

11. This is our own flavour of extremism in Lincolnshire – the animal rights and environmental lobby. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] There are known animal rights protestors on the Council. Whilst I and others don't necessarily take a position on their beliefs – we condemn their methods which are known to attack people and property. In my view, their methods set back the environmental and animal rights lobby.

12. Nobody knows what Councillor Green's opinion is [REDACTED]. Councillor Green works for an environmental charity and [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I don't believe he is ever going to be public about his opinion on this.

13. The aim of Councillor Harrison's post, which was shared by Councillor Ellis, was to direct the local form of extremism to intimidate, hurt and threaten the property and person of Councillor Green.

14. It was clear to me as soon as I saw this message and the activity of Councillors Harrison and Ellis that there was a clear safeguarding issue and a direct attack had been undertaken on a fellow councillor's personal welfare. That weekend I spent hours and hours on the telephone with colleagues, the police and other authorities.

15. On 2 March at 12:58 I took a 12-minute call from another councillor.

16. At 14:47 there was a 40-minute call from Councillor Green, obviously quite afraid about this.

17. At 19:45 I took a call from Councillor Milnes.
18. By this time, I had already called the police who had referred it to their extremist desk although it was a Saturday night and there may not be much of a response until Monday.
19. Gareth Davies, our local MP, was informed and he, again, referred it to the police.
20. At 21:30 the Chief Executive got in touch about death threats.
21. At 21:31 the Monitoring Officer asked for an update on what was happening with regard to death threats.
22. At 21:42 and 22:36 I again spoke to Councillor Green. By this time, I had concerns about his domestic arrangements. I asked Councillor Green if he would like to stay at my house. He said, 'no, I'll put a chair up against the door'. As the leader of a political group I had serious welfare considerations.
23. On 3 March at 08:25 I took a call from Mark Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner, who said the matter would be referred to the Chief Constable.
24. A couple of minutes later the Chief Executive was back on the phone.
25. At 08:35 I took a 24-minute call from Councillor Green.
26. At 09:00 Grantham Police called and said the matter had been escalated but there was unlikely to be much of a response until Monday morning.
27. At 09:33 I took another call from Councillor Green.
28. At 09:50 I spoke to Councillor Knowles. I asked what he thought about the death threats circulating by his administration [REDACTED]
29. At 10:17 I took a 51-minute call from Councillor Woolley.

30. At 16:08 I got the first of three calls from individuals in the Deepings who said how disgraceful they thought the behaviour was and it was being egged on by people in the Deepings.
31. On 4 March at 08:12 the Police and Crime Commissioner called. He said he was going to raise the matter in his 9 am Monday morning meeting with the Chief Constable.
32. At 11:19 I spoke again to Councillor Green.
33. At 12:05 I spoke to the first of four people to call regarding their own fears. They were afraid to show up at the Council because they were afraid to walk from the parking lot across to the Council building.
34. At 13:25 I got a call from a County Councillor who wanted to cancel all public meetings for that day. I said Councillor Green was due to be present at two parish council meetings that week. Both meetings were cancelled due to security considerations.
35. At 13:38 I spoke to Grantham Police Special Point of Contact to discuss security on the building who said he would put in extra police presence.
36. At 14:20 I spoke to Councillor Dixon-Warren, my deputy.
37. At 14:59 I spoke to the Local Association Chairman.
38. At 21:55 I spoke again with Councillor Green. He was angered by the fact he could not attend parish council meetings where he was doing a community governance review.
39. What if someone had shown up at Councillor Green's house and put a petrol bomb through his door? I take my welfare responsibility seriously. There are real world consequences of this threat of terrorism promoted by Councillor Harrison and [REDACTED]. As this was being shared and promoted by Councillor Harrison and [REDACTED] it was unclear the extent to which this message had circulated.
40. Councillor Green did actually tell me he had slept with a cricket bat by his bed and a chair up against the door. My thoughts were that this would probably be of little help against a concerted attack from a lone wolf unknown individual that [REDACTED] and Councillor Harrison were promoting this message towards.

41. Meetings were cancelled, people refused to show up for briefings. It was March, it was dark and one councillor was too afraid to walk from the parking lot to the Council building.
42. On 21 March Councillor Harrison posted three short videos on Facebook. The videos were of Councillor Harrison and, I believe, [REDACTED] and another councillor, dressed as badgers running around Councillor Green's ward looking for problems.
43. Councillor Harrison's post stated:

"Well we try our hardest to do our best for our communities but it's great when others help us check on other communities and find what's wrong. Mr Badger recently sent us this issue in Woolsthorpe, thanks for that Mr Badger, that low sign looks very dangerous, but please be careful in that area as there is a badger cull in force."

44. It is my considered opinion that I don't believe these people are fit for public service and certainly not for leadership positions in the Council. They bring members and South Kesteven District Council into disrepute by their actions. Councillor Harrison holds a leadership position as Chair of Governance and Audit. Historically that was one of the most respected positions. Before the last election, that position was held by the most experienced councillor.
45. I said to previous Leader of the Council, Councillor Cleaver, that giving that role to Councillor Harrison was a really bad idea. I said that that role is one of the very few which talk straight to officers and oversees officers directly. I suggested they wanted to have somebody more experienced. Several members of the administration, including Cabinet members, have confided in me that I was proved right, but Councillor Harrison retains that leadership position even though it has been proved beyond all doubt that he is ethically unincumbered.
46. Leadership is one of the Nolan Principles. I believe, in Councillor Harrison, we have somebody who is basically mocking the whole process.
47. A fixed penalty notice was issued in respect of the death threat comment. Even after the police had been involved and, knowing the post was inflammatory, it was shared by both Councillor Harrison and twice by [REDACTED]. The post remains live. This is a clear attempt at physical intimidation.

I, Councillor Graham Jeal, declare that this statement is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed by:

[Redacted Signature]

30 August 2024

SignedDate

STATEMENT FRONT COVER

Name:	Sue Woolley
Position Held	Councillor South Kesteven District Council

wilkin chapman llp
solicitors

Cartergate House,
26 Chantry Lane,
Grimsby
DN31 2LJ

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STATEMENT of: Councillor Sue Woolley

1. I am a Conservative Councillor on South Kesteven District Council (the Council). I represent Morton and Hanthorpe Ward which is near Bourne. I am also a Lincolnshire County Councillor. At national level I sit on the Local Government Association group for civility in public life. I sit on the Audit and Governance Committee of the Council.
2. I understand that Wilkin Chapman LLP solicitors have been asked to investigate complaints made against Councillor Harrison in respect of his conduct on social media. I am aware that other Councillors have also made Code of Conduct complaints against Councillor Harrison, again in relation to his conduct on social media.
3. Councillor Green is a colleague in the same political party as myself. I have a good working relationship with him and count him as a close colleague from the point of view that I enjoy his company and think that from an integrity point of view he has a very high threshold. I consider him a trustworthy and reasonable individual.
4. I don't know Councillor Harrison as well as I know Councillor Green. Councillor Harrison was elected in 2021 so is a fairly new district councillor. He is Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee which I sit on but other than that I don't really have any other interaction with him.
5. The ward I represent is about 20 miles away from Grantham and so I only tend to interact with the members of other political groups in Council settings. I don't really have an awful lot to do with councillors in the Grantham area as it is quite a distance from my ward.
6. I am not aware of any animosity between the various political groups when in Council meetings. If there is a disagreement then that occasionally plays out on individual terms but to me there is no ongoing undercurrent.
7. Prior to the last election there was a large majority of one particular political party. When that changed there was obvious animosity towards the coalition which played out in public but more than 12 months on people have generally learnt to be a little more careful with the language they use. It was a little bit rocky to start with but things have settled down.

8. A picture of Councillor Green alongside a map containing the words, “ALL BADGERS ARE TO BE KILLED HERE” was posted by Councillor Harrison with the following:

“This is Cllr Ben Green from the Conservative Party at South Kesteven District Council, he is the Cllr for the Isaac Newton Ward which sits to the south of Grantham. Cllr Greens entire ward sits within the badger cull zone, this zone is on an eradication zone, ALL badgers are to be killed, needlessly. Like most in his party, Cllr Green is a hypocrite when it comes to wildlife, he feels the wildlife of his ward is fair game (no pun intended) to be used in political arguments. We take particular offence at his pretending to care about badgers, when his entire ward is in the current Lincolnshire cull zone and he takes no interest. Cllr Green has been totally silent and none engaging when it comes to the badger cull in Lincolnshire and indeed his ward, he has said literally NOTHING>

In 2013 the cull was brought into existence, since then, 243,000 badgers have been slaughtered across England, people like Cllr green are guilty by association of this slaughter. Cllr Ben Green has remained very very quiet on this topic so we thought he should have his 5 minutes of fame. His contact details are below

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<https://www.facebook.com.councillorben/>”

9. At the time I submitted my complaint, Councillor Harrison and a number of other councillors who I think were Independent and members of the public, predominantly from the Grantham area, really did criticise Councillor Green.
10. It felt like anything Councillor Green put on social media there were others looking to find another angle. I did not like the language used, it was unpleasant.
11. Councillor Green felt more should be done about the litter at either side of the A1 which runs through our district. The Council is ultimately responsible for some of that litter being removed so he was putting things on Facebook, and I think it was picked up by the media as well.
12. To remove any amount of rubbish will cost a phenomenal amount of money and so every organisation tends to pass the buck a little bit where money or responsibilities are concerned. This was a good example of deciding ultimately who should be dealing with it and all the time the matter was getting worse.
13. Councillor Green flagged the issue up, not everybody agreed with him. If I had felt his posts unreasonable I would have pulled him up on it but would have spoken to him privately, I would not have done it via social media.

14. A member of the public commented on Councillor Harrison's post to say:

"What's the chance of me culling this waste of space, I'm sure nobody would notice him missing from his ward."

15. To me this felt like intimidation and incitement.

16. What I found really, really disappointing was that Councillor Harrison did not respond to that comment to say it was completely unacceptable, nor did he take the comment down. I felt things had got a little bit too far.

I Councillor Sue Woolley declare that this statement is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed by:



17 July 2024

SignedDate

Interview Transcript – Councillor Harrison

TH - Councillor Tim Harrison

EC - Estelle Culligan

GT - Gill Thompson

EC: So, that is the recording which has started, and I can see that, yes, it's coming up with my speech. So, thank you very much Councillor Harrison for joining us this afternoon, if we could just introduce ourselves, I am Estelle Culligan and I am a Partner in the Regulatory team.

GT: I'm Gill Thompson and I'm a Regulatory Executive in the Regulatory team.

TH: And I'm Tim Harrison District Councillor for South Kesteven St Wulfram's Ward.

EC: Thanks very much everybody. So, Councillor Harrison if we just start off with some general questions about your background with the Council I believe you were first elected in May 2023 is that right?

TH: Yep.

EC: You hadn't been a Councillor there before?

TH: No.

EC: Okay, thank you. And you represent the is it the St Wulfram's Ward?

TH: It is yeah.

EC: Yeah. And can you explain to us if you can remember them all which committees you sit on and if you are chair of any committees.

TH: I sit on 11 different committees I'd be struggling to remember them all....

EC: Oh gosh.

TH: Erm, Chairman of Governance and Audit.

EC: Right, okay, okay. Erm, and just thinking about the training that you've undertaken since you became a Councillor there is some listed on your website but it doesn't mention on, on the Council's website but it doesn't mention code of conduct training, have you

TH: Yeah, I did code of conduct training as well, yeah.

EC: Right, okay, thank you. Do you remember when that was?

TH: Erm no I wouldn't I don't I'd have to go to Dem Services to find that out.

EC: But it was part of the package of training that you had..

TH: Yeah.

EC: As a new Councillor? Do you remember whether that covered dealing dealings on social media?

TH: It did yes.

EC: Right, okay, thanks very much. Erm, that's great. So just moving on to the specific issues of the complaints and we'll take them in turn, erm, and if you're confused at any point then we can sort of slow down and I can point you to what we are talking about because there is a lot and there's a lot of different posts and a, err, you know, a lot of different comments and that sort of thing, so

TEXT IRRELEVANT TO THIS COMPLAINT HAS BEEN REMOVED.

TH: ... I got, in the space of 24 hours, maybe, maybe say 48 hours, I think I got something like 78 emails all pertaining to this issue, so in the end....

EC: Yeah.

TH:I got very aeriated with, with erm Mr Watts, and I said look please stop engaging with me in this, deal with it as you see fit, I'm not going to, I haven't got the in, time, or the inclination to waste on it. I was away on a very important meeting, meeting um, err, Burgermeisters in, in Germany, erm, and I was getting pestered constantly with these emails pinging through....

EC: Yeah.

TH:about this sort of stuff and I said to Graham then, deal with it as you see fit Graham. I've, I've, I've got not further response, I don't really want to engage with it, I think it's all nonsense my own personal point, I said you tell me before I personally think it's vexatious where 28, comp.... it's 26 different complaints came through to me, at, all, I'm told in the end. 26 different complaints in the short period of time, tell me when that's ever happened before, and not been seen as vexatious? Now....

EC: Yep.

TH:the problem with the Tories as, is because I'm a, I'm my own man, I speak my own mind, and I call things as they are, they don't like it

EC: Yes.

TH:and they don't like being erm outshone on social media....

EC: Yeah.

TH:but as I said to Graham Watts, what, what perplexes me is this has come to you. I said to Graham Watts I'm perfectly happy for you Graham to say yeah we find against

him on all these and I won't even fight it with you, you can go against me, you can put me black marks against me err, as a Councillor, because ultimately there is nothing really more that can be done,

EC: Yes.

TH:um, so do that, I won't fight against it, we'll save the Council some money as in, because you, you guys are going to be costing us money, quite clearly....

EC: Yes.

TH:I said we'll save a lot of money and everybody will be happy. The Tories will have their bit, they'll have their black mark against me, erm, jobs done, and everybody's happy, but no, it's got passed on to you and I don't see why that is really. I can't, when I've said to Graham I'll happily not contest your decision. So the whole thing....

EC: The problem, yeah, the difficulty, the difficulty for Graham is that under your, under the arrangements and under the localism act it's, it's difficult to make a finding on some of these things without going through a more thorough investigation, it's, he can't on everything make, make a decision, that's the difficulty, so that's why he's constrained to put some of these things through, if he thinks they're serious enough to a further investigation, so that, erm, I mean you may say oh I wouldn't contest it but others, err, you know if he starts doing that for one person then he can't necessarily do that for everybody for other complaints that come through against other people, so there is a process unfortunately, and that's the process that he's, he's got to go through, so that's why we are where we are today.

TH: Right.

EC: Erm....

TH: Which is pretty much what Graham said, he said he's got a process to go through but I, I still don't quite understand it, but fair enough, if that's what we've got to do, that's what we've got to do.

EC: Yeah, and we are dealing with it as swiftly as we can aren't we Gill? Erm, so, erm, thank you very much for that. So if we move on Councillor Harrison

TEXT IRRELEVANT TO THIS COMPLAINT HAS BEEN REMOVED

EC: ... So these are complaints by Councillor's Green, Jeal and Woolley about the badger culling comments.

TH: Yeah.

EC: Erm, first of all just, we've asked you about your relationship with Councillor Jeal can you tell us about your relationship, if any, with Councillor Green.

TH: Erm, Councillor Green erm, likes his own voice.

EC: Yep.

TH: Erm, he's very erm, I actually called him the poet laureate in, in full Council because he waxes lyrical with his one liner, 'the jenga tower of myth' was one of them that he created in his thing, erm, I don't really have any erm contact with him but he, after about 5 or 6 of these I wrote an email to him which I think Graham has also got, I don't know whether he has forwarded that on to you going, something along the lines of "Ben, you're, you're not a bad bloke, you're a good Councillor, stop with this nonsense with all the, the theatrics, it's, it's not needed" erm, you know, "concentrate on doing your Council work, good luck, Tim" or words to that effect.

EC: Yeah.

TH: So it's a very friendly cordial email, and he carries on and he deliberately baits erm us continualist, continuously calling us the rainbow alliance and stuff like that which you type rainbow alliance in in any search engine and it comes up with the erm LGBTQ community anywhere, anywhere where you type that up that's the first thing it comes up with, so we don't kick off that he's doing that, we don't kick off and make formal complaints every single time he mentions that erm, and it's again it's this feigned indignance you know....

EC: Yeah.

TH: ...that's, that they're doing and you've got to bear in mind Ben any comments I made on Ben's page he was in charge of his page, he could of at any time blocked me from seeing his posts, he could of at any time block me from commenting on his posts, erm, the control was totally with him, I've got none of that. He deliberately left it open and deliberately put it and forward it so that it would come to our attention trying to enact a, we've since got wise to his, his erm shenanigans and we just don't engage with him anymore, it's not worth our time or effort.

EC: Yeah.

TH: But it was, it's a deliberate thing that they did at this point in time to try to get a reaction off us, erm, and it got the reaction and didn't like it that the public opinion went against him on most of them.

EC: Yeah. Okay, that's helpful, and what about any relationship with Councillor Woolley?

TH: Err.

EC: ...do you have any dealings with her?

TH: Councillor Woolley is on my committee, no feelings one way or the other about Councillor Woolley, she's pretty adept at what she does erm, I've no....

EC: No, no particular views or anything?

TH: No, no.

EC: Fine. Okay, that's great, thank you. So the complaint from Councillor Green, err, this is to do with the badger culling comments. First of all, err, he said that over

approximately 1 – 2 hours on the 9th February this year, you combed, this is his words, you combed his Facebook profile and shared multiple posts to your own account accompanied by what he says are vitriolic attacks and that you went so far as to edit a video still of him putting in your own commentary, err, so the first question was did you do that, and, and, and why you did that if you did that?

TH: I didn't. And it wasn't done by me, it was done by another Councillor.

EC: Right. In your group or, or in your.....

TH: Erm, yes.

EC: Right.

TH: It was done by another Councillor in our group and erm we didn't alter the video at all, it was a screenshot from the video with some words added on to it.

EC: What like comments under the, in the bottom..

TH: It was erm, so it was a screenshot of him in his video, on a bridge, going on about the rubbish on the A1 and we deli, we just put above it the comments yes look at all that rubbish in the two laybys behind me...

EC: Yeah.

TH: ...but there wasn't any.

EC: Yeah yeah.

TH: That's all it was.

EC: Okay.

GT: Can I just ask you Councillor Harrison, sorry to butt in, was it you that shared the post to your Facebook page or...

TH: I put the....

GT: ...did you send it...

TH: I put the, I, I, I didn't, I didn't alter that and I've got proof of that cos we've....

GT: Yeah.

TH:we've still got it in the chats of who actually did that. I don't want to mention who did it....

GT: No.

TH: I'll take it on the chin, you can blame me, but it wasn't me. So....

EC: Somebody, somebody....

TH: So, to claim that I did it is.....

EC: ...yeah.

TH:is wrong....

EC: ...so somebody...

TH:I, I published it on my Facebook.

EC: ...you published it on your Facebook page.

GT: Yeah.

EC: So somebody else lifted, and there were other posts as well, somebody else lifted them, somebody else put the comment on the screenshot, and then you posted them on your Facebook page?

TH: Yeah, yeah.

EC: Right, okay. Erm, so why did you do that?

TH: Because I wanted to highlight again, so this is the same 60,000 pounds that they'd argued again, to get....

EC: Yeah.

TH:in the budget, thinking they wouldn't win it, won it....

EC: Yes.

TH: ...and then voted against the budget and then not 2 days later he's shouting about how he's done this to say, now, again, if you, if you were known, known, in the Council, if you knew about the Council and everything else 60,000 pounds will clean nothing of the A1.

EC: Yes, yeah.

TH: It's, it's a total nonsense. They were trying to make a point, they were trying to get a point that they didn't, they only wanted the soundbites, they didn't want to actually get the result. They got the result and then thought oh, what do we do now. We didn't want this, because that now means we've got to vote, vote against the budget, which we didn't want, oh, and now we look really silly. So I am highlighting that Councillor's are out there wasting the public's money by spending time debating all this stuff that they actually don't even believe in themselves...

EC: Yeah.

TH: ...and didn't really want. You know? So, and it's important. I got elected on being transparent to, to the people who voted for me and that's what I will continue to do at all times, and if it, if it gets me in trouble I will continue to do it, and if I, I, I won't engage with these two anymore, erm, it became apparent that the only traction Councillor Green was getting on his post was when I commented on it. I've got a large Facebook following, so the only time that Councillor Green got any traction on his post seemed to be when I made a comment or if I shared his post, so I thought the easiest way to do this is let the man drown in his own echo chamber and stop commenting on it....

EC: Yeah.

TH: which is what we've done since.

EC: Right okay. Is this since that since this complaint came, since these complaints came in or....

TH: Erm, it was about a week or two after this, we just decided you know what, he, the only time he's getting any credence is, is when one of us chips in and says something, so, erm, as, as where I was highlighting falsehoods and erm, idiosyncrasies that the Tory party had erm done, I thought well nobody'll know about that if I, if I don't highlight it.

EC: I understand.

TH: Because he's, he's got a very minimal outreach, so I thought....

EC: Yeah.

TH:the best way for me is just not to do it anymore.

EC: Have things been a bit calmer since you adopted that approach?

TH: Erm....

EC: Generally?

TH: I don't have anything to do with them.

EC: Right, okay.

TH: There's a, there's a few Councillors now and myself and erm, err 3 or 4 other Town Councillors have all made it clear to Graham Watts that we do not, we've said to them, please make sure that they know not to interact with us, we don't want to interact with them. You know. [REDACTED]

EC: So how does that work with you....

TH:because....

TEXT IRRELEVANT TO THIS COMPLAINT HAS BEEN REMOVED

EC: Okay, alright thank you, I understand. So, then moving on to the next complaint from Councillor Green which was to do with this post and I think it was you shared a post that link a group called Lincolnshire Against the Cull had post, I think they're the group, and you shared it I think erm, on your, on your I think, on your Facebook page again?

TH: I did yeah...

EC: Yeah...

TH: Yeah.

EC: An image of Councillor Green alongside a Lincoln, err, an image of the area of Lincolnshire with the words 'all badgers are to be killed here', and then your post was Lincolnshire against the Cull and it was what they'd said, this is Councillor Ben Green from the Conservative Party err, Councillor Green's entire Ward sits within the badger cull zone, this zone is on an eradication zone all badgers are to be killed needlessly etc, I won't read out the whole post.

TH: Yeah, yeah.

EC: Erm, and then there, erm, then there's further information about the cull, then there's a link to something on on the South Kesteven website, err, modgov, and then they say we think Councill Green is a disgrace and should apologise in using the deaths of animals in his Ward as a polit, as political pawn, and a member of the public commented "what's the chance of me culling this waste of space, I'm sure nobody would notice him missing from his ward. Erm, so, he complained about that, and I understand that there was, there was a Police follow up wasn't there, and somebody was issued with a fixed penalty notice I believe, about the commentary?

TH: Yeah, they were, and unfortunately the guy who was issue, issued with a fixed penalty notice I erm, if I'd have got to him first he wouldn't have got that fixed penalty notice because I would have told him to "no, and go court" because as I went, the Police also rang me right....

EC: Yeah.

TH: ...so I recently I've been burgled right, this is the irony in this, recently I've been burgled, and it took the Police 6 weeks to turn out to my house. Somebody puts, gets offended by a Facebook post the Police not only call at my house they call at my office at work, they then ...

EC: Yeah.

TH: ...ring me to chase this up within hours, so the irony is where a burglary somebody can't come out for 6 weeks, but erm, a hurty Facebook post they're out within 3 hours, so, I then said to the Policeman, I said why are you ringing me? He said well this, err somebody's put this comment on your post, I said yeah, why are you ringing me? So he said, well, will you remove this post so I said no. I said I don't erm censor what people say to me on my post, I said, and you, you, you're using the word cull I said, and I, and I went on my phone while I was talking to him and I said right here now, are you going to go down now and issue the BBC with a penalty because they're culling

their staff, so err, erm, the Virgin Media were culling, culling their staff. I said there's, there's meanings on the word cull, and you've picked on this poor guy, frightened the life out of him, this guy if you actually go to his Facebook is an [REDACTED]. All he does is, is, is, is make money for the [REDACTED], erm, and, and if you go on his Facebook you will see pictures of [REDACTED] that he, he, it was a flippant comment, maybe in bad taste I, I agree, erm, was it offensive? was it a death threat? No. Ridiculous, and, and looking at the guys post and the actual demeanour of the guy will, will tell you that it was no way was it a death threat. They then went totally overboard on this, I mean the original reason for me posting this is because as you will see Councillor Ben Green, is erm, (coughs) decrying us Independents as not caring about wildlife....

EC: Yeah.

TH:because we didn't wanna do the A1, but then allowing and permitting a 100% cull of badgers in his ward.

EC: Yep.

TH: Erm, so I was highlighting again the hypocrisy of, of what this Councillor was saying. Again, a transparency to the people who voted me in. The fact that erm, this gentleman made a comment unfortunate, flippant, death threat? Definitely not. Erm, they knew it wasn't a death threat there were no follow up death threats as, has he err, attempted to make, he wasn't living in a safehouse which were checked on erm, he wasn't sleeping with a baseball bat under his bed, which erm, he made claims to, and only a few days later he's running up and down the A1 laughing his head off, showing exactly where he is, sounding an airhorn, breaking the law, sounding an airhorn at the side of the A1...

EC: Yeah.

TH: ...umm, so this is the sort of guy that we are dealing with here, you know, this feigned indignance, this feigned erm, cost again at the Council of a lot of money because Councillor Jeal then insisted that we had security guards for a number of weeks working at the Council offices for this, erm, yes, the, the comment a flippant comment, in hindsight he shouldn't have made it, erm, but he did, and he got fined for it and he removed it and it was removed straight away. The Police made him remove it at the time.

EC: I suppose that, I suppose the problem is I mean when I read, when I read this erm, the problem is you talk about you know the meaning of the word cull and BBC culling their staff, and you use the word cull in various different circumstances but, you know everybody knows that there can be quite a lot of violence around animal activism and that sort of thing. So when you read this post and the, the, the thing that you posted on your, on your Facebook page and that comment together, you know I look at it and I can see why if you were the subject of that you would be concerned....

TH: Hmm.

EC: ...even though you say oh well it was meant flippantly and the comment you can see from the guys profile he's and [REDACTED] supporter, blah, blah, blah. I mean, people can be [REDACTED] supporters and can still be....

TH: Say this, say this had happened to me...

EC:you know you can...(laughs)

TH: ...yeah, say this had happened to me...

EC: Yeah.

TH: I would have contacted Ben Green and gone do you know this Mr Bloggs, or whoever...

EC: Yeah.

TH:who's made this threat to, to kill me, you known anything about him? Is it, is it something I've got to take seriously? I would have acted like an adult, rather than this feigned indignance that, is, is evident throughout all of these complaints, erm, before I've gone on and caused all the furore that he caused. So, again...

EC: Yeah, the thing...

EC:the thing, the thing is Councillor Harrison, again this goes back to our earlier comment, this is how you would react,

TH: Ehem.....

EC: ...but other people might react differently.....

TH: ...yeah, yeah.....

EC:and, and, and Councillor Green for whatever reason has reacted in this way, erm, so, you know this is the point of the issue of treating each other....

TH: ...but his, but his complaint is....

EC:with respect under the Code of Conduct, yeah..

TH:his, his complaint is that I incited violence against him. I didn't. At no point...

EC: But.

TH:nothing..

EC: ..Yeah.

TH:nothing, on that post incited any violence.

EC: So, do you know anything about this group Lincolnshire Against the Cull? Do you know anything about them?

TH: Nothing at all.

EC: Right okay.

TH: Nothing at all.

EC: So, you just found their post and then reposted it on your site?

TH: Yeah.

EC: So how did you find their post if you know nothing about them....

TH: It came up on my Facebook feed.

EC: Right. So do you....

TH: I've got a....

EC: ...do you follow....

TH:quite a large following on Facebook and....

EC: Right okay...

TH: ...and I get such a lot of stuff that comes up on Facebook.

EC: Okay. Alright then. Erm, what else was I gonna ask you on this? Oh, yes. Just another question. So he says that because, you mentioned the security, he did say because of the post he requested additional security at Council meetings, he also says that because of your post a March Parish Council meeting at South Witham was cancelled and the March Parish Council meeting at Great Ponton was postponed. Did you know about that?

TH: No.

EC: No.

TH: No.

EC: Right that, that's, I mean that's what he said but, you know...

TH: I can't comment. I don't know.

EC: Okay. Alright then. Erm. So my last question was do you consider that your post opened Councillor Green up to any danger?

TH: No.

EC: Right, okay.

TH: I....

EC: Fine.

TH:I personally don't think it did. No.

EC: Right. Okay, thank you very much. So, err, and again we may have covered, so Councillor Jeal and Councillor Woolley also complained about the post, and then just briefly, Councillor Jeal says that your post was a clear incitement to hatred against Councillor Green inviting animal rights extremists to target him.

TH: Where....

EC: Erm.

TH:where, where is there anything on there where I've invited anybody to target him?

EC: Well, this is just his comment..

TH: I'm making, I'm making compar, well, I'm not, I'm not even making comparisons. Somebody else made the comparisons, so, even defacto, if, if there is any inciting in there to, to, target erm, Councillor Green, it wasn't me, I've shared a post. If that post was beyond any sort of thing, then that would have been taken down by Facebook, erm, so, I wouldn't have been able to share it, erm, it just, none of it adds up I'm afraid. It's, it's erm, I actually know Councillor, err, Ben Green quite well now, and I know this is all feigned indignance and feigned erm stuff to have a targeted thing to try and shut me up, because I was highlighting a lot of things that were going wrong.

EC: Okay. Erm, I just one or two more questions about this. I mean they're all the same sort of issues which I will respond in the same way. Councillor Jeal also says that he understands at least one of your group is a member of an animal rights group.

TH: No idea.

EC: You've no idea? Okay.

TH: No.

EC: Erm, he also says that the information on your post was false and you don't have any evidence to support it.

TH: As in what information?

EC: I don't know. He just says that the information on your post is false.

TH: Erm, unless he tells me what information's false I can't, I can't comment on that can I.

EC: Okay. Alright then. Erm, and then Councillor Woolley again it may be covered in your previous comments, she complains erm that she says that the comment by the person

who commented who she says is [REDACTED] was a death threat against Councillor Green, which you made no attempt to remove.

TH: It was removed by the Police. First and foremost, while I'm very popular on Facebook, I don't always see my comments, I've, I've got a massive feed that things will go down. The responsibility....

EC: Yep.

TH:is not for me to remove comments that people, I might not even see them, I might not see the, see the notification. Erm, if you can yourself go and look at my Facebook feed and see how many different entries are made daily on my Facebook, and how many comments are made daily on my Facebook. If I was to go and police every single comment I wouldn't be in Council. I, I must get on average 500 to a 1000 comments a day....

EC: Right.

TH: on Facebook.

EC: Okay. But then, you know....

TH: And I don't....

EC: I, I understand....

TH:to be honest I didn't even know about the comment until the Police rang me.

EC: Right okay...

TH: Because when they rang me and said oh, we're ringing you about the err Facebook post, I thought they were on about the one I'd reported, it was totally another thing where two, err, two gangs of youths had threatened to meet each other in the local fair, and, and bring knives. So when he rang me and said I'm ringing you about this I went oh right, yeah, okay. I said I don't know who the two youths are but I've seen this post and that's why I've reported it and he went oh no I'm talking about this one. I said I don't know what you're on about. And so it had been removed before I even saw it. The Police had gone to.....

EC: Okay.

TH:to, sorry what was his name? [REDACTED] was it?

EC: [REDACTED]

TH: Yeah.

EC: **[inaudible 5:49:1]**

TH: So they had already gone to him and removed the post, before I even knew that it was one there.

EC: But that, I mean I understand what you're saying about your page getting lots and lots of comments and posts, but then it is your page and if you're not responsible for removing things or seeing things that alert you like you said you were alerted about the erm, the, the, the gangs wanting to meet with knives who is? Cos it's your page.

TH: Yeah, but it's not my responsibility to go and trawl through my page all day long, so I can, I can show you now, or you can do it yourself, you can log on Facebook and, and and search my page out. My Facebook page is there for information....

EC: Right

TH:for people.

EC: Okay.

TH: You know, I, I, I physically wouldn't be able to go and comment on every or check every comment and every like, it just , it just wouldn't be possible for me to do it. Erm.....

EC: So what happens.....

TH:again, again

EC:what happens.....

TH: ...again, we come down to this thing...

EC: Yeah.

TH: where Ben Green, at any point during this thing he's told you already that the feared for his life, why didn't he block me?

EC: Yeah.

TH: Why did he leave his thing open and keep putting contentious remarks, contentious comments the, the, the erm, winding up of, of of all of our lot with this erm rainbow alliance comments, and erm, yous don't care about the animals, he, he, could of incited us he's, he went out he could have incited err animal rights against us. He said the grou, err, the coalition don't care about animals. That could have, I could quite easily have made the complaint about that but I didn't....

EC: Yeah.

TH:because it's, it's that sort of context that's going on. But rather than me go and say how dare you say that, you are inciting animal rights activists against us, I highlighted his, his hypocrisy.

EC: Yeah. Okay. Alright then. Alright, thank you very much. Erm, is that, I think we've covered everything on that complaint. Is that everything? Do you, yeah?

TH: Yeah.

TEXT IRRELEVANT TO THIS COMPLAINT HAS BEEN REMOVED

EC: ... is there anything else that you want to say? Before we ...

TH: No, I'm sorry that you've had to spend time on this, it's a vast waste of resource and monies. I'm sure you've got far more important things to do. Erm, you won't get it again from me with, as regards Ben Green and Graham Jeal, we've realised they're not worth our efforts, they're not worth, and erm, we just, we'll leave them in their own echo chamber because they're not getting any erm, stuff, erm, the mistake I made was biting.

EC: Yeah.

TH: That was the mistake I made. Everything, I stand by everything I did, but I just shouldn't have bitten because I gave him a bigger voice than he would have had if I hadn't of.....

EC: Yeah.

TH:shared his posts etc.

EC: I understand. Well listen, thank you very much. Just bear with me one second, I'm going to stop the recording if I can.

TH: Yep.

EC: Just bear with me. Stop recording.

END OF RECORDING

I certify that this is an accurate note of my interview with Estelle Culligan and Gill Thompson on Tuesday 16 July 2024.

Signed.....

Dated.....

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 July 2024 14:21
To: Tim.Harrison@SouthKesteven.gov.uk
Subject: (97613/248, 97613/246, 97613/243 and 97613/241) - Interview Transcript
Attachments: Interview Transcript - Councillor Tim Harrison.pdf; Email Letter to Councillor Harrison enclosing interview transcript.pdf

Dear Councillor Harrison

Please find attached, for your consideration, a letter together with interview transcript.

The transcript itself is password protected for security. We have obtained a mobile number from the Council's website ending 569. I will therefore send the password to you via SMS shortly.

Should you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 August 2024 09:58
To: Cllr Tim Harrison
Subject: FW: (97613/248, 97613/246, 97613/243 and 97613/241) - Interview Transcript
Attachments: Interview Transcript - Councillor Tim Harrison.pdf; Email Letter to Councillor Harrison enclosing interview transcript.pdf

Good morning Councillor Harrison

I refer to my email below and the attached letter and transcript.

I would be grateful if you could confirm your approval of the transcript as soon as possible.

Many thanks
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2024 2:21 PM
To: Tim.Harrison@SouthKesteven.gov.uk
Subject: (97613/248, 97613/246, 97613/243 and 97613/241) - Interview Transcript

Dear Councillor Harrison

Please find attached, for your consideration, a letter together with interview transcript.

The transcript itself is password protected for security. We have obtained a mobile number from the Council's website ending 569. I will therefore send the password to you via SMS shortly.

Should you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Cllr Tim Harrison <Tim.Harrison@southkesteven.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 August 2024 14:13
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: (97613/248, 97613/246, 97613/243 and 97613/241) - Interview Transcript

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Good afternoon [REDACTED]

I have only had time for a cursory glance over all this, I am too busy. It all seems in order I am confident that you will have transcribed accurately. If there is any issue in the future we can always return to the video.

Kind regards

Tim Harrison Councillor for Grantham St. Wulfram's Ward

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 9:58:17 AM
To: Cllr Tim Harrison <Tim.Harrison@southkesteven.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: (97613/248, 97613/246, 97613/243 and 97613/241) - Interview Transcript

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Good morning Councillor Harrison

I refer to my email below and the attached letter and transcript.

I would be grateful if you could confirm your approval of the transcript as soon as possible.

Many thanks
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 August 2024 14:24
To: Cllr Tim Harrison
Subject: RE: (97613/248, 97613/246, 97613/243 and 97613/241) - Interview Transcript

Hello Councillor Harrison

Thank you for your email. I appreciate you are very busy but we would like you to sign the transcript. I will send it to you via DocuSign (which enables electronic signature and return) so if you could give it a read through that would be very much appreciated.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: Cllr Tim Harrison <Tim.Harrison@southkesteven.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 2:13 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: (97613/248, 97613/246, 97613/243 and 97613/241) - Interview Transcript

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Good afternoon [REDACTED]

I have only had time for a cursory glance over all this, I am too busy. It all seems in order I am confident that you will have transcribed accurately. If there is any issue in the future we can always return to the video.

Kind regards

Tim Harrison Councillor for Grantham St. Wulfram's Ward

[REDACTED]

From: Cllr Tim Harrison <Tim.Harrison@southkesteven.gov.uk>
Sent: 19 August 2024 15:38
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Reminder: Complete with Docusign: Interview Transcript - Councillor Tim Harrison.pdf

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Hi [REDACTED]

I cannot sign this, I haven't had a copy of the video to compare it, plus I really do not have the time to spend going through it. As you are aware I do not get paid for this time and consider it a waste of my valuable time, where I can actually be achieving something for the constituents.

Kind regards

Tim Harrison Councillor for Grantham St. Wulfram's Ward

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Sent: Friday, August 16, 2024 3:00:32 AM
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Dear Councillor Harrison

Please find attached, for electronic signature and return, interview transcript.

I look forward to receiving the signed document.

Kind regards



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From: Cllr Tim Harrison <Tim.Harrison@southkesteven.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 September 2024 16:09
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Tim Harrison Councillor for Grantham St. Wulfram's Ward

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Sent: Friday, September 20, 2024 2:48:12 AM
To: Cllr Tim Harrison <Tim.Harrison@southkesteven.gov.uk>
Subject: Reminder: Complete with Docusign: Interview Transcript - Councillor Tim Harrison.pdf

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