

## STANDARDS COMMITTEE HEARING PANEL

**Venue:** Town Hall, Moorgate  
Street, Rotherham

**Date:** Thursday, 7th May, 2009

**Time:** 10.30 a.m.

### A G E N D A

1. Local Determination of Allegations of Misconduct against Councillor R. G. Littleboy following Investigation by an Investigation Officer (papers herewith) (Pages 1 - 114)

**ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – STANDARDS COMMITTEE****RMBC/2 – Councillor Reg Littleboy****Standards Committee Consideration and Hearing Panel Hearing - 7<sup>th</sup> May 2009****Summary of main aspects of the Case**

**Complainant** - Sergeant Mark Worrall

**Chairman of Panel** - Mrs. Angela Bingham

**Monitoring Officer** - Mr. Tim Mumford

**Clerk to the Hearing** - Mr. Alan Harston

**Time and Venue**

The Hearing will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at 10.30 a.m. at the Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham.

**Summary of the Complaint**

It is alleged that Councillor Littleboy:-

- (a) at a multi-agency site visit in Brinsworth on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2008 told Sergeant Worrall he was useless and that he was going to have him removed from the Rother Valley West Safer Neighbourhood Team.
- (b) had, at a Catcliffe Parish Council meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2008, stated in Sergeant Worrall's absence that he hated Sergeant Worrall and that he would prefer Sergeant Worrall not to be part of the Rother Valley West Safer Neighbourhood Team.

**Relevant sections of the Code of Conduct**

Potential breaches of the Code of Conduct identified by the Assessment Panel of the Standards Committee were:-

- Treating complainant with lack of respect – paragraph 3(1)
- Bullying – paragraph 3(2)
- Bringing office into disrepute – paragraph 5
- Using office improperly to secure an advantage or disadvantage for self or another – paragraph 6.

However, the Investigating Officer has found that Councillor Littleboy did not bully Sergeant Worrall and did not use his office improperly to secure an advantage or disadvantage for himself or another. The findings on these points have been accepted by the Consideration and Hearing Panel.

### **Findings of fact in the investigation report that are agreed**

Most of the findings of fact in the investigator's report are disputed. Submissions of Frances Randle of Steel and Shamash Solicitors on behalf of Councillor Littleboy and of the investigator, John Stone, in response are appended to this summary.

In relation to the allegation that Cllr Littleboy told Sergeant Stone that he was useless and he was going to have him removed, there are no agreed facts. The main facts that are not agreed are:

- whether Cllr Littleboy became angry at the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2008 multi-agency site meeting to discuss the nuisance caused to nearby residents from youths congregating on St. George's steps during the evening;
- whether he blamed Sergeant Worrall for the apparent inability to deal with the problem and took his anger out on him;
- whether he told Sergeant Worrall that he was bloody useless and that he was going to have him removed from his position as the head of the Rother Valley West Safer Neighbourhood Team ("the SNT").

In relation to the allegation that during the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2008 meeting of Catcliffe Parish Council Cllr Littleboy said that he hated Sergeant Worrall and would prefer him not to be part of the SNT, there are no agreed facts. The main facts that are not agreed are:

- whether Cllr Littleboy raised his voice when discussing the performance of the SNT and informed the meeting he had told Sergeant Worrall to his face that he hated him.

### **Representation**

Councillor Littleboy will be represented by Frances Randle of Steel and Shamash Solicitors. The investigator's report will be presented by John Stone.

### **Witnesses**

Councillor Littleboy will give evidence in person and will call Councillor Brian Jolly, Chair of Catcliffe Parish Council and Councillor Darren Hughes, a member of Catcliffe Parish Council and of Rotherham Borough Council.

John Stone will call the complainant, Sergeant Mark Worrall and PCSO Wordsworth.

**Procedure**

A copy of the Standards Committee's procedure for the conduct of hearings is attached to this summary.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Murphy', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Date: 22nd April 2009

(Monitoring Officer)

**ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

**PART 1**

**General Provisions**

**Introduction and interpretation**

1. (1) This Code applies to **you** as a member of Rotherham Borough Council ("the Council").
- (2) You should read this Code together with the general principles prescribed by the Secretary of State, which are set out at Annex 1 to this Code.
- (3) It is your responsibility to comply with the provisions of this Code.
- (4) In this Code:-

"meeting" means any meeting of—

- (a) the Council;
- (b) the executive of the Council;
- (c) any of the Council's or its executive's committees, sub-committees, joint committees, joint sub-committees, or area committees;

"member" includes a co-opted member and an appointed member of the Council.

**Scope**

2. (1) Subject to sub-paragraphs (2) to (5), you must comply with this Code whenever you:-
  - (a) conduct the business of the Council (which, in this Code, includes the business of the office to which you are elected or appointed); or
  - (b) act, claim to act or give the impression you are acting as a representative of the Council,and references to your official capacity are construed accordingly.
- (2) Subject to sub-paragraphs (3) and (4), this Code does not have effect in relation to your conduct other than where it is in your official capacity.

- (3) In addition to having effect in relation to conduct in your official capacity, paragraphs 3 (2) (c), 5 and 6 (a) also have effect, at any other time, where that conduct constitutes a criminal offence for which you have been convicted.
- (4) Conduct to which this Code applies (whether that is conduct in your official capacity or conduct mentioned in sub-paragraph (3)) includes a criminal offence for which you are convicted (including an offence you committed before the date you took office, but for which you are convicted after that date).
- (5) Where you act as a representative of the Council:-
  - (a) on another relevant authority, you must, when acting for that other authority, comply with that other authority's code of conduct; or
  - (b) on any other body, you must, when acting for that other body, comply with this Code, except and insofar as it conflicts with any other lawful obligations to which that other body may be subject.

### **General obligations**

3. (1) You must treat others with respect.
- (2) You must not:-
  - (a) do anything which may cause the Council to breach any of the equality enactments (as defined in Section 33 of the Equality Act 2006 and set out in Annex 2 hereto);
  - (b) bully any person;
  - (c) intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person who is or is likely to be:-
    - (i) a complainant,
    - (ii) a witness, or
    - (iii) involved in the administration of any investigation or proceedings,  
  
in relation to an allegation that a member (including yourself) has failed to comply with this Code or any other relevant authority's code of conduct for members; or
  - (d) do anything which compromises or is likely to compromise the impartiality of those who work for, or on behalf of, the Council.

4. You must not:-
- (a) disclose information given to you in confidence by anyone, or information acquired by you which you believe, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature, except where:-
    - (i) you have the consent of a person authorised to give it;
    - (ii) you are required by law to do so;
    - (iii) the disclosure is made to a third party for the purpose of obtaining professional advice provided that the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person; or
    - (iv) the disclosure is:-
      - (aa) reasonable and in the public interest; and
      - (bb) made in good faith and in compliance with the reasonable requirements of the Council; or
  - (b) prevent another person from gaining access to information to which that person is entitled by law.
5. You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or the Council into disrepute.
6. You:-
- (a) must not use or attempt to use your position as a member improperly to confer on or secure for yourself or any other person, an advantage or disadvantage; and
  - (b) must, when using or authorising the use by others of the resources of the Council:-
    - (i) act in accordance with the Council's reasonable requirements;
    - (ii) ensure that such resources are not used improperly for political purposes (including party political purposes); and
  - (c) must have regard to any applicable Local Authority Code of Publicity made under the Local Government Act 1986.
7. (1) When reaching decisions on any matter you must have regard to any relevant advice provided to you by the Council's:-
- (a) chief finance officer (the Strategic Director of Finance); or

- (b) monitoring officer (the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)),

where that officer is acting pursuant to his or her statutory duties.

- (2) You must give reasons for all decisions in accordance with any statutory requirements and any reasonable additional requirements imposed by the Council.

## **PART 2**

### **Interests**

#### **Personal interests**

- 8. (1) You have a personal interest in any business of the Council where either:-

- (a) it relates to or is likely to affect:-

- (i) any body of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management and to which you are appointed or nominated by the Council;

- (ii) any body:-

- (aa) exercising functions of a public nature;

- (bb) directed to charitable purposes; or

- (cc) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union),

- (dd) which is a private club or society, such as the Freemasons, a recreational club, working men's club or private investment club,

of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management;

- (iii) any employment or business carried on by you;

- (iv) any person or body who employs or has appointed you;

- (v) any person or body, other than the Council, who has made a payment to you in respect of your election or any expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties;



- (vi) any person or body who has a place of business or land in the Council's area, and in whom you have a beneficial interest in a class of securities of that person or body that exceeds the nominal value of £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital (whichever is the lower);
  - (vii) any contract for goods, services or works made between the Council and you or a firm in which you are a partner, a company of which you are a remunerated director, or a person or body of the description specified in paragraph (vi);
  - (viii) the interests of any person from whom you have received a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25,
  - (ix) any land in the Council's area in which you have a beneficial interest;
  - (x) any land where the landlord is the Council and you are, or a firm in which you are a partner, a company of which you are a remunerated director, or a person or body of the description specified in paragraph (vi) is, the tenant;
  - (xi) any land in the Council's area for which you have a licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy for 28 days or longer; or
- (b) a decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting your well-being or financial position or the well-being or financial position of a relevant person (see paragraph 8 (2) for definition of "relevant person") to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the electoral division or ward, as the case may be, affected by the decision.

(2) In sub-paragraph (1) (b), a relevant person is:-

- (a) a member of your family or any person with whom you have a close association; or
- (b) any person or body who employs or has appointed such persons, any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are directors;
- (c) any person or body in whom such persons have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000; or
- (d) any body of a type described in sub-paragraph (1) (a) (i) or (ii).

**Disclosure of personal interests**

9. (1) Subject to sub-paragraphs (2) to (7), where you have a personal interest in any business of the Council and you attend a meeting of the Council at which the business is considered, you must disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of that consideration, or when the interest becomes apparent.
- (2) Where you have a personal interest in any business of the Council which relates to or is likely to affect a person described in paragraph 8 (1) (a) (i) or 8 (1) (a) (ii) (aa), you need only disclose to the meeting the existence and nature of that interest when you address the meeting on that business.
- (3) Where you have a personal interest in any business of the authority of the type mentioned in paragraph 8(1)(a)(viii) (i.e. a gift or hospitality of at least £25), you need not disclose the nature or existence of that interest to the meeting if the interest was registered more than three years before the date of the meeting.
- (4) Sub-paragraph (1) only applies where you are aware or ought reasonably to be aware of the existence of the personal interest.
- (5) Where you have a personal interest but, by virtue of paragraph 14, sensitive information relating to it is not registered in the Council's Register of Members' Interests, you must indicate to the meeting that you have a personal interest, but need not disclose the sensitive information to the meeting.
- (6) Subject to paragraph 12 (1) (b), where you have a personal interest in any business of the Council and you have made an executive decision in relation to that business, you must ensure that any written statement of that decision records the existence and nature of that interest.
- (7) In this paragraph, "executive decision" is to be construed in accordance with any regulations made by the Secretary of State under section 22 of the Local Government Act 2000.

**Prejudicial interest generally**

10. (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), where you have a personal interest in any business of the Council you also have a prejudicial interest in that business where the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.
- (2) You do not have a prejudicial interest in any business of the authority where that business:-

- (a) does not affect your financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in paragraph 8;
- (b) does not relate to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to you or any person or body described in paragraph 8; or
- (c) relates to the functions of the Council in respect of:-
  - (i) housing, where you are a tenant of the Council provided that those functions do not relate particularly to your tenancy or lease;
  - (ii) school meals or school transport and travelling expenses, where you are a parent or guardian of a child in full time education, or are a parent governor of a school, unless it relates particularly to the school which the child attends;
  - (iii) statutory sick pay under Part XI of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992, where you are in receipt of, or are entitled to the receipt of, such pay;
  - (iv) an allowance, payment or indemnity given to members;
  - (v) any ceremonial honour given to members; and
  - (vi) setting council tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

**Prejudicial interests arising in relation to overview and scrutiny committees**

**11.** You also have a prejudicial interest in any business before an overview and scrutiny committee of the Council (or of a sub-committee of such a committee) where:-

- (a) that business relates to a decision made (whether implemented or not) or action taken by the Council's executive or another of the Council's committees, sub-committees, joint committees or joint sub-committees; and
- (b) at the time the decision was made or action was taken, you were a member of the executive, committee, sub-committee, joint committee or joint sub-committee mentioned in paragraph (a) and you were present when that decision was made or action was taken.

**Effect of prejudicial interests on participation**

**12.** (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), where you have a prejudicial interest in any business of the Council:-

- (a) you must withdraw from the room or chamber where a meeting considering the business is being held:—
    - (i) in a case where sub-paragraph (2) applies, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence;
    - (ii) in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at that meeting;unless you have obtained a dispensation from the Council's Standards Committee;
  - (b) you must not exercise executive functions in relation to that business; and
  - (c) you must not seek improperly to influence a decision about that business.
- (2) Where you have a prejudicial interest in any business of the Council, you may attend a meeting (including a meeting of the overview and scrutiny committee of the Council or of a sub-committee of such a committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise.

### **PART 3**

#### **Registration of Members' Interests**

##### **Registration of Members' Interests**

- 13.** (1) Subject to paragraph 14, you must, within 28 days of:-
- (a) this Code being adopted by the Council; or
  - (b) your election or appointment to office (where that is later),
- register in the Council's Register of Members' Interests (maintained under section 81 (1) of the Local Government Act 2000) details of your personal interests where they fall within a category mentioned in paragraph 8 (1) (a), by providing written notification to the Council's monitoring officer.
- (2) Subject to paragraph 14, you must, within 28 days of becoming aware of any new personal interest or change to any personal interest registered under paragraph (1), register details of that new

personal interest or change by providing written notification to the Council's monitoring officer.

**Sensitive information**

14. (1) Where you consider that the information relating to any of your personal interests is sensitive information (as defined by paragraph 14 (3)), and the Council's monitoring officer agrees, you need not include that information when registering that interest, or, as the case may be, a change to that interest under paragraph 13.
- (2) You must, within 28 days of becoming aware of any change of circumstances which means that information excluded under paragraph (1) is no longer sensitive information, notify the Council's monitoring officer asking that the information be included in the Council's Register of Members' Interests.
- (3) In this Code, "sensitive information" means information whose availability for inspection by the public creates, or is likely to create, a serious risk that you or a person who lives with you may be subjected to violence or intimidation.

**ANNEX 1**

**The Ten General Principles**

**Paragraph 1 (2)**

**Selflessness**

1. Members should serve only the public interest and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person.

**Honesty and integrity**

2. Members should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned, should not behave improperly and should on all occasions avoid the appearance of such behaviour.

**Objectivity**

3. Members should make decisions on merit, including when making appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits.

**Accountability**

4. Members should be accountable to the public for their actions and the manner in which they carry out their responsibilities, and should co-operate fully and honestly with any scrutiny appropriate to their particular office.

**Openness**

5. Members should be as open as possible about their actions and those of their authority, and should be prepared to give reasons for those actions.

**Personal judgement**

6. Members may take account of the views of others, including their political groups, but should reach their own conclusions on the issues before them and act in accordance with those conclusions.

**Respect for others**

7. Members should promote equality by not discriminating unlawfully against any person, and by treating people with respect, regardless of their race, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability. They should respect the impartiality and integrity of the authority's statutory officers and its other employees.

**Duty to uphold the law**

8. Members should uphold the law and, on all occasions, act in accordance with the trust that the public is entitled to place in them

**Stewardship**

9. Members should do whatever they are able to do to ensure that their authorities use their resources prudently and in accordance with the law.

**Leadership**

10. Members should promote and support these principles by leadership, and by example, and should act in a way that secures or preserves public confidence.

**ANNEX 2**

**The Equality Enactments**

**Paragraph 3 (2) (a)**

The equality enactments are defined in the Equality Act 2006 as: -

- the Equal Pay Act 1970
- the Sex Discrimination Act 1975
- the Race Relations Act 1976 race
- the Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- Part 2 of the Equality Act 2006 (discrimination on grounds of religion or belief)
- Regulations under Part 3 of the 2006 Act (discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation)
- the Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003
- the Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003
- the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006



# THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

## Part 1

### General provisions

#### Introduction and interpretation

1.—(1) This Code applies to **you** as a member of an authority.

(2) You should read this Code together with the general principles prescribed by the Secretary of State.

(3) It is your responsibility to comply with the provisions of this Code.

(4) In this Code—

“meeting” means any meeting of—

(a) the authority;

(b) any of the authority’s committees or sub-committees;

“member” includes a co-opted member and an appointed member.

(5) References to an authority’s monitoring officer and an authority’s standards committee shall be read, respectively, as references to the monitoring officer and the standards committee of the district council or unitary county council which has functions in relation to the parish council for which it is responsible under section 55(12) of the Local Government Act 2000.

#### Scope

2.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraphs (2) to (5), you must comply with this Code whenever you—

(a) conduct the business of your authority (which, in this Code, includes the business of the office to which you are elected or appointed); or

(b) act, claim to act or give the impression you are acting as a representative of your authority,

and references to your official capacity are construed accordingly.

(2) Subject to sub-paragraphs (3) and (4), this Code does not have effect in relation to your conduct other than where it is in your official capacity.

(3) In addition to having effect in relation to conduct in your official capacity, paragraphs 3(2)(c), 5 and 6(a) also have effect, at any other time, where that conduct constitutes a criminal offence for which you have been convicted.

(4) Conduct to which this Code applies (whether that is conduct in your official capacity or conduct mentioned in sub-paragraph (3)) includes a criminal offence for which you are convicted (including an offence you committed before the date you took office, but for which you are convicted after that date).

(5) Where you act as a representative of your authority—

(a) on another relevant authority, you must, when acting for that other authority, comply with that other authority’s code of conduct; or

(b) on any other body, you must, when acting for that other body, comply with your authority’s code of conduct, except and insofar as it conflicts with any other lawful obligations to which that other body may be subject.

**General obligations**

- 3.—(1) You must treat others with respect.
- (2) You must not—
- (a) do anything which may cause your authority to breach any of the equality enactments (as defined in section 33 of the Equality Act 2006);
  - (b) bully any person;
  - (c) intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person who is or is likely to be—
    - (i) a complainant,
    - (ii) a witness, or
    - (iii) involved in the administration of any investigation or proceedings, in relation to an allegation that a member (including yourself) has failed to comply with his or her authority's code of conduct; or
  - (d) do anything which compromises or is likely to compromise the impartiality of those who work for, or on behalf of, your authority.
4. You must not—
- (a) disclose information given to you in confidence by anyone, or information acquired by you which you believe, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature, except where—
    - (i) you have the consent of a person authorised to give it;
    - (ii) you are required by law to do so;
    - (iii) the disclosure is made to a third party for the purpose of obtaining professional advice provided that the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person; or
    - (iv) the disclosure is—
      - (aa) reasonable and in the public interest; and
      - (bb) made in good faith and in compliance with the reasonable requirements of the authority; or
  - (b) prevent another person from gaining access to information to which that person is entitled by law.
5. You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute.
6. You—
- (a) must not use or attempt to use your position as a member improperly to confer on or secure for yourself or any other person, an advantage or disadvantage; and
  - (b) must, when using or authorising the use by others of the resources of your authority—
    - (i) act in accordance with your authority's reasonable requirements; and
    - (ii) ensure that such resources are not used improperly for political purposes (including party political purposes).
7. Paragraph 7 does not apply to your authority.

**Part 2**

**Interests**

**Personal interests**

- 8.—(1) You have a personal interest in any business of your authority where either—

- (a) it relates to or is likely to affect—
    - (i) any body of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management and to which you are appointed or nominated by your authority;
    - (ii) any body—
      - (aa) exercising functions of a public nature;
      - (bb) directed to charitable purposes; or
      - (cc) 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;
    - (iii) any employment or business carried on by you;
    - (iv) any person or body who employs or has appointed you;
    - (v) any person or body, other than a relevant authority, who has made a payment to you in respect of your election or any expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties;
    - (vi) any person or body who has a place of business or land in your authority's area, and in whom you have a beneficial interest in a class of securities of that person or body that exceeds the nominal value of £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital (whichever is the lower);
    - (vii) any contract for goods, services or works made between your authority and you or a firm in which you are a partner, a company of which you are a remunerated director, or a person or body of the description specified in paragraph (vi);
    - (viii) the interests of any person from whom you have received a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25;
    - (ix) any land in your authority's area in which you have a beneficial interest;
    - (x) any land where the landlord is your authority and you are, or a firm in which you are a partner, a company of which you are a remunerated director, or a person or body of the description specified in paragraph (vi) is, the tenant;
    - (xi) any land in the authority's area for which you have a licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy for 28 days or longer; or
  - (b) a decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting your well-being or financial position or the well-being or financial position of a relevant person to a greater extent than the majority of—
    - (i) (in the case of authorities with electoral divisions or wards) other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the electoral division or ward, as the case may be, affected by the decision; or
    - (ii) (in all other cases) other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of your authority's area.
- (2) In sub-paragraph (1)(b), a relevant person is—
- (a) a member of your family or any person with whom you have a close association;  
or
  - (b) any person or body who employs or has appointed such persons, any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are directors;
  - (c) any person or body in whom such persons have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000; or
  - (d) any body of a type described in sub-paragraph (1)(a)(i) or (ii).

### Disclosure of personal interests

**9.—(1)** Subject to sub-paragraphs (2) to (7), where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority and you attend a meeting of your authority at which the business is considered, you must disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of that consideration, or when the interest becomes apparent.

(2) Where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority which relates to or is likely to affect a person described in paragraph 8(1)(a)(i) or 8(1)(a)(ii)(aa), you need only disclose to the meeting the existence and nature of that interest when you address the meeting on that business.

(3) Where you have a personal interest in any business of the authority of the type mentioned in paragraph 8(1)(a)(viii), you need not disclose the nature or existence of that interest to the meeting if the interest was registered more than three years before the date of the meeting.

(4) Sub-paragraph (1) only applies where you are aware or ought reasonably to be aware of the existence of the personal interest.

(5) Where you have a personal interest but, by virtue of paragraph 14, sensitive information relating to it is not registered in your authority's register of members' interests, you must indicate to the meeting that you have a personal interest, but need not disclose the sensitive information to the meeting.

### Prejudicial interest generally

**10.—(1)** Subject to sub-paragraph (2), where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority you also have a prejudicial interest in that business where the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

(2) You do not have a prejudicial interest in any business of the authority where that business—

- (a) does not affect your financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in paragraph 8;
- (b) does not relate to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to you or any person or body described in paragraph 8; or
- (c) relates to the functions of your authority in respect of—
  - (i) housing, where you are a tenant of your authority provided that those functions do not relate particularly to your tenancy or lease;
  - (ii) school meals or school transport and travelling expenses, where you are a parent or guardian of a child in full time education, or are a parent governor of a school, unless it relates particularly to the school which the child attends;
  - (iii) statutory sick pay under Part XI of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992, where you are in receipt of, or are entitled to the receipt of, such pay;
  - (iv) an allowance, payment or indemnity given to members;
  - (v) any ceremonial honour given to members; and
  - (vi) setting council tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

**11.** Paragraph 11 does not apply to your authority.

**Effect of prejudicial interests on participation**

**12.—**(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), where you have a prejudicial interest in any business of your authority—

- (a) you must withdraw from the room or chamber where a meeting considering the business is being held—
  - (i) in a case where sub-paragraph (2) applies, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence;
  - (ii) in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at that meeting;unless you have obtained a dispensation from your authority's standards committee; and
- (b) you must not seek improperly to influence a decision about that business.

(2) Where you have a prejudicial interest in any business of your authority, you may attend a meeting but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise.

**Part 3**

**Registration of Members' Interests**

**Registration of members' interests**

**13.—**(1) Subject to paragraph 14, you must, within 28 days of—

- (a) this Code being adopted by or applied to your authority; or
- (b) your election or appointment to office (where that is later),

register in your authority's register of members' interests (maintained under section 81(1) of the Local Government Act 2000) details of your personal interests where they fall within a category mentioned in paragraph 8(1)(a), by providing written notification to your authority's monitoring officer.

(2) Subject to paragraph 14, you must, within 28 days of becoming aware of any new personal interest or change to any personal interest registered under paragraph (1), register details of that new personal interest or change by providing written notification to your authority's monitoring officer.

**Sensitive information**

**14.—**(1) Where you consider that the information relating to any of your personal interests is sensitive information, and your authority's monitoring officer agrees, you need not include that information when registering that interest, or, as the case may be, a change to that interest under paragraph 13.

(2) You must, within 28 days of becoming aware of any change of circumstances which means that information excluded under paragraph (1) is no longer sensitive information, notify your authority's monitoring officer asking that the information be included in your authority's register of members' interests.

(3) In this Code, "sensitive information" means information whose availability for inspection by the public creates, or is likely to create, a serious risk that you or a person who lives with you may be subjected to violence or intimidation.

## Annexure - The Ten General Principles

The general principles governing your conduct under the *Relevant Authorities (General Principles) Order 2001* are set out below:

### *Selflessness*

1. Members should serve only the public interest and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person.

### *Honesty and Integrity*

2. Members should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned, should not behave improperly and should on all occasions avoid the appearance of such behaviour.

### *Objectivity*

3. Members should make decisions on merit, including when making appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits.

### *Accountability*

4. Members should be accountable to the public for their actions and the manner in which they carry out their responsibilities, and should co-operate fully and honestly with any scrutiny appropriate to their particular office.

### *Openness*

5. Members should be as open as possible about their actions and those of their authority, and should be prepared to give reasons for those actions.

### *Personal Judgement*

6. Members may take account of the views of others, including their political groups, but should reach their own conclusions on the issues before them and act in accordance with those conclusions.

### *Respect for Others*

7. Members should promote equality by not discriminating unlawfully against any person, and by treating people with respect, regardless of their race, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability. They should respect the impartiality and integrity of the authority's statutory officers, and its other employees.

### *Duty to Uphold the Law*

8. Members should uphold the law and, on all occasions, act in accordance with the trust that the public is entitled to place in them.

### *Stewardship*

9. Members should do whatever they are able to do to ensure that their authorities use their resources prudently and in accordance with the law.

### *Leadership*

10. Members should promote and support these principles by leadership, and by example, and should act in a way that secures or preserves public confidence.

**APPENDIX A**

**CONDUCT OF HEARINGS**

**1. SETTING THE SCENE**

- 1.1. Following formal introductions, the chairman of the Standards Committee will explain how the hearing will be conducted.
- 1.2. The chairman will remind the persons present that it may not be a defence to an allegation of defamation that the alleged defamatory words were uttered during the course of the hearing.
- 1.3. The chairman will advise the parties that the Committee has no power to make awards of costs.
- 1.4. The Committee will clarify and resolve any issues or disagreements about how the hearing should be conducted that were not resolved during the pre-hearing process.

**2. CONSIDERATION OF THE FINDINGS OF FACT**

*Disputed facts*

- 2.1. The Committee will identify any significant dispute of the finding of facts contained in the ethical standards officer or investigating officer's report (as the case may be).
- 2.2. If the facts are not disputed, the Committee will then consider whether the member concerned did in fact breach the relevant code of conduct.

*Representations on disputed facts*

- 2.3. If the facts are disputed, the ethical standards officer or the investigating officer (as the case may be), or his representative if present, will be invited to make any representations that he considers necessary in support of particular findings of fact.
- 2.4. The ethical standards officer or the investigating officer (as the case may be) may, with the Committee's permission, call named witnesses to give evidence in support of particular findings of fact.
- 2.5. With the Committee's permission, the member concerned may challenge the evidence put forward by any of the ethical

standards officer or investigating officer's (as the case may be) witnesses.

- 2.6. The member concerned will then be invited to make representations to support his version of the facts and, with the Committee's permission, call named witnesses to give supporting evidence.
- 2.7. With the Committee's permission, the ethical standards officer or the investigating officer (as the case may be) may challenge the evidence put forward by any of the witnesses of the member concerned.
- 2.8. The members of the Committee may question at any time witnesses called to give evidence on behalf of the member concerned or the ethical standards officer or investigating officer (as the case may be) or his representative.

*Disputed facts of which prior notice has not been given*

- 2.9. If the member concerned wishes to dispute a finding of fact of which he has not given prior notice (in accordance with paragraph 8), he must satisfy the Committee that there was a good reason for having failed to give such notice that the particular finding of fact is a disputed fact.

*The member concerned will not be permitted to dispute findings of fact at the hearing of which he has not given prior notice unless there are good reasons for failing to do so, such as new evidence coming to light.*

- 2.10. If –
  - the member concerned disputes a particular finding of fact of which he has not given prior notice, and
  - the ethical standards officer or the investigating officer (as the case may be) or his representative is not present at the hearing,

the Committee will consider whether it would be in the public interest to continue in the officer's absence or adjourn the hearing to another date.

- 2.11. If the Committee decides to continue with the hearing, it may –
  - allow the member concerned to make representations on the disputed finding of fact and the ethical standards officer or investigating officer (as the case may be) or his



representative if present to make representations in reply; or

- consider the representations made by the member concerned on the disputed finding of fact in the ethical standards officer or the investigating officer (as the case may be) or his representative's absence, then decide to adjourn the hearing in order for named witnesses or the officer concerned or his representative to be given the opportunity to attend and make representations in reply.

### **3. FINDINGS ON DISPUTED FACTS, ETC.**

3.1. On the conclusion of the representations (if any) made by or on behalf of both the member concerned and the ethical standards officer or the investigating officer (as the case may be), the Committee –

- will make findings on the disputed facts; and
- determine, on the basis of those findings, whether a *prima facie* case has been made that the member concerned has breached the relevant code of conduct (“a case to answer”).

3.2. If the Committee has determined that the member concerned has a case to answer –

- the member concerned will be invited to make representations as to why the Committee should determine that he has not breached the relevant code of conduct;
- the ethical standards officer or the investigating officer (as the case may be) or his representative will be invited to make oral or written representations as to why the Committee should determine that the member concerned has breached the relevant code of conduct; then
- the member concerned will be invited to make final representations in the light of the representations made by the officer concerned under the preceding sub-paragraph.

3.3. On the conclusion of the representations, the Committee will retire to deliberate upon the evidence and representations, but may reconvene at any stage to ask additional questions of the member concerned or the ethical standards officer or investigating officer (as the case may be) or his representative.

### **4. STANDARD COMMITTEE'S DETERMINATIONS**

- 4.1. If the Committee decide that the member concerned has not breached the relevant code of conduct, the Committee will –
- make a finding of no failure; and
  - consider whether it should make any recommendations to the Council or parish council concerned with a view to promoting high standards of conduct among members.
- 4.2. If the Committee decides that the member concerned has failed to comply with the relevant code of conduct it will either –
- make a finding of failure but no action needs to be taken; or
  - make a finding of failure and that a sanction should be imposed.
- 4.3. In the case of a finding of failure but no action needs to be taken, the Committee will consider whether it should make any recommendations to the Council or parish council concerned with a view to promoting high standards of conduct among members.
- 4.4. In the case of a finding of failure and that a sanction should be imposed, the Committee will decide which of the sanctions, or combination of sanctions, in paragraph 10.2 of this Manual it is minded to impose.
- 4.5. Following the decision to impose a sanction (or combination of sanctions) the Committee will reconvene and invite the member concerned and the ethical standards officer or the investigating officer (as the case may be) or his representative to make oral or written representations on the proposed sanction (or combination of sanctions).

## **5. THE DECISION**

- 5.1. The Committee's decision will be announced at the conclusion of the hearing and a written summary handed to the member concerned and the ethical standards officer or the investigating officer (as the case may be).
- 5.2. As soon as reasonably practicable following the conclusion of the meeting, and in any event not later than 2 weeks thereafter, the Committee will issue a full written decision.
- 5.3. The full written decision will contain details of –

- the allegation;
- the finding of facts, including disputed facts;
- the Committee's findings in respect of any witnesses who gave evidence before the Committee;
- the Committee's decision on whether the relevant code of conduct was breached; and
- the Committee's decision on whether a sanction or other course of action should be taken.

**Appendix 3**

**PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

**FINAL REPORT**

**Case Reference: Councillor Reg Littleboy (RMBC/2)**

Report of an investigation under Section 59 of the Local Government Act 2000 by John Stone appointed by monitoring officer for Rotherham MBC into an allegation concerning Councillor Littleboy.

This report is for the Rotherham MBC's Standards Committee.

**DATE: 5 Feb 2009**

## **Contents**

- 1 Executive summary**
- 2 Reg Littleboy's official details**
- 3 The relevant legislation and protocols**
- 4 The evidence gathered**
- 5 Summary of the material facts**
- 6 Reg Littleboy's additional submissions**
- 7 Reasoning as to whether there have been failures to comply with the Code of Conduct**
- 8 Finding**

**Appendix A Schedule of evidence taken into account and list of unused material**

**Appendix B Chronology of events**

## **1 Executive summary**

- 1.1 The allegations concerned two separate occasions within a public arena. It was particularly alleged that Councillor Littleboy

Had, at a multi-agency site visit in Brinsworth on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2008, told Sgt. Worrall he was useless and that he was going to have him removed from the Rother Valley West Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Had, at a Catcliffe Parish Council meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2008 stated in Sgt. Worrall's absence that he hated Sgt. Worrall and that he would prefer Sgt. Worrall not to be part of the Rother Valley West Safer Neighbourhood Team.

- 1.2 Potential breaches of the Code of Conduct identified by the Standards Committee are:

- 1.2.1 Treating complainant with lack of respect S 3(1)
- 1.2.2 Bullying S 3(2)
- 1.2.3 Bringing office into disrepute S 5
- 1.2.4 Using office improperly to secure an advantage or disadvantage for self or another S 6 (a)

- 1.3 I find that Cllr Littleboy

- 1.3.1 Treated Sgt. Worrall with a lack of respect.
- 1.3.2 Did not bully Sgt. Worrall
- 1.3.3 Brought his office into disrepute
- 1.3.4 Did not use his office improperly to secure an advantage or disadvantage for self or another

## **2 Reg Littleboy's official details**

- 2.1 Cllr Reg Littleboy was elected to office in May 1988 and has served continuously since. Cllr Littleboy is also a member of the following other relevant authorities:

South Yorkshire Police Authority (Vice Chair)  
Director of 2010 Rotherham Ltd  
Rotherham MBC.

- 2.2 Cllr Littleboy currently serves on the following committees: Planning Board, Training and Development Panel, Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel, Tourism Panel and has also served on Catcliffe Primary School Governors (Chair), Brinsworth Manor Junior School and Brinsworth Whitehill Primary Governing Body in recent years. He is secretary of the Rotherham Labour Group

- 2.3.1 Cllr Littleboy gave a written undertaking to observe the Code of Conduct on being elected as a Parish Councillor in May 2003. The Parish Council adopted by resolution the new Code of Conduct in June 2007 and Cllr Littleboy agreed to be bound by it. Cllr Littleboy has also signed and agreed to be bound by the Code in his capacity as a Rotherham Borough Councillor.
- 2.4 Cllr Littleboy has received training on the Code of Conduct at Brinsworth Parish Council in October by Richard Waller of Rotherham MBC.

### **3 The relevant legislation and protocols**

3.1 The council has adopted a Code of Conduct in which the following paragraph[s] is/are included:

- S 3(1) You must treat others with respect.
- S 3 (2)(b) You must not bully any person.
- S 5 You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or the Council into disrepute.
- S6 (a) You must not use or attempt to use your position as a member improperly to confer upon or secure for yourself or any other person, an advantage or disadvantage.

### **4 The evidence gathered**

4.1 I have taken account of oral evidence from:

- 4.1.1 Mark Worrall
- 4.1.2 Christian Hayes
- 4.1.3 Shirley Haslam
- 4.1.4 Maria Watts
- 4.1.5 Bob Stock
- 4.1.6 Matt Jukes
- 4.1.7 Julie Worthington
- 4.1.8 Anthony Brown
- 4.1.9 Brian Jolly
- 4.1.10 Betty Jolly
- 4.1.11 Fred Wright
- 4.1.12 Brendan Hughes
- 4.1.13 June McIntosh
- 4.1.14 Guy McIntosh
- 4.1.15 Margaret Hackleton
- 4.1.16 John Blencowe
- 4.1.17 Anthony Wilkinson
- 4.1.18 Sue Kilcommons
- 4.1.19 Dave Finch

4.1.20 Richard Scholey

4.1.21 Reg Littleboy

4.2 I have also taken account of documentary evidence obtained from

4.2.1 Catcliffe PC minutes 4 June 2008

4.2.2 Cllr Littleboy's additional notes after interview

4.2.3 Cllr Littleboy's comments on draft report

## 5 Summary of the material facts

- 5.1 The first 5 witnesses were present at the meeting on 20 May and with the exception of Sgt. Worrall, the complainant, are Council officers. Ch Supt Jukes is the commanding officer in Rotherham.
- 5.2 Witnesses 7 and 8 are Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) who attended the parish council meeting on 4 June 2008. (NB they refer to it as taking place on 3 June which is incorrect). The next nine witnesses are parish councillors, followed by the Parish Clerk and her partner all of whom were present on 4 June. Insp Scholey gives evidence about a subsequent parish council meeting.
- 5.3 On 20 May 2008 a multi agency meeting took place at St George's steps, Brinsworth. Cllr Littleboy has been campaigning to close these steps for around 10 years. It is the view of Council officials that no valid reason exists to justify closure. Although two nearby residents are adversely affected by anti social behaviour, other members of the public legitimately use the steps.
- 5.4 Cllr Littleboy does not accept this view and believes officials lack the will to carry out his wishes.
- 5.5 An alternative suggestion was proposed by Chris Hayes, a rights of way officer. Whilst it was acceptable to all others present, it was not to Cllr Littleboy. He told Mr Hayes, an officer of 19 years experience and for many years a local resident, "you know nothing, you don't have to live round here".
- 5.6 Cllr Littleboy was clearly annoyed, raising his voice and losing his temper. He told Sgt. Worrall he was "bloody useless" and lambasted him publicly. Sgt. Worrall felt Cllr Littleboy was trying to bully him to adopt Cllr Littleboy's own views. He also states that Cllr Littleboy threatened to have him removed from his job. Cllr Littleboy denies swearing, being abusive or threatening to have Sgt. Worrall removed.
- 5.7 It is clearly of some concern that none of those present heard what Cllr Littleboy said to Sgt. Worrall. It appears to be common ground that there were a number of conversations going on at once. That, together with the passage of time and possibly reluctance on the part of some council officers to get involved, provides sufficient explanation in my estimation.
- 5.8 Shirley Hallam recalls Cllr Littleboy having heated conversations with Chris Hayes and Bob Stock. Maria Watts could tell Cllr Littleboy was annoyed and heard him raise his voice to the sergeant.



- 5.9 On balance I prefer the evidence of Sgt. Worrall. It is clearly a serious step for someone of his modest rank to make a complaint against the Vice Chair of the police authority. I do not believe he would have done that unless his allegations were true. He is clearly an experienced officer used to dealing with people in an emotional state. For him to make a formal complaint the behaviour must have gone beyond what he is used to experiencing in dealing with the public.
- 5.10 There is clear evidence that Cllr Littleboy was annoyed and I find that he had lost his temper and did say the words alleged. There is some support for my view in Cllr Littleboy's interview; he talks of living in the real world and working all his life down the pit. By his own admission he is a blunt speaking man, who I believe on this occasion (and probably not for the only time) went a little too far.
- 5.11 It is also clear that Cllr Littleboy did not believe Sgt. Worrall was the best man for the job, which makes it more likely that he would make a comment about removal. See also 5.16 below for possible corroboration by Cllr Littleboy of this incident.
- 5.12 It is worth commenting that I do not doubt Cllr Littleboy's genuine belief that his cause is right. However he does give the impression that he feels officers and other public officials are there to agree with him and do his bidding blindly.
- 5.13 Ch Supt Jukes confirms that the meeting with Cllr Littleboy later that day was a prearranged meeting and another councillor was present. He is clear that Cllr Littleboy did not in fact seek to have Sgt. Worrall removed then or subsequently.
- 5.14 On 4 June 2008 a Catcliffe Parish Council meeting took place, attended by two PCSO's, 9 councillors, the parish clerk and her partner, and two or three unidentified members of the public.
- 5.15 This was the first meeting the PCSO's had attended for some time and prior absences seem to have annoyed the councillors.
- 5.16 There was a discussion about problems at a local play area which led to further dissatisfaction as the PCSO's were unable to effect what councillors wanted.
- 5.17 The PCSO's state that Cllr Littleboy then launched an attack on the absent Sgt. Worrall, saying that he hated him. They also recall him saying he had insulted Sgt. Worrall to his face previously, which could be taken to be a reference to the 20 May incident. The PCSO's were so shocked by the comments that they reported the comments to Sgt. Worrall.
- 5.18 Furthermore, the following morning, they typed their account of the meeting. This is significant as it means their recollection is likely to be better, as they are entitled to refresh their memory from those notes. The fact that they felt it merited such actions also lends support to something untoward having happened at the meeting.
- 5.19 By reporting back these comments the PCSO's must have known there was a real possibility some action would be taken by their superiors. If they were not telling the truth they were putting their jobs at risk. I had to ask myself why they would do this unless

the words were said. I found PCSO Wordsworth the most credible of the witnesses I spoke to regarding this meeting.

- 5.20 The councillors all deny that Cllr Littleboy said he hated Sgt. Worrall. Their recollections of the meeting were, not entirely surprisingly after five months, a little sketchy in some cases. They had a far better recollection of the following meeting where Insp Scholey attended and complained about their criticism of the PCSO's.
- 5.21 The Parish Clerk, Chair and other councillors were asked for details of the members of the public who were present, but these have not been supplied and I have therefore been unable to interview them.
- 5.22 There was disagreement as to whether Cllr Littleboy raised his voice or not. It appears to me more likely that he did.
- 5.23 They made much of the fact that only one PCSO heard the comment "plastic policemen". I do not find it strange that both officers should not have heard an aside by one person in a noisy meeting. Most importantly PCSO Wordsworth was open from the start about not hearing it. If anything it shows they have not colluded and made up a story between them.
- 5.24 I found the councillors very defensive and more than one asked me to confirm I was only investigating Cllr Littleboy. I got the impression that following Insp Scholey's complaints at the next meeting, they felt the need to give the impression the meeting on 4 June had been unremarkable.
- 5.25 Insp Scholey told me he attended the next Parish Council meeting on 2 July having had sight of the PCSO's notes. Cllr Littleboy was not present and so initially he spoke about the treatment of the PCSO's. When he mentioned the attack on Sgt. Worrall he was told he would have to take that up with Cllr Littleboy.
- 5.26 That appears to me to be highly significant. Whilst the 4 June meeting was far fresher in their minds, none of the councillors denied that Cllr Littleboy had attacked Sgt. Worrall.
- 5.27 I therefore concluded that Cllr Littleboy had attacked Sgt. Worrall verbally at the meeting on 4 June in the manner described by the PCSO's.
- 5.28 I was concerned that Cllr Littleboy, and indeed a number of other councillors, felt it wrong to found an allegation on what was said about someone at a public meeting in their absence. It is surely common sense that you cannot make inappropriate comments in a public forum just because the victim is not present.
- 5.29 For the avoidance of doubt, it is not hearsay as people who were actually at the meeting give evidence of what they heard. The Adjudication Panel for England has confirmed this interpretation of the position.
- 5.30 On 20 May 2008 Cllr Littleboy was acting as a Rotherham MBC Councillor and was subject to the Code of Conduct.
- 5.31 On 4 June 2008 Cllr Littleboy was acting as a Catcliffe Parish Councillor and was subject to the Code of Conduct.

## 6 Cllr Littleboy's additional submissions

- 6.1 Following our interview Cllr Littleboy emailed additional notes.
- 6.2 Cllr Littleboy also responded to my draft report by email
- 6.3 Both documents are included in the document bundle

## 7 Reasoning as to whether there have been failures to comply with the Code of Conduct

### 7.1 Treating with a lack of respect.

- 7.1.1 The Standards Board distinguish between attacking an idea and attacking the individual who made it. In a democracy it is entirely acceptable for disagreements to be publicly aired and valid criticism to be expressed. It is, however, not acceptable to express personal abuse.
- 7.1.2 The High Court has said (*Sanders v Kingston*) that it is necessary to determine whether the words used are political expression or no more than expressions of personal anger and personal abuse. The latter are unacceptable.
- 7.1.3 Whilst there is no direct corroboration of Sgt. Worrall's evidence, I find the final paragraph of Shirley Hallam's interview record to be of considerable significance. However I am investigating just the two specific incidents and this can only be given limited weight.
- 7.1.4 I find that the comments directed to Sgt Worrall went beyond attacking his ideas and clearly treated him with a lack of respect.
- 7.1.5 Cllr Littleboy's conduct at the meeting on 4 June, where he undermined a person who was not present to defend himself in front of subordinates, councillors and members of the public, was also disrespectful.

### 7.2 Bullying

- 7.2.1 Standards Board defines bullying as offensive, intimidating, malicious, insulting or humiliating behaviour based on an abuse of power or authority which attempts to undermine.
- 7.2.2 An objective test should be applied – would an ordinary member of the public regard the conduct as bullying.
- 7.2.3 As with other elements of the Code it is not designed to prevent fair criticism appropriately delivered.
- 7.2.4 Although the threat to have Sgt. Worrall removed from his job clearly worried and upset him, I do not consider there was a sufficiently prolonged course of conduct to constitute bullying. Whilst bullying can be shown from one incident, Sgt. Worrall does not give enough specific examples of what was said to found what I would consider to be a far more serious breach of the Code.

7.3 Bringing office into disrepute

- 7.3.1 This is conduct which reduces the public's confidence in Cllr Littleboy's ability to fulfil his role or adversely affects the reputation of members generally.
- 7.3.2 My findings are that Cllr Littleboy was abusive to Sgt. Worrall both directly (20 May) and indirectly (4 June). Whilst this does not affect the general reputation of members, an ordinary member of the public's confidence in a member who was abusive to a police officer would be diminished.
- 7.3.3 I therefore find there was a breach of the Code. However my finding is based on the same words and conduct as in 7.1. The Committee may feel it unnecessary or unfair to find two breaches for the same conduct, although there is nothing legally to prevent them so doing.

7.4 Using office improperly to secure an advantage or disadvantage.

- 7.4.1 Whilst the Code makes it clear that an attempt to do this is a breach, the mere threat to do so is not.
- 7.4.2 I found that Cllr Littleboy did make a threat to have Mark Worrall removed, which would be improper, but it is clear that he did not follow that through at his subsequent meeting with Ch Supt Jukes, or indeed at any later stage.
- 7.4.3 There is accordingly no breach of this part of the Code.

## 8 Finding

- 8.1 I therefore find that Cllr Littleboy treated Mark Worrall with a lack of respect and in so doing brought his office into disrepute.
- 8.2 I find insufficient evidence to say Cllr Littleboy bullied him nor that he used or attempted to use his office improperly.
- 8.3 I have reached my findings using the balance of probabilities test – which version is the more likely to be true.

# Appendix A

## Schedule of evidence taken into account

Case No: RMBC 2

### Core documents

| Doc No | Description        | Pages |
|--------|--------------------|-------|
| 1      | Allegation letter  | 1-2   |
| 2      | Mark Worrall       | 3-14  |
| 3      | Christian Hayes    | 15-16 |
| 4      | Maria Watts        | 17-18 |
| 5      | Shirley Haslam     | 19    |
| 6      | Bob Stock          | 20    |
| 7      | Matt Jukes         | 21    |
| 8      | Julie Worthington  | 22-23 |
| 9      | Anthony Brown      | 24-25 |
| 10     | Brian Jolly        | 26-27 |
| 11     | Betty Jolly        | 28-29 |
| 12     | Fred Wright        | 30    |
| 13     | Brenda Hughes      | 31-32 |
| 14     | June McIntosh      | 33-34 |
| 15     | Guy McIntosh       | 35-36 |
| 16     | Margaret Hackleton | 37-38 |
| 17     | John Blencowe      | 39    |
| 18     | Anthony Wilkinson  | 40    |
| 19     | Sue Kilcommons     | 41-42 |
| 20     | Dave Finch         | 43    |
| 21     | Richard Scholey    | 44    |
| 22     | Reg Littleboy      | 45-68 |
|        |                    |       |

### Minutes of meetings and other documentary evidence

| Doc No | Description  | Pages |
|--------|--|-------|
| 23     | Catcliffe PC minutes                                 | 69-74 |
| 24     | Cllr Littleboy's additional comments after interview | 75    |
| 25     | Cllr Littleboy's comments on draft report            | 76    |
|        |  |       |
|        |  |       |

**Reg Littleboy's comments on draft report**

| Doc No | Description | Pages |
|--------|-------------|-------|
|        |             |       |
|        |             |       |
|        |             |       |
|        |             |       |
|        |             |       |

**List of unused materials**

|   |
|---|
| Investigator's notes of interviews                            |
| Correspondence (covering letters, interview arrangements etc) |
| Investigation and interview plans                             |
|   |
|   |

# Appendix B

## Chronology of events

- 20 May 2008 – meeting at St George's steps
- 20 May 2008 – meeting Supt Jukes/Cllr Littleboy
- 4 June 2008 – meeting Catcliffe PC
- 2 July 2008 – meeting Catcliffe PC
- 4 July 2008 – complaint by Mark Worrall

Standards Committee

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council,

~~WILSON ROAD~~ GROVE ROAD  
Rotherham.

03<sup>rd</sup> July 2008

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing with regards to making a complaint about the behaviour of a local Borough Councillor. I understand from The Standards Board for England's website that you are the relevant authority to which I can air my grievances. If this is not the case then please accept my apologies for bothering you.

My complaint is perhaps somewhat more unusual in that it involves a serving member of a Police Authority and Local Borough councillor, and one of the officers of that force.

The complaint is against a Mr Reg Littleboys a local borough councillor for the Brinsworth and Catcliffe ward on Rotherham Metropolitan borough council and serving member of the South Yorkshire Police Authority.

The circumstances of the complaint are that on two separate occasions he has within a public arena made threats against myself, the first being that he was demanding that I was sacked and on the second occasion stating repeatedly that he hated me. I find these comments to be personally unacceptable. I am offended especially by his attempts to have me removed from office and my wife and family are extremely distressed by his stated hatred of me.

I am employed as a serving police officer with the South Yorkshire police, some three years ago I was appointed as the sergeant in charge of the Rother Valley West safer neighbourhood team. As part of my duties I come into contact with local councillors on a regular basis. On occasions we will quite rightly disagree about various proposed courses of action, it is the art of the police being thrust into the political arena. Despite any differences I expect to be treated with respect during these discussions. I have in the past felt that councillor Littleboys has treated myself with a certain amount of contempt and it was clear from his attitude that he had little respect for myself or my work, however I have remained professional with him. On two recent occasions I felt that he has overstepped the mark between his role representing his constituents and his personal feelings towards myself.

On the first occasion on Tuesday the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2008 I attended a multi-agency site visit to view a problem area known as St George's Steps in Brinsworth. The purpose of this visit was to examine possible solutions to alleviate groups of young persons congregating during the evening. At that meeting were members from Housing, Environment, Street pride, and the council's senior engineer. Mr Littleboys was requesting that the steps were shut, it has been a campaign point of his for some time. The senior engineer a Mr R Stocks informed Mr Littleboys that he would not be shutting the steps and that in his opinion what Mr Littleboys proposed was illegal. Mr Littleboys seemed to have what I would describe as a temper tantrum and then proceeded to round on myself. He turned to myself and stated "You're bloody useless" bearing in mind I was among other agency personnel on a public street I felt that that it was an uncalled for personal attack. I gave no reply but councillor



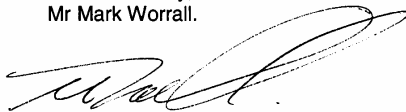
Littleboys continued "I'm sorry but I am seeing Matt Jukes (Chief Superintendent in charge of Rotherham Police District.) this afternoon I'm having you removed" I told him that if that was the way he felt he would have to tell Mr Jukes. Mr Littleboys stated that I was just not good enough and that he was going to have Richard (Constable Richard Bilton) brought back. He was referring to a period when I had been seconded to terrorism duties in London and PC Bilton had been placed temporarily in charge. The meeting then broke up, once Mr Littleboys had left a number of council employees approached myself and commented on his behaviour stating that his attack on myself was uncalled for and was unprofessional. I was left feeling very insecure knowing that he was politicking trying to have me sacked because of his personal opinion of me rather than any substantial reason.

A second attack on my character occurred on Tuesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2008 at a Parish council meeting. On this occasion I was not present, but two Police Community Support Officers attended Catcliffe Parish council meeting in order to give a local report during the public open session. They were being questioned about problems on a local playground in Catcliffe when to their surprise Mr Littleboys started a personal attack on myself. On this occasion he boasted about how he had insulted me to my face and stated that he "hated me". Again he stated his preference for returning Constable Bilton to take charge stating that he would 'shake' the PCSO's up. He also stated that he felt the Police Community Support Officers and Safer Neighbourhood Teams were a waste of money comments, which I feel are unprofessional for a serving member of a Police Authority. I find him stating in open forum that he hates me to be very insulting. My wife is very distressed about his professed hatred of me and is fearful for our future family life given his openly stated attempt to have me relieved of my duties.

I have thought for some considerable time before making this complaint. Clearly by making this complaint there could be severe repercussions for myself both internally given that I am a serving member of a police force to whom he is a member of my own Police Authority. Also externally in that I have to work with other local Borough councillors who may well seek to close ranks against me. However the situation is causing such distress to my wife that it is affecting my marriage.

I look forward to hearing from you

Yours Faithfully,  
Mr Mark Worrall.



|  |      |  |  |  |
|--|------|--|--|--|
| <b>LEGAL &amp; DEMOCRATIC SERVICES</b> |      |  |  |  |
| 15 JUL 2008                            |      |  |  |  |
|  | T.M. |  |  |  |
|  |      |  |  |  |
| <b>FILE No.</b>                        |      |  |  |  |
| TO FILE                                |      |  |  |  |

Transcript of Interview

Mark Worrall

**JOHN STONE**

My name is John Stone and I am an investigator for the monitoring officer of Rotherham MBC.

As I advised you by letter I will be recording this interview. Could you confirm for the record that you consent to this?

**SGT MARK WORRALL**

**Yes**

For the benefit of the tape it is 9.31am on 29th October 2008. The monitoring officer responsible for this investigation has asked me to assist him in this matter.

For the record this is an interview with Sgt Mark Worrall about case number RMBC/2 regarding allegations about the conduct of Cllr Littleboy.

I am conducting this interview under the powers given to the monitoring officer by the Local Government Act 2000 and The Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008.

Before the investigation is completed Cllr Littleboy and yourself will be sent a draft of the report to enable you to make any representations you consider necessary. Having considered comments on the draft report I will then issue my final report. Relevant extracts from this interview maybe used in the draft report and final report.

If the case is considered at a hearing, parts of the transcript of this interview may be submitted as evidence and you may be called as a witness. If you provide me with information of a sensitive or private nature, I will ask the Adjudication Panel for England or the standards committee to keep this information confidential. This is however, their decision and they may disagree with my recommendation and allow the information you have provided to be made public.

Please treat any information provided to you during the course of this investigation as confidential. In addition, there are statutory restrictions on the disclosure of information obtained during an investigation. This is covered by Section 63 of the

Local Government Act 2000 and disclosure of information contrary to this is a criminal offence.

**Do you have any questions about what I've said?**

***SGT MARK WORRALL***

No

***JOHN STONE***

If at any stage you feel you would like a break please say so, and we will adjourn the interview for a short period.

The interview should take approximately 45mins - 1hour, if it goes on longer than that I will ask you if you want a break.

Just to deal with some background first of all can I ask you how long you have been a police officer?

***SGT MARK WORRALL***

Some twenty three years

And you are a Sergeant – how long has that been your rank?

Some eight or so years

So you are a considerably experienced police officer

I would agree, yes

When was it that you were seconded or transferred to the Rotherham Save the Neighbourhood scheme?

I was here at the inception of the Neighbourhood scheme, prior to that I was the local community sergeant here, and have been so since about 2003 without checking my records I couldn't tell you exactly when but some considerable years.

So you know the area and its problems well.

Yes that would be correct

I assume as part of your duties you meet local councillors

That would be correct yes there are both formal and informal. Formal takes place once a month through a forum known as the area assembly and informal takes contact at various other meetings that are prudent for both the councillors and myself to attend.

Can you say roughly how long you have know Cllr Littleboy.

Cllr Littleboy I would say I have known him since arriving here. He is an active local cllr and also a member of the police authority.

So he was already a cllr when you arrived here.

Yes I understand he has been a cllr for many years.

Before we discuss the specific occasions you complain of can you explain, in as much detail as you want to your relationship with him, how you found dealing with him over a number of years

Cllr Littleboy has a particular political style which tends I suppose to be a bit in your face or perhaps the old fashioned tub thumping old councillor and he would use it very much as his right as a local cllr to represent his people and I have no problem with that. He usually represents them very robustly and he views that dealing with public officials should also be dealt with robustly.

Are there, prior to the specific examples you complained of, are there any other examples of behaviour that bordered on bullying

There would be at various times; where there has been a conflict of interests between what he represents as the public from his political view point and what I can as a public servant deliver because I have to remain within the law at all times when delivering things whereas it is right to speak out and campaign, should I say, for various political things – a classic example would be the incident that I mentioned on the 20<sup>th</sup> May, but that has been a long standing problem and it was not the first time I have been publicly lambasted on the steps although it was the first time he had called for my dismissal and without referring to my sort of personal notes in my pocket book I could not say when exactly there have been other incidents where he has been quite bombastic in putting his point across to me.

I ask you that because obviously I have a copy of your complaint letter of 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2008 in which you say that in the past you have felt that Cllr Littleboy treated myself with a certain amount of contempt and go on later to say he has little respect for myself or my work

That is correct. He has made it quite well known through feedback that I have had from other employees that I work with, that he does not value any of the work that I do and often has seen me as a problem and as I have explained to him on

numerous occasions I will only remain within the law and if the law does not allow me to take action then, a classic example is if you have a group of younger children congregating outside a park bench say in Catcliffe Park which is a clearing he will ask for those people to be moved on, of course the law does not allow them to be moved on, and human rights in fact state that they have the right to associate and so there are some political viewpoints between what he wants for his local constituents because that's what they complain about he uses his role to represent those complaints and myself who has a rubbing point that I have to uphold the law and if it is the right of those children to remain on that park bench and providing they are not breaking the law they have that right of association and there have been one or two viewpoints and he views me and the way I uphold the law as the problem and I have been told that he thinks if there was a different sergeant here, he would have a different outcome.

Has the situation ever got to the point where you have felt that you need to confront him about his attitude to you.

I have Yes, I spoke to him about it, at the end that was not this last incident but the incident before about the steps

That was the incident on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May on the steps

No that was the incident prior when I stated he made comments about me down St Georges steps and we have not parted on wonderful terms. As I have explained to him that he has told me that my attitude is wrong and I have told him that I cannot do anything about these steps that it is not within the law to close these steps as he wishes and he has told me that it is my attitude that is the problem and I have explained to him that I am afraid it is his attitude that is the problem.

I am not sure what your line of command is from here, who is your supervising officer?

It would be an inspector – Mr Scholey. Yes I have complained to Mr Scholey about the relationship I unfortunately have with Cllr Littleboy and the police senior management is a very political animal these days so they certainly haven't sought to cause problems with a member of the police authority and with somebody who wealds some political power.

I think that clarifies the lead up to the complaint

Yes, this is where the complaint is, and this is why we are in the situation of complaining to the Board of Standards because I have already complained to Cllr Littleboy that I don't like his

attitude and he has told me it is his right to represent, and he will continue to represent his constituents robustly. As I say there was an incident going back again without consulting my notes there was an incident involving Chief Inspector Varney when he was here involving a complaint I made against Cllr Littleboy and that was smoothed over by management, which is the best way of putting it; so I have tried my internal management and I have spoken to my wife about it, she suffers greatly from it because she sees the effort I put in and it infuriates her that this man doesn't respect anything I put into the job or anything of that nature. So I am only left with the option of going to the professional standards board having exhausted the internal line of command and obviously I have totally exhausted speaking to the person direct.

Right lets move onto the specific incident on the 20<sup>th</sup> May: that was a meeting, of what you call a multi agency meeting

That's right

So there were people from the council there, Streetpride Housing I think you mentioned

That's right – the way these meetings work is you go out and do a site meeting you invite members of the public along who have made complaints come, so you have effectively the people who are the complainants stand in and talk to various officials of the council and explain what the problem is, and the officers of the council can also talk direct to the public why, or why not certain courses of action can be taken. Hopefully by standing at the location solutions may possibly come to light that wouldn't in a boardroom. It is quite good accepted practice and I fully agree with it.

What time of day roughly did this take place?

It would be in the morning, I would think about 10 o'clock – again I do have some exact notes on it, but it would be about 10 and it was a weekday.

Were there any other Cllrs present?

No, it was just Cllr Littleboy as he is the Borough Councillor for this area and he has been taking a lead on these steps as it is an issue that has been around, certainly for four or five years and so it has been an issue he has been trying to promote with the residents there – there are some bungalows there and then across the road Mr Somerset and Mr Coker and effectively what he is trying to do is to have the steps shut down and it has been a campaign feature of his.

Are you able to say roughly how many members of the public would be present?

Certainly Mr Coker was there, and I believe another member of the public was there, a lady, one of the other officials may remember that

I think that when we spoke to arrange this meeting you mentioned that Shirley Hallam was there.

Yes Shirely Hallam who is the street crime manager,

Maria Watts

Maria Watts who is the Neighbourhood champion, she is the overall housing officer

And Robert Stocks

Yes he is the Senior Engineer at the council, but there was also a chap from the Environment whose name escapes me but I am sure that Shirley will remember him. He is an environmental chap who comes along and looks at it from "green shoes" if you like and see if there is a greener way we can do this.

Would it be Chris Hayes?

It could be. I would recognise him if I saw him.

I have made enquiries of the Council if they could see who was present and I have a feeling his name was one of those.

Yes he will remember because he was the one that came up with the great idea why we just don't clean the whole area up, make it nice , put a bench in and effectively sink the bench in the ground so the noise would be baffled. He had a great idea but Mr Littleboy didn't like that at all.

So obviously from what you say a number of possible solutions were discussed and reported.

Yes and there is a report done by Andrea Pearce who has a lot of involvement with this, and who is looking at various options. There is only one acceptable option to Mr Littleboy, and this isn't the nature of the complaint, this is just to give you a little of the background : he has already told us there is only one acceptable solution and that is and that is to shut the steps. We already know his solution, he has already publicly stated that but she is doing a report on all of the options because shutting

the steps isn't really an option – the law doesn't seem to allow for that.

Perhaps if I could just ask you to describe what happened? Who was it that actually told Mr Littleboy that shutting the steps was not going an option?

That was Mr Stocks. Mr Stocks explained to him that because of the way the land is owned down there and the fact that it would have to go to a public enquiry – you see we have tried to shut them before as there have been a number of complaints from people who have written in which then forces it to a full national enquiry and the level of the complaints is such that Mr Stocks advised Cllr Littleboy that that wasn't going to happen and that there wasn't any way of shutting those steps and that clearly annoyed Mr Littleboy absolutely – you could see his whole face alter, and I could only describe it as him having a temper tantrum because his whole body demeanour changed, his whole attitude changed and then he turned to me and he said “you find the evidence”. Well I have the statistics of the level of complaints that we have had and I explained what the level of complaints were, and they are not that high compared to other areas. There are complaints down there, and I am not saying there are not problems down there but they are not that high in comparison to others so that also undermines the case, if we ever had any to close the footpath and that, obviously didn't go down very well, and that seemed to be when he seemed to lose his temper with me and started saying I was bloody useless and just basically what was the point of me being here, and you're the problem and you wont do this, when I want to shut the steps. He is right, I wont shut the steps but that is because the law wont allow it. I personally felt he was very definitely trying to bully me into his political viewpoint. Yeah it was very unpleasant because he was shouting at me at that stage – and quite embarrassing (a) because it was a public meeting, there were all the builders (because if you go and see field view it backs onto a park and there were builders there because they were fixing the fence at the time) and they were all stood around watching me being lambasted by this Cllr and quite frankly I don't consider that very professional in an open meeting at all. Then having said how useless I was, and I was the problem he then basically went on to state how he was going to have me sacked and removed and that he had a meeting that afternoon, or would arrange a meeting with my Supt Jukes where he was going to discuss my removal because I was the problem. Now I find that quite bullying when I have got a councillor telling me he is openly seeking to have me removed. There are other issues whether that is his right and proper role to be seeking my removal when I have committed no criminal offence. Then whether that is a right and proper



role for him I am not exactly sure about that and what Councillors guidance are.

Now obviously you have had the notification from the Monitoring officer as to what potential breaches of the Code, the Standards committee had identified with what you have told them and those are bullying as you say, failure to treat others with respect and bringing his own office into disrepute or using his position improperly to confer or secure; although in this case it is not so much an advantage to him, but a disadvantage to someone else which would be you. So there are obviously a number of potential issues that I will eventually make a recommendation on, and then ultimately the standards committee will decide. It has already been decided that potentially what you are saying does breach the Code.

Well the thing is I liken it to this: if I was going to wave a placard campaigning for one political member of the Council to be elected or not, that would be a clear breach of what the Police involvement is in any public election: I don't see to have particular people elected or not and I felt certainly that I under a lot of pressure for my own job and my continued existence here, even though the SNT that I work under which is the same neighbourhood team which I am in charge of, there is a Sergeant and about 16 officers which I am in charge of and this is actually one of the best performing within Rotherham so rightly so I should be proud of the efforts I have got my staff to perform to because we are one of the best in the area clearly the public are getting a better service than the other seven Neighbourhood teams within Rotherham and I felt that having given a good service and a lot of effort somebody is out there trying to have me removed and I could understand that if perhaps the grounds on which we are set up to measure us were poor. If I failed, or had one of the worst performing teams and I was failing to meet my objectives I could understand, maybe, where some political pressure was applied behind the scenes but to openly have such political pressure applied openly and in such a public forum – it does my credibility no good because he sat there with all the people I work with on a daily basis like Shirley Hallam and yet it undermines my position to work with them –and yet we are doing so well. That is the other side of it; by any stretch of the imagination this Safety Neighbourhood Team is doing very well and so I did feel it was just out and out malicious bullying.

Do you know whether he has actually carried that threat through?

I understand he went to see my Chief Supt that afternoon. Now clearly what they discussed within that meeting has not been

made plain to me, and whether it would be made plain to you I do not know. Certainly I do know that meetings are of a confidential nature, and unless a criminal offence is disclosed they may choose not to mention. I certainly know that he had a meeting that afternoon with my Supt, and I know it was about me because my inspector gave me feedback to say he had been in about me.

So you have been formally notified that there had been such a meeting?

Indeed I was formally notified and I was formally given some feedback. The feedback was just to carry on doing my job and I assumed from that that he had been unsuccessful in that meeting in having me transferred elsewhere

And that is the fact, you are still here.

Well yes, I was just told to carry on doing my job by the Super

On a slightly peripheral note, but an important one have you made your supervisors aware that you have made this complaint?

Yes I have I discussed it with my supervisor about the fact I was going to make a complaint because there was another issue about the Parish Council meeting which I needed to attend because the police board committee members attended where they felt they were under such pressure from the Parish Council because there had been a particularly stony meeting which is why they went back and the inspector arranged, if you like, a sub meeting between the PCSO's and various members of the Parish council to try and clear the air and try to put us back on a more even footing. I don't think Reg was present at that meeting and I discussed this with my inspector and said this is the situation and I don't know if he has taken that any higher and I certainly don't know.

I was going to explain to you that I will have to talk to Chief Supt Jukes, and whether he is prepared to disclose what went on at that meeting and I don't know whether that would be a matter for him. I just wanted you to be aware if you hadn't ....

Yes I am aware in the difficulties of making a complaint, yes of course you are making a complaint against a senior member of the police authority, who has authority in higher echelons and certainly perhaps for the likes of Mr Jukes he only has got 12 years, and he is a Chief Supt and he is tipped for very very big things; he is a very politically smooth operator. I wouldn't be surprised if Mr Jukes didn't disclose anything, or hid behind

anonymity and that is not to show him disrespect, it is just that you can see it when you meet him that he is set for high things is Mr Jukes.

I side tracked a little –perhaps if I can bring you back to the 20<sup>th</sup> May, was there any reaction from any of the people present to what Mr Littleboy said to you?

Yes of course when he had driven away in his car I was obviously left with Shirley Hallam and Mary Watts and we stood at the top of the steps and had a brief discussion where it was commented on about how I had been publicly lambasted and I think it was Maria that said “that was pretty uncalled for” or something of that nature. Yes I think Maria it was asked how I felt as well

And how did you feel?

To be perfectly fair I felt as though I had been belittled, and so I felt very small as I had had all my efforts called into question and I also felt at that stage that I was somewhat worried because I thought, hang on, I haven't done anything wrong. There is a man who is whizzing off to see my boss and having me removed. Now I wasn't so fearful of having my job removed because I was certain he wouldn't have that power but certainly there is the power to transfer me to other areas, or other districts – certainly that and I was fearful of that until I had some feedback from my own inspector who just said carry on when he came back a day or so later. So at that stage I was somewhat concerned about what could happen to me because obviously if you do have problems the police can transfer you. I had committed no offence I wasn't under the threat of sacking, but they can transfer you, without reason in my job they can just do so.

I think that concludes everything I want to ask you with regard to that incident in May. Do you think there is anything that I have not covered in the questions, or anything you have not had the opportunity to address in your replies?

No not really.

Just dealing with that scenario

Just with that scenario, no I think that covers it, it was a relevant brief meeting where we all got together. We all put our viewpoints, and there was quite a lot of discussion about alternatives and that didn't go down very well at all. As I say the senior council engineer said we can't close the steps, so could be do something better. Can we at least improve the

environment and make it look nicer because it is a mess there, so we looked for alternatives basically – we couldn't do one, we couldn't solve it – could we make it less of a problem. I think it was the initial refusal by Stocks that caused the problem as he just stood there shaking, red in the face, clearly angry before he turned on me. It was as if he had been told no by someone else, so his whole attitude was who is lower down the pecking order that I can shout at – well the Sergeant is, so he can have it, and I think that is part of the contempt that he sometimes feels for me both as a man, and in the role of what I do

Lets move onto the third of June incident if we can and I am going to be relatively brief about this because obviously you weren't present and you will be well aware of the rules of hearsay. I will confine my questions to ask you how you found out what had transpired at that meeting.

What basically happened at that meeting was it is a standard meeting that we have police commissions board with the parish council, and we meet once a month. The police support officers go down and give a report, and that is a report that write about what this team has been doing in their area. They have gone down there simply to give that report and not really go on. Depending on the parish council captions can be a little slow because they are only there about 15mins, put on first, give the report, answer any questions, get feedback and off they go. They went down to Catcliffe and what happened, obviously you will go into their, but they went down and had such a bad time they came back from that meeting and they stayed longer than they normally stay and they came back straight here. I was on duty and they had come straight back to see me and they came to me straight away because they felt that at that meeting they had been attacked themselves and they were shocked about the whole attitude of the meeting and they came to see me straight away: they were not just complaining about Cllr Littleboy, the one I am complaining about, just about the whole way that meeting had been conducted. Something had gone badly wrong in the normal social relations down there and they came to see me, and they were clearly both shocked on the evening. And then of course when they come out they start to say that a man I don't know socially, only through work hates me, I find that quite disturbing that he pronounced that at an open public council meeting to say how much one hates one I don't find that very professional at all. That then shocked me, and that is how I came to find out about it/ but that was a very early report and it went through to my inspector and I reported it for the next day as he wasn't on duty and that is how he became involved and matters were then dealt with with the council. I haven't discussed this with my wife, this was when I

felt I needed to take things further, because clearly Mr Littleboy was running some campaign against me or had me as some hate figure in his mind, clearly a situation I didn't want to be part of

Because of your absence at the meeting I was going to restrict my comments really to what were the effects of what you had been told happened which I think you have covered there adequately. Since the 3<sup>rd</sup> June meeting, and I ask this as you made the complaint on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July, how do things stand now?

The situation is that I am quite fortunate in that I expected that the other cllrs would close ranks; they haven't they have been relatively open with me and treated me as normal. With regards to Mr Littleboy then when we meet at a public meetings we do not exchange pleasantries and if we speak to people we speak very professionally to each other and with the minimum contact. We still have contact because obviously we are both public officials and we still have to act for the public, so it is professional for us to do so and if he asks me a quick question I will give him a quick answer and that would be it. There is no interaction there and I am always aware he seems very guarded whereas in the past he has seemed very unguarded and very forthright with his views; whereas he is now guarded but I would expect as much if I had made a complaint.

I think that concludes everything I have to ask of you again I know we have not covered much ground since I asked you this in relation to the 20<sup>th</sup> of May but is there anything further you may want to add at this point.

Yes the only thing I would add is that the effect is not only just on myself. I am used to shouldering a certain amount of animosity against myself because of the nature of the public that I deal with, but I do not expect it from public officials. It is the effect on my wife. She is very supportive of me and my career. I have been married a very long time, for 17 years, unusual in that respect in the police and I do have a very supportive wife and she finds it distressing. She finds the whole thing distressing that there is someone at work who holds a professional position such as a councillor who has actively sought at some time to have a political campaign to have me removed – she finds that very fearful and she is perhaps not as confident in my senior management as I am. I have more confidence in them being a policeman and getting them to leave me alone whereas my wife expects me to walk in any minute and say, you know, I've gone to Barnsley. So she is in a little bit different position to me and so it does have a wider impact than just on myself.

Thank you for that if there is nothing else I will now conclude the interview. It is now 10.01

Signed and accepted as correct .....

Dated.....

Record of interview

Christian Hayes

I have been employed by Rotherham MBC for about 19 years. I am currently a Rights of Way officer.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2008 I attended a multi agency meeting at St Georges steps. Also in attendance were colleagues from the council – Shirley Hallam and my boss, Bob Stock. Cllr Littleboy was there together with Sgt Worrall.

I was opposed to Cllr Littleboy’s suggestion that the path be closed, as I wanted it to be available as access for the public. I suggested tidying the area up, rebuilding the wall higher (which would protect the residents’ privacy), installing a seat and removing graffiti. If the area is nicer more people use it and this discourages youths from congregating. Everyone except Cllr Littleboy thought this was a good idea.

He said to me “ you know nothing; you don’t have to live round here, you don’t know what its like.” I pointed out I had lived within 100 yards for 15 years.

He clearly meant what he was saying and I felt there was no point me saying anything else, as he would not listen to any suggestion. He was not

shouting and I did not feel intimidated although he was forceful. I just felt that further discussion was pointless.

Sgt Worrall supported my proposal and I expect Cllr Littleboy spoke to him, but I did not hear it as I was speaking to Bob and Shirley about the situation.

Signed and accepted as correct.....

Dated.....

Record of interview

Shirley Haslam

I have been employed by Rotherham MBC for about three years as an Area Manager. I am currently in the Street Pride department.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2008 I attended a multi agency meeting at St Georges steps. There are two bungalows near to these steps and one of the residents regularly complains about youths congregating on these steps. Cllr Littleboy has been trying to get these steps closed for as long as I have been here. Also in attendance were colleagues from the council – Chris Hayes, Bob Stock and Maria Watts. Cllr Littleboy was there together with Sgt Worrall and I believe a PCSO supervisor. There was another meeting at these steps in September, which makes it a little difficult to be exactly sure who was present at the time.

None of the reasons to close the steps actually apply, but Cllr Littleboy feels that it is a lack of will on the council's part rather than a legal problem. An alternative method of addressing the problem was proposed and discussions about financing it took place. Cllr Littleboy expressed the opinion that money would be spent in this way only over his dead body. Cllr Littleboy was upset and I recall him being with Chris Hayes and raising his voice. The Cllr also had a heated conversation with Bob



Stock although I was unable to hear exactly what was said. I did not hear Cllr Littleboy say anything specifically to Mark Worrall. I am not saying that he did not say anything; I would not necessarily have heard as a number of separate conversations were taking place. I do not recall a conversation between Maria Watts and Sgt Worrall about Cllr Littleboy's behaviour.

I recall Cllr Littleboy asking Sgt Worrall why he had not been at a meeting. Sgt Worrall explained it was because he had been required by a senior officer to be elsewhere. I got the impression that Cllr Littleboy was intending to take Sgt Worrall's non attendance up with a senior officer but I did not feel that he was suggesting that he would have Sgt Worrall removed from his position. The implication was that Cllr Littleboy did not accept Sgt Worrall's explanation for his non-attendance.

It is fair to say that some councillors, including Cllr Littleboy, do speak to council officers in a way that I would not accept from other people. Cllr Littleboy does talk to me in a way that shows a lack of respect, but I do not take offence at it. If he went too far, I am a strong enough person to tell him to stop. I can understand why Sgt Worrall would be upset by Cllr Littleboy's attitude. Cllr Littleboy might himself be upset if he realised how he made people felt, as I do not believe he deliberately seeks to upset people. Cllr Littleboy has been a councillor for a considerable time and has always been the same; but times have changed. I would find it difficult to say that Cllr Littleboy was bullying Sgt. Worrall; rather he was being 'arsey' which is an aspect of his character that he does sometimes exhibit.

Signed and accepted as correct.....

Dated.....

Record of Interview

Maria Watts

I am employed by Rotherham MBC as a Housing Officer. In the early part of this year I was made aware of a problem with St Georges steps in Brinsworth. I believe I was informed of the problem by the Area Assembly team who I assume had had complaints made to them. I personally had not had any complaints logged about this area.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2008 I attended a multi agency meeting at the steps. The intention was to explore possible solutions to the problem of youths gathering and anti social behaviour occurring. Also present were Shirley Hallam, Bob Stock, Chris Hayes, Andrea Pearce, Cllr Littleboy and Sgt Worrall. There has been a subsequent meeting in September and I am not entirely sure of who else was present because of possible confusion with the other meeting. It is possible that PC Bilton and one or two other PCSOs were present at the May meeting.

I remember clearly Bob Stock explaining the closure procedures to those present and explaining the difficulties that would be encountered in pursuing that. He made it clear that in order to do so he would need evidence that there were a number of complaints that would outweigh objections to the closure. I indicated that I had no complaints logged and Sgt Worrall also said that there were not many complaints that he was aware of. Cllr Littleboy was not happy as he sees this as a "hot spot". He is there to represent his voters and he was not happy that he was unable to obtain closure of the steps.

I did hear Cllr Littleboy talking to Sgt Worrall but I did not hear him swear. I heard him say in a raised voice that he was going to see Chief Supt. Matt Jukes. I am not clear what this was for but thought it might be to obtain the information about the complaints that Sgt Worrall was unable to provide. We were not all stood in a group talking to everyone within the group and I moved away at this point.

I could tell by his body language that Cllr Littleboy was annoyed and not happy, but I did not see him or hear him behave inappropriately to Sgt Worrall.

Signed and accepted as correct.....

Dated.....

Record of interview

Bob Stock

On the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2008 I attended a meeting at St George's steps in Brinsworth. Also present were Sgt Mark Worrall, Shirley Hallam, Chris Hayes and Cllr Littleboy.

The meeting was held to try to resolve the problem of anti social behaviour occurring at this location.

I felt that it would be impracticable to close access to the steps, as Cllr Littleboy wanted, as they provide access for a large estate to a shop and public transport. I anticipated that there would be a public enquiry, a significant number of objections and a limited chance of success. It did not appear to me to be a proper use of limited resources. Cllr Littleboy did not accept my conclusion and made his views known. I have worked for the council for some 15 years and have known Cllr Littleboy for most of that period. He generally represents his constituents' views robustly with, it has to be said, some success.

I do not recall anything being specifically said by the Cllr to Sgt Worrall. It is 6 months since this meeting and I was at a subsequent meeting there in September, which makes it difficult to remember exactly what happened on this occasion. I did not hear any mention of Chief Superintendent Jukes being made by the Cllr.

I left with my colleagues Shirley Hallam and Chris Hayes as we had travelled in one car to the venue. The meeting had broken up at this time. Prior to that it is possible that I did not hear some conversation, as there were a number of people and conversations became fragmented between smaller groups within the overall party.

I am broadly familiar with the Code of Conduct and do not recollect seeing or hearing any behaviour by the Councillor that I felt breached the Code.

Signed and accepted as correct.....

Dated.....

Record of Interview

Matthew Jukes

I have been a police officer for 13 years and I am currently Chief Superintendent and District Commander for Rotherham.

In this capacity I have known Cllr Littleboy for 2 years. I knew him previous to this but did not have cause to work or interact closely with him. Sergeant Worrall is one of my officers currently based with the Safer Neighbourhood Team at Brinsworth.

On the afternoon of 20 May 2008 I had a meeting with Cllr Littleboy in his capacity as a member of the Authority and another Police Authority Member. This was a prearranged meeting to which Authority members are routinely invited.

Cllr Littleboy did not refer to an earlier meeting with Sgt Worrall. I have discussed with Cllr Littleboy, as with other councillors and stakeholders the engagement and effectiveness of local SNT's including those in Rother Valley. I can categorically state that in no part of any such discussion has Cllr Littleboy sought or asked for the removal of Sgt Worrall from his position at Brinsworth.

Signed and accepted as correct.....

Dated.....

Record of interview

Julie Wordsworth

I have been a PCSO for around 18 months. I generally attend the Brinsworth

Parish Council meetings held at Catcliffe on the first Wednesday of each month. Prior to the 3<sup>rd</sup> June meeting I had missed a couple of meetings because of my shift patterns.

On the night of the 3<sup>rd</sup> June I attended the meeting with PCSO Brown. We were on duty which required us to leave the meeting if there was antisocial behaviour reported in the area. When we mentioned this it appeared to cause tension.

The councillors were disgruntled about what was happening at a local play area. PCSO Brown explained our powers and during this Cllr Littleboy became agitated. He said that if we got rid of Sgt Worrall "Billy would shake up the SNT". I understood his reference to Billy to mean PC Bilton who is also based at Brinsworth Police Station.

Cllr Littleboy went on to say that he had told Sgt Worrall to his face that he hated him. This was a purely personal attack in my opinion. He also implied that Sgt Worrall was not doing his job properly. I did not hear any member use the term "plastic police".

As I was so surprised by the nature of the attack on Sgt Worrall I reported the comments made by Cllr Littleboy to him on my return to the station. I also, together with PCSO Brown, made notes of the meeting the following day.

Signed and accepted as correct.....

Dated.....

Record of interview

Anthony Brown

I am a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) and have been employed in that capacity for around 2years. Throughout that period I have covered the Brinsworth area.

On the 3 June 2008 at 18.30 I attended Catcliffe Parish Council meeting together with PCSO Wordsworth.

A number of people were confrontational in their attitude when we joined the meeting.

During the course of the meeting there was a discussion about the Catcliffe play area; we explained our powers and what course of action could be taken with reference to the problems experienced there. Many of the Councillors became more vocal in their views of the police and PCSOs.

In particular Cllr Littleboy commenced a personal attack on Sgt Mark Worrall. He was very derogatory towards Sgt Worrall. He stated that he had insulted Sgt Worrall to his face in a previous incident. He said words to the effect "I hate Sgt Worrall". I felt uncomfortable about these remarks, as they appeared to be personal rather than referring to his capabilities as a Sgt. Cllr Littleboy then stated he could not wait until the

day PC Bilton became sergeant at Brinsworth, as he would shake us all up.

One of the council members then used the term “plastic police” in reference to PCSOs.

Cllr Littleboy made it clear that he thought PCSOs were a waste of time due to their limited powers and that Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) are also a waste of money.

Not all the councilors were entirely negative in their attitude towards the police. There were some constructive suggestions by council members.

As I was so shocked by the comments made by Cllr Littleboy about Sgt Worrall on my return to the station I reported those comments to Sgt Worrall. The following day in company with PCSO Wordsworth I made a report of the Parish Council meeting, which I have used to refresh my memory.

Signed and accepted as correct.....

Dated.....



Record of Interview of  
Brian Jolly

I have been a Parish Councillor for twenty one years, and for fourteen years of that I have been Chair of the Catcliffe parish council.

I was chairing the meeting on the 4th June 2008 as usual. In addition to the Parish Councillors two PCSOs (Brown and Wordsworth) attended. There was an item on the agenda regarding the Catcliffe Play Area. The PCSOs explained their limited powers to deal with people drinking alcohol there. The Councillors felt their explanation strange and thought that more could be done. Cllr Littleboy was one of those who expressed disappointment at the lack of action. He said that he did not feel that Catcliffe was getting a fair deal from the Rother Valley Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) and not enough emphasise was placed on our district. In my view he simply voiced an honest opinion with which I agreed. He was not aggressive in his manner. I can honestly say that I did not hear him say that he hated Sgt Worrall.

If I had heard such comments when I was chairing a meeting I would have pulled him up. I am a relatively laid back Chairman but tell people to back off if necessary. I never felt that we came close to reaching such a point during this meeting. I have considerable experience chairing meetings.

At the next Parish meeting in July Insp Scholey attended and I felt behaved in an unprofessional manner, to the extent that I thought about closing the meeting. He criticised the council for the way that his PCSOs had been treated at the previous meeting. I then had a further meeting with Insp Scholey and the PCSOs at which PCSO Brown claimed that he had been

called a “plastic pig”. I denied that any such comment had been made during the meeting and his female colleague did not back him up.

I have met Sgt Worrall on a number of occasions although he does not attend our meetings regularly.

Cllr Littleboy has been on the parish council for about five years. He is an asset to the committee and I consider him a friend. Whilst he talks loudly at times, he is not aggressive or nasty.

Signed and accepted as correct.....

Dated.....

Record of Interview

Betty Jolly

I have been a Parish Councillor at Catcliffe for about seven years, which is about the same time as Cllr Littleboy.

In that capacity I attended a parish council meeting on the 4th June. Also present with the Parish Councillors were two PCSOs.

There was an item on the agenda about the Catcliffe Play Area and specifically the problems with adults and under age drinkers there. The PCSOs explained what they could and couldn't do and I felt were somewhat negative in their attitude. The Councillors were obviously disappointed that this problem could not be resolved. Cllr Littleboy said that the PCSOs and their Sergeant were not as effective as in other areas. He was emphatic when he said this and he does tend to speak loudly. However I would not say that he was aggressive or disrespectful in what he said and it was an opinion with which I agreed.

I cannot specifically remember anything else he said but I certainly do not accept that he said he "hated Sgt Worrall".

The council has always previously had a good rapport with other police officers serving this area. However at the next Parish meeting Insp

Scholey attended and said that the council had harassed his PCSOs. This was vehemently denied by Councillors. The Inspector did not single out any councillor for criticism nor do I think that he mentioned any comments allegedly made by a Councillor about Sgt Worrall. A further meeting took place with Insp Scholey and the PCSOs. PCSO Brown said that reference had been made to “plastic police” or “plastic pigs”. However when we denied this was said, his female colleague did not back him up.

Signed and accepted as correct.....

Dated.....

Record of Interview

Councillor Fred WRIGHT

I attended the Catcliffe Parish Council meeting on the 4th June 2008 together with other Parish Councillors. Also in attendance were two PCSOs.

During the course of the meeting I do not recollect Sgt. Worrall being mentioned by name. The only criticism, or comment made by Cllr Littleboy was that he said that PCSOs were better run in other areas. I did not hear him say that he hated Sgt Worrall.

Cllr Littleboy did raise his voice as is his custom and as I would do to him if I wished to make a point.

The Area Inspector came to the next meeting and criticised us for the way we had treated the PCSOs at the meeting. I did not understand why this criticism was levelled at us.

As far as I am concerned Cllr Littleboy did not insult Sgt Worrall during the course of the meeting on the 4th June.

Signed and accepted as correct.....

Dated.....

Record of Interview of  
Darren Hughes

I have been a Parish councillor for 18months and a Borough Councillor for seven months.

In the former capacity I attended a meeting of the Catcliffe Parish Council on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2008. In addition to the other Parish Councillors two PCSOs were present.

One of the items on the agenda was antisocial drinking in the Catcliffe play area. The PCSOs explained that there were limited powers, particularly if the people involved were over 18, as they had no right to move them on or seize their alcohol. At this point the male PCSO made a cocky remark 'that if Councillors wanted the law changing they should speak to their MP'. I recollect Cllr Littleboy responding that he didn't need to go to his MP to get the law changed.

I do not recall Cllr Littleboy mentioning Sgt Worrall during the course of the meeting. I specifically did not hear him say that he hated Sgt Worrall and had told Sgt Worrall that to his face previously. I was present throughout the meeting. I would have expected the Chair (Cllr Brian Jolly) to intercede if such a personal remark was made. In the past

whenever anyone has overstepped the mark and made such a remark he has intervened, and there was no such intervention during this meeting.

At the next Parish meeting in July the councillors were very shocked when Insp Scholey attended and criticised the councillors for attacking the PCSOs. I do not recollect during that meeting him mentioning any attack on Sgt Worrall. I do not think that he singled out any councillor in his criticism.

As a councillor I am familiar with the Code of Conduct and I did not hear or see anything in Cllr Littleboy's conduct on that evening that constituted a breach of the code.

Signed and accepted as correct.....

Dated.....

Record of Interview

June McIntosh

I have been a councillor for around 30 years. I have known Cllr Littleboy as a fellow Parish Councillor since he joined the council around 5yrs ago, but our families have known each other for longer than that as we have grown up in the same village. We are friends but not very close friends.

I recall attending a meeting on the 4th June 2008. In addition to the Parish Councillors there were two PCSOs present and also 2 members of the public. I have some difficulty remembering the meeting in detail as it was a long time ago and I did not feel that anything untoward happened at the time.

One item on the agenda involved the play area at Catcliffe. There was a problem with drinking here that was preventing proper public use of the area. It appeared that the PCSOs were unable to do anything substantial about the problem, which clearly left council members unhappy. I do not remember specifically what was said but I do remember that many members were expressing similar views to Cllr Littleboy's. If anything bad or untoward had been said I would remember it. I am clear that Cllr Littleboy said nothing derogatory during the meeting and he certainly did not use the word "hated".



At the following meeting in July Insp Scholey attended and criticised the council for bullying his PCSOs. I cannot remember whether he criticised an individual councillor or whether any reference was made to Sgt Worrall at this meeting.

There was then a further meeting with Insp Scholey and the PCSOs where the female PCSO admitted that she had not heard the words her male colleague claimed councillors had used about PCSOs.

Signed and accepted as correct.....

Dated.....

Additional comment by June McIntosh on signing:

I would like to add that it has been a waste of time and money.

Record of Interview

Guy McIntosh

I have been a Parish Councillor for approximately 16 years. Approximately five years ago Cllr Littleboy joined the Parish Council, although I had known him as my Borough Councillor prior to that.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> June I was in attendance at the Parish Council meeting together with the other Councillors and two PCSOs.

An item on the agenda involved the local play area. There was a problem there as a group of adults were using it for drinking. The PCSOs explained that they were unable to do anything about it, which obviously disappointed Councillors. There was discussion about passing of a byelaw which would give them power to take some action. All the Councillors were expressing their concern. I recall Cllr Littleboy saying that the sergeant needed to get his act together to improve the police performance. Cllr Littleboy being a Borough councillor can compare the service we get locally with that in other similar areas. I was sat very close to Cllr Littleboy and I would have heard any derogatory remarks. I did not hear him say that he hated Sgt. Worrall, nor did I hear him make any other comments that suggested a lack of respect for another person.

At the next meeting of the Council Insp Scholey attended and claimed that we had called the PCSOs “plastic pigs”. He did not single out a particular councillor and he didn’t make any mention of remarks supposedly made about Sgt. Worrall.

There was then a further meeting with Insp Scholey and the PCSOs. Councillors challenged the male PCSO who had claimed that we had used the expression “plastic pig”. His female colleague did not support him in this allegation. We previously had a great rapport with the police in this area, but that appears to have been lost recently.

Signed and accepted as correct.....

Dated.....

Record of Interview of  
Margaret Hackleton

I have been a Parish Councillor for about 10 years. I have known Cllr Littleboy as a Borough Councillor for some years and latterly since he joined the Parish Council.

I was present at a council meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> June when a member of the public brought up the problem of adults drinking in the Highfield Road play area. The PCSOs explained their powers and we thanked them for moving the adult's rubbish, but were not entirely satisfied that this was dealing with the problem. I don't remember the discussion word for word but I do recall that the male PCSO became a little uptight, as he seemed to think that we could not understand the limits on their power. Cllr Littleboy said that community policing was not working in Catcliffe. I would describe his tone as passionate as he generally is about local affairs, but not out of the ordinary and certainly not obnoxious. I can state that I did not hear Cllr Littleboy say that he hated anybody and in my experience had he done so the Chair would have pulled him up, as he does not allow personal abuse.

At the following Parish council meeting Insp Scholey attended and said that his PCSOs had complained that the council had been abusive towards them. This we categorically denied, as we had been welcoming and

anything but nasty. He claimed that the phrase “plastic policemen” had been used which again we denied. A subsequent meeting was held with the Inspector and PCSOs and at that meeting the female PCSO admitted that she had not heard that phrase used.

In my view nothing untoward occurred at the meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> June and there was nothing wrong with Cllr Littleboy’s behaviour.

Signed and accepted as correct.....

Dated.....

Record of interview

John Blencowe

I have been a Parish councillor for 20 years.

In that capacity I attended the Council meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June. In addition to the Councillors there were two PCSOs in attendance. There was a discussion about alcohol being consumed in a local playing area. I asked about bye-laws and how we could help the PCSOs do their job. Whilst the female PCSO was listening to the discussion, I felt the male PCSO was very negative. This led to frustration on the part of Councillors. Councillor Littleboy also asked what we could do to help, but the male PCSO's attitude was that there was nothing.

I cannot remember anything untoward being said and I did not hear Cllr Littleboy say he hated someone.

I have known Cllr Littleboy for some years as a Parish and Borough Cllr. I have not met Sgt. Worrall, although I have spoken to him about parking his car outside my house, which is near to the police station.

There was subsequently a meeting with Inspector Scholey and 3 PCSOs including the 2 who attended the June Parish Council meeting. It was said by the male PCSO that we had used the expression "plastic pigs". We denied this and when Insp Scholey asked the female PCSO whether she had heard the phrase used she said she had not.

Signed and accepted as correct.....

Dated.....

Record of interview

Anthony Wilkinson

I have been a Parish councillor for about 40 years and I have known Cllr Littleboy for a considerable period of time. I do not know Sgt Worrall other than from his very occasional attendances at Parish council meetings.

The events of June are a long time ago and I find it difficult to remember exactly what was said at the time.

I do remember attending a meeting of the Parish council on the first Wednesday in June and there being discussion about a problem in Highfield play area. The discussion became a bit heated and Cllr Littleboy became aerated as he does. I cannot remember anything specifically said by him, however.

As a Councillor I am familiar with the Code of Conduct for Councillors and I did not at the time feel that anything he said or did fell below the standard required.

In particular I do not remember him saying anything personal about anyone and I did not hear him use the word "hated". In fact in all the years that I have known him I cannot recall Cllr Littleboy using the word "hated" about someone else.

Signed and accepted as correct.....

Dated.....

Record of Interview of  
Sue Kilcommons

I have been the Parish Clerk for Catcliffe for 11years. I am also employed by Rotherham MBC. In both capacities I am used to dealing with Councillors and in particular I have known Cllr Littleboy for all that period.

I was the Clerk at the Parish meeting on the 4th June 2008 and I attach the Minutes of that meeting.

I recollect an item on the agenda regarding the Catcliffe play area. The two PCSOs were very negative in their attitude. This was the first meeting that they had attended for some time and we had had no information from the Police or SNT.

Councillors felt that the SNT was ineffective and I recollect Cllr Littleboy making a comment to that effect. I would describe Cllr Littleboy's manner as direct, but I do not think he would say something like "he hated" somebody. The Chair did not have any occasion to intervene because of untoward comments by any member. I do not clearly remember what was said now after such a lengthy delay since the meeting. If any comment was made about Sgt Worrall I believe it was in



terms of the ineffectiveness of the team he led, rather than being a personal attack on him.

I recollect Insp Scholey attending the next Parish meeting and spending thirty minutes criticising the Councillors for their conduct at the previous meeting. He defended the PCSOs but I do not recollect him protesting about comments made about Sgt Worrall. I also recollect that it was a general criticism of the councillors, rather than any one councillor being singled out for criticism for what he had said at the previous meeting.

Signed and accepted as correct.....

Dated.....

Record of Interview

Dave Finch

I am a retired Rotherham MBC employee, having been employed as a senior manager. I knew Cllr Littleboy through my employment previously. I have never met the complainant in this case, nor the PCSOs. I have met Inspector Scholey in the past.

I attended the meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June as an observer. I am an occasional attender.

I recollect there being an item on the agenda about the Catcliffe Play Area. The impression I got from the PCSO's was rather negative; they could do nothing to deal with the problem. This clearly led to dissatisfaction on the Councillors part. I recall Cllr Littleboy saying that the SNT were ineffective. I have difficulty remembering the exact conversation because of the time since the meeting. I would certainly describe the debate as lively but I do not specifically recollect thinking that anything untoward was said.

Signed and accepted as correct.....

Dated.....

Record of interview

Richard Scholey

I am a police inspector currently based at Rotherham. I have responsibility for the Safer Neighbourhood Team stationed at Brinsworth.

PCSO's Brown and Wordsworth attended a meeting of Catcliffe Parish Council on 4 June 2008. I was shown a copy of notes they made about the meeting. As a result I attended the next council meeting on 2 July.

I indicated that I did not consider the comments made to be appropriate in an open forum when we were supposed to be working in partnership. I remember referring to them using the term "plastic bobbies" to refer to PCSO's which they denied. PCSO Brown had heard this although PCSO Wordsworth had not.

I also said that the comments made about Sgt Worrall were inappropriate. However Cllr Littleboy was not present and I was told – I think by Cllr Brian Jolly – that I would have to take that up with him. At no stage did the councillors present deny that the attack on Sgt Worrall by Cllr Littleboy had taken place.

Signed and accepted as correct.....

Dated.....

Transcript of Interview

Reg Littleboy

**JOHN STONE**

My name is JOHN STONE and I am an investigator for the Monitoring officer of Rotherham MBC. As I advised you by letter I will be recording this interview.

Could you confirm for the record that you consent to this?

**REG LITTLEBOY**

Yes

**JOHN STONE**

For the benefit of the tape it is the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2008 and 11.05am. The monitoring officer responsible for the investigation has asked me to assist him in the matter. The Interview is about allegations about Cllr Littleboy's own conduct made by Sgt Mark Worrall. I am conducting this interview under the powers given to the monitoring officer by the Local Government Act 2000 and The Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008. Before the investigation is completed Mark Worrall and yourself will be sent a draft of the report, to enable you to make any representations you consider necessary. Having considered comments on the draft report I will then issue a final report. Parts of the transcript from this interview may be included in both the draft and final reports. If the case then proceeds to a hearing again part of the transcript may be read as evidence and obviously you would be in

attendance at any such hearing. If you provide me with information of a sensitive or private nature during the course of this I will ask the standards committee to keep this information confidential. This is however, their decision and they may disagree with my recommendation and allow information you have provided to be made public. Equally please treat any information provided to you during the course of this investigation as confidential. In addition, there are statutory restrictions on the disclosure of information obtained during an investigation. This is covered by Section 63 of the Local Government Act 2000 and disclosure of information contrary to this is a criminal offence.

Do you have any questions about the procedure?

REG LITTLEBOY

no

JOHN STONE

If at any stage you want a break, or you want to ask about the procedure please just say.

REG LITTLEBOY

no I'm ok

JOHN STONE

can I first ask you how long you have been a councillor

REG LITTLEBOY

I have been on Rotherham borough council since 1988, prior to that I served the last three years of South Yorkshire county council representing the same area Brinsworth,

Catcliffe

and Treeton and then prior to 2003 I did

nearly

twenty years, well above 20 years on

Treeton

parish council. I moved, I moved from

Treeton

to Brinsworth and I joined Catcliffe

Parish

council, so I am currently on

Catcliffe parish

council as well.

JOHN STONE

and additional I think you are also on the police authority.

- REG LITTLEBOY I am a member of South Yorkshire Police Authority, which is nominated by this council, yes
- JOHN STONE so you represent this council on the police authority?
- REG LITTLEBOY yes.
- JOHN STONE obviously you are aware that the reason I am speaking to you today is the result of a complaint by Sgt Mark Worrall. The first instance I will be asking you about was on 20<sup>th</sup> May this year. Prior to that date can you tell me whether you had had any dealings with Sgt. Worrall?
- REG LITTLEBOY I would say yes, I have got to have dealings with Sgt Worrall because he is the Sgt. Of the SNT within the area assembly that I am a member of Rother Valley West, so the sergeant is a key player in that SNT organisation
- JOHN STONE and how would you say your relationship with him had been up to that point, prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> May?
- REG LITTLEBOY well ok, but with reservations
- JOHN STONE what were the reservations?
- REG LITTLEBOY reservations were obviously I took, I had a direct view about the engagement of the SNT and viewed it with comparisons that I had learned about from the police authority see and I thought we weren't performing as well on our SNT as what some other areas were, bearing in mind I understand the grass is always greener on the other side, but taking that into account I don't think we performed as well and it was strictly a professional relationship I don't know Mark Worrall in his leisure time, or just, he is

Sgt Worrall.

JOHN STONE let me take you to the 20<sup>th</sup> May, I believe you attended a meeting at St Georges steps in Brinsworth?

REG LITTLEBOY yes, I just tried to look at me diary this morning, but it don't go back to 20<sup>th</sup> May. Yes I'll accept I did. I have spent one or two visits at St George's steps

JOHN STONE yes I believe there was another meeting in September

REG LITTLEBOY September there were I got that in my diary yes

JOHN STONE on the 20<sup>th</sup> May I have spoken to, in addition to Sgt Worrall, I have spoken to Bob Stock, Maria Watts, Chris Hayes and Shirley Hallam who were all council representatives from various departments

REG LITTLEBOY yes street pride and highways  
"Hello, yes" .....

JOHN STONE the interview is continuing after an interruption for a telephone call. The meeting at the steps was at whose request?

REG LITTLEBOY I am trying to think. The last time we met Bob Stock and the other Street Pride requested that the coordinating group of Rother Valley West area assembly

JOHN STONE it's the 20<sup>th</sup> May I am still asking ..

REG LITTLEBOY the previous one would be at my behest because there are two residents there that have a nightmare life with yobs and vandalism at the rear of their properties which is on these steps and this adopted highway and they ring the police, they ring me, they email me and we try

and get something done. They come to the surgery and see us councillors and we try and get things alleviated. As we see it the problem can be alleviated if we close the steps; so that were the initial time and err when I met Mark Worrall coz sometimes all three of us cant get there and so I met Mark Worrall at them steps and within the conversation because as it happened the next ... the same afternoon I was meeting Matt Jukes as a police authority member because from time to time he meets all three of us in Rotherham. Three police authority members in Rotherham and discuss the arrangements and that and I just said to Mark Worrall that I shall see Matt Jukes later when Mark was discussing the performance of SNT teams

JOHN STONE

ok well lets come back to the reason for the meeting.

REG LITTLEBOY

yes, I know we don't need to go into detail. We've got to demonstrate before, the steps are an adopted highway, the highways are reluctant to close them, so we have to demonstrate these problems with crime, so that's the only avenue we've got is on the crime issues and hence the police involvement

JOHN STONE

I gather as I was speaking to other people that an alternative solution was proposed by Christian Hayes; I think there were a number of proposals such as tidying the place up, putting a seat in, raising the wall, which everyone else was quite happy about, but you didn't think would resolve the problems

REG LITTLEBOY

I don't think that, my colleagues don't think that either

JOHN STONE

there was only you



REG LITTLEBOY            aye there was only me there; but whatever solution were presented it had got to be acceptable to myself and my colleagues, or my colleague at that time and obviously it is now in the domain of the coordinating group at Rotherham West and what they suggested was clear it all up and put a seat there, which well I don't think that is a solution and that's not what anybody has requested

JOHN STONE                and what was your reaction to the suggestion

REG LITTLEBOY            to be honest to be frank I thought at this stage it were a load of rubbish as a suggestion to form some sort of a barrier fence. To close the steps either permanently or temporarily would have been the right solution and I know that the residents that live there agree with that course of action and my colleague does. So they took away the idea and went away to discuss it at the NAG meeting which is the neighbourhood action group – which I am not a member of

JOHN STONE                ok. Well I think it was primarily Christian Hayes who proposed this do you remember making some comment to him about the suggestion

REG LITTLEBOY            other than I think it is a load of rubbish what you are suggesting and you are namby pampering to vandals and making life more comfortable for them

JOHN STONE                his recollection is that you said to him "You know nothing, you don't have to live round here"

REG LITTLEBOY            I may have said that, in quiet, that he doesn't live round here, he is not aware of the incidences of vandalism and yob behaviour and I think I'm right he doesn't and he should have looked to the residents point of view

JOHN STONE as a council employee with I think he has told me with nearly 20years experience do you think telling someone they know nothing is a respectful way of treating them?

REG LITTLEBOY it might have been a bit strong but we live in the real world don't we, because what he was saying he were just putting to one side the benefits of closure to them residents and I feel very passionate and strong about the case for them residents who live around here, because we are not delivering and he is a key player in highways or street pride

JOHN STONE I think that everyone agrees that you are passionate about what you do Councillor, I think that the suggestion may be that you let your enthusiasm, or concern, for these residents affect your behaviour or the language you used, which was inappropriate ...../

REG LITTLEBOY was it a bit strong or inappropriate? Well it may have been a bit stronger than what they are used to from day to day but I have to say I am here to represent the residents and I have to say that the officers at council should be there to try and get a solution to satisfy the residents who are in fact tax payers and pay their wages. Because without the tax payers support, none of us would be here

JOHN STONE presumably apart from the jobs and vandals there are people on the estate who legitimately use the steps?

REG LITTLEBOY errr, maybe but there is not much evidence to say that they do and clearly in the hours of evening and night time they don't use the steps because of the very thing that torments them residents

JOHN STONE I think Maria Watts from Street Pride and Sgt Worrall both said that they didn't have any

complaints logged: because you talk about the residents ringing the police, neither of them said that they had complaints 'logged' – particularly Maria Watts

REG LITTLEBOY

I can accept Maria Watts not having any complaints logged because whilst she is neighbourhood champion she is also employed by 2010 which is the housing department for want of a better word (she works for the ALMO) and it is unlikely that residents whose not living in tenanted houses would complain to the housing department because it still take us a while to get the word out that they are not just here for housing, they are here for neighbouring issues – hence the word Neighbourhood Champion

JOHN STONE

going specifically to Sgt Worrall's complaint, because strictly it is that I am investigating, he describes your reaction to being told the steps couldn't be closed as a "temper tantrum" – would you like to comment?

REG LITTLEBOY

"temper tantrum"? I have no comment to make about it actually. It is a view. I have no comment to make. I get annoyed

JOHN STONE

well specifically he says that you lost your temper and you said to him "you find the evidence" and then you called him "bloody useless"

REG LITTLEBOY

well I don't normally use that word, them swear words with people about anyway, so I refute that comment. As regards to saying 'you find the evidence' well my understanding is that as the sergeant in the SNT he is the key player to find that evidence because without evidence we can't close the steps and I would have thought he had avenues to get hold of the evidence from phone calls to Atlas Court for information that he might have sent to [inaudible] because I

know the neighbours have rung Atlas Court on numerous occasions. I have written to the commander Matt Jukes about the very thing. I have been to the parish council about that very thing so there is evidence and if a police sergeant says he cant get it then I am amazed and what I heard yesterday, and I will be frank about it, what I heard yesterday at the coordinating group of Rother Valley west when the area assembly officer said that Mark Worrall had told him that he cant get the evidence because the time and resources needed he hasn't got; but there may be other ways that I can get the information because as I say, you know, the whole case rests on providing evidence that there is a criminal element that is causing mayhem here

JOHN STONE                      so would you accept just to sum up what you do accept and don't: that you raised your voice to both Bob Stock and Christian Hayes and indeed Mark Worrall

REG LITTLEBOY                well if they claim I raised my voice, I don't know, but as regards using swear words and insulting I refute that coz that's not my style

JOHN STONE                      ok so when Sgt Worrall says that you "belittled him in public" you would deny that you said anything that would belittle him?

REG LITTLEBOY                yes, there were no public there, only officers and it was him and me and what have you it were all we were all concerned about them steps

JOHN STONE                      I think in front of anyone else would be sufficient, it certainly wasn't a one to one conversation

REG LITTLEBOY                no it wasn't; I accept that we were all there together

JOHN STONE                   so, I appreciate it is some time ago, that you are thinking back to what was actually said, but would you, thinking back a little more coolly, accept that your language to him was inappropriate

REG LITTLEBOY               I wouldn't accept that no. Because sometimes you have to emphasise the importance of some situations and as I have said before I think it is important for them residents that we do us best to try and resolve that problem and we being [phone tone:] .. Sorry about this

JOHN STONE                   I am pausing the recording again.

Resuming the interview after a telephone call break.

You did mention that during the course of the meeting you made reference to a later meeting you were having with Chief Supt Jukes – is that correct that you did tell Sgt Worrall

REG LITTLEBOY               I can recollect that yes yes

JOHN STONE                   Sgt Worrall says .....

REG LITTLEBOY               I don't think it were on the occasion when we were all together but I think it were on a previous occasion

JOHN STONE                   right so you don't think it was on this 20<sup>th</sup> May meeting

REG LITTLEBOY               yep, probably that one

JOHN STONE                   right, well that is the one we are talking about – yep. He says he recollects you saying “I'm seeing Matt Jukes this afternoon I'm having you removed”. Do you accept that you said that?

REG LITTLEBOY               it is not within my power to remove anybody. It's not, I don't get involved in management

issues, I am not a manager and it's not for me to do Matt Jukes' job or anybody else's job. I don't like manage, I am a councillor

JOHN STONE I accept that you don't have the power, but it is a question of whether you made the threat. It would potentially be upsetting to somebody if you made the threat

REG LITTLEBOY I accept it may have been if I had said that but I didn't say that

JOHN STONE so you deny

REG LITTLEBOY neither did I speak about it to Matt Jukes

JOHN STONE OK. So you didn't say anything to Sgt Worrall that may have given him the impression that you would approach his superior with a view to having him moved from the .....

REG LITTLEBOY Never, ever have I done that because I cant. I think the evidence is there, neither have I done, nor has that happened, although I know Mark Worrall has now been moved to Dinnington, but I would imagine it is progression in a job that people do move about in forces, but it is not within my remit either to suggest it, I wouldn't, or to do it

JOHN STONE speaking to the council people who have known you for some years the comment a number of them made was 'well Cllr Littleboy is always like that', "that's Reg, that's the way he behaves'

REG LITTLEBOY others like what

JOHN STONE well one of them said 'Cllr Littleboy might be upset if he realised how he made people feel' Do you think that when you have got a cause you take into account the effects that your

words might have on the people you are delivering them to?

REG LITTLEBOY

well I would hope so. I would hope that people don't take things personally what I say, because I try not to personalise. Its about issues, its about policies and I don't personalise and its ... And I hope that people don't take it as I personalise things

not

JOHN STONE

but if you say to an experienced, and presumably reasonably senior council official "You know nothing" is that not a personal comment, rather than an objective one

REG LITTLEBOY

it might not be an objective comment to make, if I said that but you've got to bear, I don't know, we live in the real world you know and you have got to bear in mind that I have spent all my life working at pit, where everybody were frank with everybody and while I were a supervisor there were occasions when comments like that were made on a regular basis, you were just an over man that you beat on the way home but you go and that's a way of life. it's a comment, that if I meant it, if I meant it, you'd do something about it wouldn't you, if you thought somebody was absolutely useless

JOHN STONE

yes, but it is alright you saying that you worked all your life in the pit, not everybody you deal with ....

REG LITTLEBOY

yes, I accept that

JOHN STONE

lets move onto the second part of the complaint and this is the meeting of the parish council on the 4<sup>th</sup> June

REG LITTLEBOY

were Mark Worrall there

JOHN STONE

no

REG LITTLEBOY well

JOHN STONE the evidence in that case comes from the two Police community.....

REG LITTLEBOY Support officers

JOHN STONE who were present

REG LITTLEBOY well I think the least said the sooner its mended because I have to say this, that I know that you have interviewed Parish councillors about that and I know that they went back to tell a right tale to Richard Scholey who then came to the July meeting at parish council and shocked em all with his attitude because he repeated what they claimed to have been said and everybody were in denial of it and shocked Catcliffe parish council, because I have to say this – they are the friendliest bunch of councillors that I have known and them PCSOs got it all wrong and I am surprised that you are taking evidence off them. Have you interviewed them – the PCSOs?

JOHN STONE I have interviewed the two PCSOs and, as you know about, all the councillors. I have spoken to Chief Supt Jukes and Inspector Scholey on the phone; so as far as I am aware I have spoken to everyone I can trace, prior to speaking to you

REG LITTLEBOY I find that somebody saying something and then it getting repeated as an accusation towards me, when they weren't there, then I find that well.... Well I just don't find it very good at all

JOHN STONE well you appreciate that it is legitimate. If you were to say to me now something defamatory about a fellow councillor then that wouldn't be right; you cant say something about someone simply because they are not present and expect to get away with it. You are not suggesting that you should be able to abuse somebody who is



not present at a meeting in front of a number of people?

REG LITTLEBOY I am not saying that you can

JOHN STONE you seemed to think that it was wrong because Sgt Worrall wasn't actually present, that a complaint can be made about it

REG LITTLEBOY I think when Sgt Worrall weren't there and he makes an allegation within that, based on that, I think that's wrong

JOHN STONE well surely you accept the point that if you go to a meeting you can't simply attack anyone that isn't there simply because they are not there

REG LITTLEBOY I am not saying that you can

JOHN STONE well why do you think its wrong that a complaint can be based on what you have said about someone at a public meeting

REG LITTLEBOY because it is all based on hearsay and gossip

JOHN STONE no it is not based on hearsay, it is based on what people who were present at that meeting, the other councillors, yourself and the PCSOs actually observed

REG LITTLEBOY yes

JOHN STONE it's not the evidence of Mark Worrall about hat happened on the 4<sup>th</sup> June, it is the evidence of the people that were there; that is not hearsay. That is what was actually said, or what people say .....

REG LITTLEBOY or what they alleged was said

JOHN STONE I am not at this point, I have not decided which of the conflicting views I prefer, I am still investigating the matter but I am trying to

explain to you why it is proper that a complaint be founded on what you say in a public meeting, about someone that is not there

REG LITTLEBOY I can't recollect saying owt about Mark Worrall when he is not there

JOHN STONE do you recollect that there was some discussion at that meeting about a play area.....

REG LITTLEBOY at Highfield ...

JOHN STONE Highfield View

REG LITTLEBOY at Highfield View play area

JOHN STONE yes

REG LITTLEBOY and drinking and jobs

JOHN STONE and .....

REG LITTLEBOY and the force, and the PCSOs claiming that they cant do nowt about it and that's what they said

JOHN STONE and what was your reaction to that

REG LITTLEBOY well the reaction, well I think you should take it further and if you cant do nowt about it as PCSOs then you need the help of the police, of police force and you are in a position to go back and report that and say I want some assistance at this play area to get these jobs off it and it needs police, not PCSOs if they haven't got the powers. And I know the power of PCSOs are somewhat limited in South Yorkshire and the Chief Constable is not going to increase their powers. I am quite aware of that because he said

JOHN STONE would you accept that during the course of this discussion you raised your voice

- REG LITTLEBOY I would be surprised if I raised my voice in Catcliffe parish council meeting. Its, its, we never have, we never have them type of meetings
- JOHN STONE well this was a meeting, this wasn't just the councillors; obviously you had the PCSOs and .....
- REG LITTLEBOY yes, yes, and there was some residents there as well, no doubt, coz that's what we do. There are three or four residents come on a regular basis
- JOHN STONE would you accept you raised your voice to PCSOs during the course of the discussion
- REG LITTLEBOY I don't know about raising my voice. I might have put it a bit, should we say, to explain it, to emphasise more than if they cant do it they should get some support from the police ... and the balls in their court, that's what they have to do
- JOHN STONE I'm sorry are you saying 'Yes' you did raise your voice, or .....
- REG LITTLEBOY no I'm saying no I didn't, but I would like to obviously emphasise its, er raise the voice or not raise the voice I don't know – it's a matter of opinion
- JOHN STONE did you hear one of the councillors and it is not specifically suggested it was you – refer to the PCSOs as “plastic policemen” “plastic bobbies” or something of that nature
- REG LITTLEBOY cant say I did, I can't say I did. As I say they are a friendly bunch at Catcliffe Parish council

JOHN STONE do you recollect saying anything about Sgt Worrall during the course of that meeting?

[pause]

REG LITTLEBOY I cant recollect saying owt about personally about Sgt Worrall no. I may have said that it's the Sergeant of the SNT that does the arrangement, because my opinion, he is in charge of the Safe Neighbourhood team, he is a key player and if we wanted an operation then the PCSOs would have to go to him and explain that to him. One would expect him to organise

it

JOHN STONE Did you indicate that you would like Sgt Worrall replaced by PC Bilton

REG LITTLEBOY can't recollect that

JOHN STONE might you have said that

REG LITTLEBOY I doubt it

JOHN STONE was it a view that you held at that time

REG LITTLEBOY errrr, I don't know. I cant say it's a view that I held but I do get on well with Richard Bilton when he's acting Sergeant because he passes information onto us and that's good

JOHN STONE Right. It is suggested that you did in fact make a personal and derogatory comment about Sgt Worrall – words to the effect that you hated him

REG LITTLEBOY why should I say that about anybody? It is not in my nature to hate anybody. It is all about policies and actions, and nowt to do with personalities

JOHN STONE and did you say in the meeting that you had insulted Sgt Worrall to his face previously

REG LITTLEBOY I don't think I did say that. I don't think .....  
in my opinion I hadn't insulted Sgt Worrall  
previously

JOHN STONE did you express a view that the SNT and PCSOs  
were a waste of time and money

REG LITTLEBOY why did I say that?

JOHN STONE no I said "Did you"?

REG LITTLEBOY no. why should I say a thing like that?

JOHN STONE I have got no idea

REG LITTLEBOY as a member of the police authority we made  
that one of our top priorities because we  
believed that the neighbourhood teams,  
neighbourhood policing was the way forward  
to guarantee what a lot of people want. It's  
the police back on the beat, visibility,  
reassurance so why should I think they would  
be a waste of time?

JOHN STONE so you support SNT?

REG LITTLEBOY course I do, yes and I support the PCSOs  
because don't forget when they first came in  
they were only part funded, we had to find a  
quarter of the funding for PCSOs

JOHN STONE but is it fair to say that, sorry I think we  
touched on this earlier, you don't feel the SNT  
in your area is as good as others

REG LITTLEBOY that's, that's my view and I am not saying that  
others, coz I am not, I am not ok with what the  
others do coz obviously Rotherham is a big area  
and I do not know what goes on in Northern  
Borough but I do know what goes off in  
Wentworth South because I had the senior  
PCSO come and do a presentation to police  
authority meeting and I were impressed with the

organisation – the way that they involved the elected members, the way they involved the parish councillors and kept them up to scratch and errr... I was somewhat envious after hearing .. after hearing it: the presentation, because I knew that that doesn't happen in Rother Valley west and I have to take on board what I said earlier, we know that the grass is always greener on other side

JOHN STONE

Councillor obviously you have been in politics, you told me at the beginning your considerable experience as a councillor and I think speaking to various people it's obvious that when you campaign you have a lot of success putting forward residents views. Do you think, going back to the Brinsworth steps issue – is that an issue that you have been campaigning about for some time I believe

REG LITTLEBOY

yes a long time, a long long time

JOHN STONE

what over three years?

REG LITTLEBOY

I'll bet, longer than that

JOHN STONE

Longer than that. Do you think that on that occasion your frustration at the solution that was being put forward by the council officials led you to behave perhaps in a way you should not have done?

REG LITTLEBOY

views,  
that

well I have to say I cant recollect me doing anything wrong and if I was strong in my  
I was strong in my views, but if they got perception then how can I change it, I don't know but I have to say their solution were ill thought out and didn't marry in with any suggestions that the residents made, or we made as councillors

JOHN STONE

you will appreciate that I am not here to second guess the decision on that and what should and

shouldn't happen, and the code of conduct doesn't stop you questioning a decision, views of council officers or indeed anyone else. The code of conduct seeks to regulate how you do that

REG LITTLEBOY            yes, sure yes

JOHN STONE                my suggestion having spoken to various people is that on this occasion you didn't show the proper amount of respect to Mark Worrall

REG LITTLEBOY            well that is your view, your view you have gleaned from them that's .. what can I say about that ... you have formed a view after well ... discussing it ..

JOHN STONE                I am suggesting to you that it is a question of whether you, in hindsight, having gone through the matter today in some detail, do you accept in hindsight that that is the case? Do you feel that someone spoken to in the manner that you did on that occasion might feel belittled?

REG LITTLEBOY            well I wouldn't have thought so. I wouldn't have thought so, as I say I have been around a long time and I have been in situations what, what is allegedly what they've been in and we all grown up people and it's a grown up world and I cant see, but if they, obviously they clearly meant it, they thought, they took offence , all I can say that nobody ever mentioned at that time that I should be taking that attitude, if there were an attitude or whatever but to be frank its .... It were an important issue and there were a few exchanges and I weren't there to belittle them or ... all I were hoping to, that they could get the case across. That the police would come up with some evidence as to why there had been problems in that area, to evidence the closure of them steps, either permanently or temporary

JOHN STONE                   you will appreciate that as a senior member,  
both of the police authority and the council it is  
difficult for a relatively junior police officer

REG LITTLEBOY               who's relatively junior?

JOHN STONE                   well a sergeant isn't.....

REG LITTLEBOY               oh, junior in rank

JOHN STONE                   Well, yes I apologise, and council officials to  
challenge the behaviour of a councillor

REG LITTLEBOY               I understand it might be difficult to challenge  
the behaviour but as I say I couldn't see nowt  
wrong with my behaviour and from time to time  
I emphasise things but how can you get a frank  
exchange if he, if they don't speak their mind

JOHN STONE                   and again finally just looking .....

REG LITTLEBOY               and if they are coming up with ideas on what  
the solution is, well they should expand them  
and give reasons as to why it is their solution

JOHN STONE                   but if you wanted more explanation as to why  
that was the solution that was being put  
forward, are there not better ways of asking for  
that than telling the person putting it forward  
that "You know nothing"?

[pause]

JOHN STONE                   telling him that he doesn't understand "because  
he doesn't live round there", although I think he  
had lived round there for 15years in fact

REG LITTLEBOY               who

JOHN STONE                   Christian Hayes

REG LITTLEBOY               what in Brinsworth?



JOHN STONE                    he lived within 100yds of St George's step for 15years he told me

REG LITTLEBOY                well I wouldn't know, I don't know

JOHN STONE                    he didn't tell you that

REG LITTLEBOY                no, well I wouldn't know anyway would I

JOHN STONE                    he recollected telling you that he did know it was a local problem because he actually had lived there for so long, prior to moving away

REG LITTLEBOY                No. I don't recollect that

JOHN STONE                    and on the .....

REG LITTLEBOY                well I would have been his councillor wouldn't I for that period of time if he lived there. No I can't recollect him saying that

JOHN STONE                    on the fourth of June you don't accept that you made any personal comments or attack on Sgt Worrall

REG LITTLEBOY                Well, I have never said hated, I have never personally attacked, I have only ever had to oppose their policies and their driver initiative and to represent the people and I, you have to need the people whose in post in different jobs to get to where you want to be and it were important that for us to persuade the highways to close them steps which is adopted highway, we needed the evidence on the crime, on the crime element

JOHN STONE                    again thinking about it objectively do you think your concern for your constituents and your passion for the cause perhaps on occasions lead you to go 'over the top'?

REG LITTLEBOY                well, not over the top – enthusiastic could be the word

JOHN STONE it is a fine dividing .....

REG LITTLEBOY yes for sure and I accept that they might think I have gone over the top. I think I am just enthusiastic

JOHN STONE and you don't accept that you were a bully to Sgt Worrall or treated him with a lack of respect?

REG LITTLEBOY I don't, no. And if I had been wanting to bully him two days after that event I would have picked the phone up and bullied him wouldn't I but I have not tried to bully him. From them meetings we went back to a coordinating group, Rotherham Valley West assembly to discuss that very issue and three meetings ago we agreed that we would gather all evidence to support them residents to see whether that come together to have a closure of them steps and the only problem is that the police are saying that their systems cant get, cant do a quick search to get, their systems. That's what the assembly officer said anyway

JOHN STONE to get the information you need

REG LITTLEBOY Mark Worrall says they cant get, because we are all charged with trying to get this information and I said 'Well look in my file to see where that gets you' letters that the residents have sent to me; which I did and Mark Worrall was going to get some criminal evidence, phone calls that had gone to Ackles court and transferred to CIU unit and he hasn't come up with any. So we need that evidence to substantiate the need for closure of them steps

JOHN STONE Councillor that is all I want to ask you, just to thank you for your time, prior to the meeting I did explain I will provide you with a transcript of this interview and that you can add on a

separate sheet of paper anything else that you feel you haven't said.

REG LITTLEBOY      yes

JOHN STONE          so I am going to end this interview at three minutes to twelve

REG LITTLEBOY      alright John

Signed and accepted as correct ..... REG LITTLEBOY

Dated .....

Minutes of the Meeting of Catcliffe Parish Council held on  
Wednesday 4 June 2008 at 6.00 pm in the Memorial Hall Catcliffe

**PRESENT**

Councillors B Jolly (Chair); J Blencowe; Mrs M Hackleton; D Hughes; Mrs B Jolly; R Littleboy; S Kilcommons (Clerk); G McIntosh; Mrs J McIntosh and A Wilkinson.

Also in attendance were Councillor F Wright; residents of the village; PCSO's J Wordsworth and A Brown.

Members were informed about the sudden death of Carol Barron, wife of Kevin Barron, MP. It was unanimously agreed that a letter of condolence be sent to Kevin. **Action:** SK

**86/08 APOLOGIES**

All Members were in attendance.

**87/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Minute 100/08(c) – Councillors B and Mrs B Jolly declared an interest.

**88/08 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings held on the 7 May 2008 were signed and confirmed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

**89/08 CLERK'S REPORT**

Minute 59/08(f) – Traffic Calming. SK had received an update from Stuart Savage which was circulated for Members to note. SK to remind Simon Quarta that when they had previously discussed this it had been agreed that the top of Main Street would be an ideal location for the refuge; also to thank him for securing funding to construct a footpath near the Post Office, which was much appreciated. **Action:** SK

Minute 59/08(g) – The Kiln. SK reported that a detailed report had been sent for Members to peruse.

Minute 71/08 – Anti-social behaviour. SK reported that both herself and RL had emailed Inspector Richard Scholey regarding the issues. Inspector Scholey had responded stating that he had notified his staff of the Parish Council's concerns and would like to offer his reassurance that appropriate action was being taken by the Safer Neighbourhood Team to address those issues.

Minute 71/08 – Biffa Waste. SK reported that the demolished wall had again been reported.

Minute 56/08(iii) – It was noted that Richard Simons from First South Yorkshire Ltd had responded to SK stating that he would be happy to attend a future meeting, but would not be

able to attend until August, or if required sooner, on a different evening. With regard to the list of buses which did not turn up, problems had been experienced with Service 31 and they were looking to improve its reliability. Some of the buses on the list did run although they may have been late. It was agreed that Richard be invited to the September meeting.

**Action:** SK

Minute 55/08 – Drainage. BJ had met with David Mead where it was noted that problems were being experienced with the drains at the houses at the back of Waverley View, the drains being blocked across the garage site. With regard to the grassed area that had been re-seeded, DM had indicated that he would get the contractor to return. As the footpath was ‘domed’ DM suggested it be rolled with a view to flattening it out.

Minute 82(08) – Litter. SK stated that costs had been received from RMBC and were £39.04 for one hour a week for both Poplar Way/Highfield View. BJ stated that Ian Halliwell had stated that if RMBC were asked to do the work on a regular basis the Parish Council would be charged for 2 weeks in every 3, and RMBC would fund the third week. Resolved:- That the above charges were acceptable and that RMBC be asked to carry out the work. **Action:** SK

#### 90/08 **BOROUGH COUNCILLORS**

Former issues were queried with appropriate responses.

Concerns regarding the standard of grass cutting were raised. The information was noted. Councillor Mrs Jolly queried why the bungalows on The Croft had not been let. **Action:** RL.

It was noted that it was proposed that the payphone at Mappins Road, Catcliffe, was to be removed. SK to contact Phil Turnidge for the reason. **Action:** SK

RL stated that he had been informed that the pipework from the road gully outside the Red Lion Public House was defective, possibly broken by a service company. A repair to the pipework was required using excavation methods. David Mead had stated that he would try to ensure that the repair was undertaken immediately after the work to install the pumping arrangements were completed which should be within the next couple of months.

#### 91/08 **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP**

(a) South Yorkshire Police. The PCSO’s attended part of the meeting to give an update on Catcliffe. Members expressed their concern at adults drinking and being anti-social in the Highfield View play area and stated that they had received complaints from residents/parents. The PCSO’s stated that while they sympathised with the problems being experienced, adults over 18 could not be physically ejected. However if they were causing a nuisance through noise, or using bad language, they would be moved on. It was suggested that the play areas be made designated areas in which alcohol would be banned, and the Parish Council agreed they would look into this. Members expressed their disappointment that the situation could not be dealt with and SK was asked to query the Safer Neighbourhood Team’s remit. **Action:** DH/SK

(b) Funday – Insurance. It was agreed that more details regarding the insurance were required. **Action:** GM/BJ/SK.

#### 92/08 **MEETINGS ATTENDED**

(a) Atisreal – A letter outlining consultation on proposals for development was tabled. The Agenda for the meeting held on 21 May 2008 and the minutes of the meeting held on 30 April 2008 were also tabled.

- (b) Parish Charter Network Meeting held on Thursday 22 May 2008. BJ stated it was a useful meeting but not enough time was allowed for 2 presentations and workshops were oversubscribed.

93/08 **YHRTP/YLCA/ERNLLCA JOINT TRAINING CONFERENCE**

Members were informed that the Annual Joint Training Conference for Parish Councillors and Clerks was to be held at The Royal Hotel, Scarborough on Friday 26 September to Sunday 28 September 2008. Resolved:- That BJ; BJ; GM; JM; DH and SK attend the conference. **Action:** SK

94/08 **YORKSHIRE LOCAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION – COUNCILLOR TRAINING PROGRAMME**

Training events for new and experienced Councillors were tabled for Members to note.

95/08 **STORAGE OF SANDBAGS BY PARISH COUNCILS**

A questionnaire had been received from RMBC's Emergency and Safety Manager, Alan Matthews, on the storage and distribution of sandbags. The questionnaire was completed. **Action:** SK

BJ reported that Catcliffe had been picked to trial 'Aqua Sacs' and the company were to give a demonstration, on Poplar Way recreation ground on 27 June 2008 at 9.00 am. The information was received. The Aqua Sacs were to be temporarily stored in the pavilion, and a flier would be sent out by the company to those who had been affected by the floods, stating that Sacs would be available for collection and storage in their garages. It was noted that John Healey, MP had recommended that they be trialled at Catcliffe.

96/08 **MATTERS RELATING TO THE RECREATION GROUNDS**

- (i) Highfield View Play Area

It was reported that one disabled swing was missing. SK to ask Peter Cunningham if they had taken it away for repair. **Action:** SK

- (ii) Poplar Way Play Area

It was noted that Neighbourhood Wardens had recently been to the play area and used graffiti wipes on the play equipment which was much appreciated.

- (iii) Football

Fees had been received from Woodhouse Junction for the 2007/08 season.

Craig Scholey and Mark Hatfield (representatives for the Catcliffe Junior Football team) attended the meeting to discuss arrangements for the junior pitch for the forthcoming football season. They were informed that cost of the initial marking out would be £102.86; with overmarking at £23.24. It was resolved that Catcliffe Parish Council would pay for the initial marking out of £102.86. It was agreed that the pitch was to be marked out by RMBC on a regular basis and the number of markings were to be established. Once the marking out costs were known the Parish Council would discuss fees. CS and MH were informed that fixtures needed to be provided.

- (iv) Bowling.

BJ stated that the season was going pretty well.

- (v) Catcliffe Flood Appeal Funds – Play Equipment.

As the distribution of the Catcliffe Flood Appeal was to cease, it was noted that a donation from the remaining money was being made to Catcliffe Parish Council to assist in the purchasing of an additional piece of play equipment on the Poplar Way recreation ground. SK to order. **Action:** SK

97/08 **MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH**

John Vickers from Sheffield City Council had informed RL that the current situation with regard to flights from Sheffield Airport was that the CAA license had elapsed but he had been advised by the CAA that there was an Air Navigation Order Article 126 in place which allowed small aircraft to use the airport for private use for flying instruction. This being the case it would appear that there was no breach of planning control.

BJ stated that Derek Harrison and Simon Wood, UK Coal, would be leaving the area in a month or so and he felt it would be a nice gesture if a commemorative engraved plaque be presented to them out of his Chairman's Allowance in recognition of their assistance to the Parish Council over the years. The information was noted. **Action:** BJ

Rear of Challinor Mews. It was reported that due to there being no fencing, vandalism was taking place and wasteland was being set on fire. SK was asked to contact Network Rail to ask them to consider erecting a fence or having the area patrolled by the British Transport Police. **Action:** SK

98/08 **PLANNING**

- (a) Planning schedules were tabled.

(i) RB2008/0822 – Application for variation to condition 22 (highway improvements to be made to High Field Spring) imposed by RB2003/0046 before all works are implemented at Waverley Advanced Manufacturing Park, High Field Spring, Catcliffe. The reasons for the proposals for the existing condition to be amended were read out and after discussion it was resolved that the Parish Council object to the proposals stating that highway works after the scheme was completed would cause too much through traffic which would cause problems. **Action:** SK

(ii) RB2008/0645 – Retrospective application for conservatory to rear of 5 California Drive, Catcliffe. This was noted.

(iii) RB2008/0705 – Erection of a detached dwellinghouse at land at 21 Willan Drive, Catcliffe. This was noted.

- (b) Sheffield Development Framework: Core Strategy.

Comments on the site allocation representations to be send in writing, using the Representation Form available on the website, to reach Sheffield City Council no later than 5.30 pm on Friday 20 June 2008.

99/08 **MINOR ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

- (a) Yorkshire Rural Community Council. A request had been received asking for 3 to 4 people who knew the village well to talk to Rupert Swarbrick, Researcher, in order that they could help local Parish Councils and other service providers understand their rural communities better. BJ indicated that he was liaising with RS. **Action:** SK
- (b) Specialist Surface Treatments for Rotherham Area 2008 – Start date notification and list of sites. The document was tabled.
- (c) White Rose Update – May 2008. This was circulated with the agenda.
- (d) Enhanced cover in light of the Corporate Homicide and Corporate Manslaughter Act 2007. The information was tabled for Members to note.
- (e) Presentation to Parish and Town Councils by Stephen Finley, Senior Engineer, Streetpride, on all or one of Adoptions/Searches; Third Party Claims; Vehicle Removal; Winter Service; Condition Surveys; Highway Asset Data; Highway Schemes and Surface Treatments; Data System Management and Financial Support; Asset Management. If the Parish Council was interested he would be willing to carry out a presentation. It was agreed that Stephen be invited to attend the October meeting. **Action:** SK
- (f) YLCA – Notice of the South Yorkshire Branch Annual meeting to be held on 25 June 2008 at the Hatfield Woodhouse Village Hall at 7.00 pm; the minutes of the Joint Executive Board meeting held on 19 April 2008; list of nominations received for the South Yorkshire Branch; Assembly Essentials and Standing Orders for the South Yorkshire Branch of the Associations and the South Yorkshire Association were tabled.
- (g) Groundwork Dearne Valley – notice of the Rotherham Environment Forum meeting to be held on 5 June 2008 at 7.00 pm at Kiveton Park and Wales Village Hall with regard to World Environment Day was tabled.

100/08 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- (a) To agree payments in accordance with the budget.

|        |                    |           |
|--------|--------------------|-----------|
| 101470 | YRCC               | £35.00    |
| 101471 | RMBC               | £449.07   |
| 101472 | Darfen Durafencing | £9,485.61 |
| 101473 | LD                 | £61.30    |
| 101474 | TD                 | £171.20   |
| 101475 | SK                 | £531.74   |
| 101476 | D Kitchen          | £70.00    |
| 101477 | BJ                 | £220.00   |
| 101478 | YHRTP              | £1,974.00 |
| 101479 | Inland Revenue     | £213.23   |

- (b) Financial Risk Assessment. This item was discussed at the last meeting when it was agreed that if there were any comments on the Financial Risk assessment they be brought to the June meeting. No comments were received.



- (c) The Chairman requested £220 out of his Chairman's Allowance for expenses incurred using his telephone during the last year. Resolved:- That this be agreed.
- (d) Catcliffe Memorial Hall – Grant. This agenda item was discussed at the last meeting when it was agreed that Parish Councillors would like to see a balance sheet prior to a decision being made. GM indicated that the balance sheet was still not completed.

**101/08 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting be held on Wednesday 2 July 2008 at 6.00 pm.

**102/08 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

Councillor Jolly closed the meeting.

RL gave his apologies for the next meeting.

Dated: .....

Signed: .....

## Attendance at Rear of St George's Bungalows.

After some reflection I remember meeting Bob Stocks, Shirley Hallam, Maria Watts, PS Worrall but can't remember Chris Hayes being there, but clearly he must have been.

I am not sure of the correct date as I have looked back in my diaries and can't find any reference to it.

I accept that it must have been some time in May 2008.

I am not sure why I was the only elected member there.

The visit followed many months of being contacted by the residents via phone calls and surgery visits about youths and yobs with anti social behaviour causing distress to the residents.

The visit was made to ascertain what could be done to improve the situation following requests from elected members and after the matter was discussed at a Neighbourhood Action Group.

When the suggestion was put to me that we could clean up the area and install a wayside seat I did say that the idea was rubbish and I still do.

The residents and elected members are still of the opinion that the solution is to be found in closing the steps and erecting a fence.

The first thing Bob stocks said to me was " We can't close an adopted highway", I dispute this because if there is enough evidence then a case can be made.

The members of Brinsworth Parish Council agree with that line of thinking.

I have been involved with this issue on behalf of the residents now for more than 10 years.

If things were said then it is regretful because the main issue has been taken off the agenda and been replaced by a code of conduct issue against me.

We are here to serve our people and we are failing to do that as we are no nearer to find a solution than we were in the first time I visited the site.

I aim to continue to find a solution.

Cllr Littleboy's comments on Draft Report

I attended the multi agency meeting as a local councillor not as Vice Chair of the Police Authority as in 5.28 and 5.29.

I never said that Mark Worrall was "bloody useless" and was not getting him to adopt my views, I wanted him to speak about the many instances of youth nuisance the residents had reported to the police.

I don't want officers to agree with me and do my bidding blindly, I expect councillors and officers to remember we are there to serve our public.

The PCSOs were wrong to say I said "I hated Mark Worrall" I would never say such words., they can be wrong as shown they even got the meeting date wrong.

Para 7.42 has a typo error, and I did not say I would have Mark Worrall removed.

I have nothing more to say except that this issue has been running for 9 months and needs to be finalised as soon as possible.

I had a call the other day from the residents at 2 St Georges bungalows about the same youth nuisance.

the problem is still there and needs to be addressed.