

Mr. J. Fullbrook, Clerk
Steyping Parish Council
Steyping

Dear Mr. Fullbrook

I've received the attached witness statement in the defamation case concerning [REDACTED]

Please see paragraphs 4 & 5 which record the existence of emails held by you and of alleged conversations between you and Mr [REDACTED] and could you let me have copies, if necessary under the FOI Act with names redacted. Thanks.

You will see that Mr [REDACTED] claims you told him that Cllr [REDACTED] and I had demanded that you summon Mr [REDACTED] to the office to meet us and that we suggested that Mr [REDACTED] could attend. I have no recollection of any conversation with you which could be interpreted in this way and I have spoken with Cllr [REDACTED] and he also has no recollection of any conversation with you along these lines.

Could you please let me know how Mr [REDACTED] has come to make these claims? ... You will recall that I visited Victoria Sponge on 30 October 2019. Mr [REDACTED] says he discussed the matter with you the next day, on 31 October. I knew nothing about any upset at Victoria Sponge until [REDACTED] posted about it on Facebook on 23 November 2019 – more than three weeks later. Even then I didn't know there had been any complaint except on Facebook. Mr [REDACTED] claims that you have emails concerning the matter and also claims falsely that we both demanded that you summon Ms [REDACTED] to the Office.

Also, Mr [REDACTED] says in his witness statement "..... [REDACTED]".
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Again, this is not true. Once more, please could you let me know the basis of this claim and if you do not know, at least confirm that you did not say this either to Mr [REDACTED] or to Mr [REDACTED]?

Neither of us even knew that a complaint had been made until very much later. That's why Cllr [REDACTED] wrote to you on 26 November 2019 saying "that there has been no complaint from anyone involved so far as I am aware and that this appears to be another Facebook running of a hare" and his statement in the meeting, as minuted, said "unless and until there was a formal complaint there was nothing more to be done". Both of us thought that the only "complaint" being referred to was the posting on Facebook. You did not tell us that there had been a formal complaint and we certainly were not [REDACTED] as Mr [REDACTED] claims. Please could you confirm that you did not give this false information to Mr [REDACTED] and to Mr [REDACTED] as claimed by them both.

Thank you

Cllr [REDACTED]

Received by [REDACTED]

J. Fullbrook PARISH CLERK
Dated 28th April 21

Hazel Roxby

From: John Fullbrook
Sent: 06 May 2021 15:39
To: Tim Lloyd; Steve Northam; Deborah Hanson; Simon Alexander; Rodney Goldsmith; Joanna Norcross; Chris Young; Paul Campbell
Cc: Hazel Roxby
Subject: FW: FOI Request dated 28th April.
Attachments: FOI Request dated 28th April 2021 from Cllr Goldsmith.pdf; Email Correspondance between Cllr Goldsmith and the Clerk dated 18th - 19th December 2021.pdf; Email correspondance to a resident dated 18th December 2019.pdf

Dear F&GP Team

Please see below an FOI response to Rodney – For your information and in advance of publication.

All documents redacted appropriately.

Kind regards

John

From: Steyning Parish Council - Clerk
Sent: 06 May 2021 15:21
To: Rodney Goldsmith <rodney.goldsmith@steyningpc.gov.uk>
Subject: FOI Request dated 28th April.

Dear Rodney

Please see attached copy of your request (Redacted) and copy of the email correspondence to which I believe your request refers (redacted here but I know you will have a copy and this will no doubt help you find that correspondence). I believe these are the only emails I have concerning this matter and in respect to your FOI request. I can also confirm there has been no email correspondence between myself and [REDACTED] regards this matter as far as I can find other than the one attached. – And this one was asking him to call me following your request that I contact him to ask questions on your behalf.

Regards your other questions, I do not think it appropriate to answer such direct questions relating to an ongoing defamation case in this way.

I can confirm that you and I did not immediately discuss the matter raised initially by [REDACTED] on [REDACTED]'s behalf until sometime after the incident as it was not an official complaint raised by [REDACTED] herself at that time. However I believe the email stream I have copied to you helps in some way to clarify the matter anyway.

Yours Sincerely

John

John Fullbrook
Clerk to the Council
01903 812042

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John Fullbrook

From: John Fullbrook
Sent: 19 December 2019 11:08
To: Rodney Goldsmith
Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

Dear Rodney

If you are putting Council on notice one assumes you will be telling them at some point – please let me know how you propose to do so.

The fact that I declined to do what you asked me to do does not mean that I was being obstructive as you said to me many times on the phone last night – more that I do not believe what you were suggesting was the right way to go about resolving this matter. Sending myself and Hazel or indeed the Wardens round to [REDACTED] Tea shop to then request her presence at our Office so that she could answer questions posed by you to 'set the record straight' remains in my opinion not the way forward as It could after all be misconstrued as bullying and intimidation of a local resident, and I do not appreciate threats against me for not agreeing to this, which by the way I choose not to do partly to safeguard you from causing yourself further issues down the line.

Regards

John

From: Rodney Goldsmith <rodney.goldsmith@steyningpc.gov.uk>
Sent: 18 December 2019 22:37
To: John Fullbrook <john.fullbrook@steyningpc.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: [REDACTED]

Yes it's disappointing that you're not enthusiastic on following up and assisting in this matter. I have the impression that after speaking with [REDACTED] you had a change of mind. As I explained earlier, it doesn't matter what [REDACTED] comments are on how [REDACTED] got her info.....in the first instance it must have come from [REDACTED] to someone and then they intentionally/accidental passed on to others.

This notification formally informs that I asked you for assistance and you as Clerk for SPC declined.

I am proceeding with this issue and therefore, putting Steyning Parish Council on notice which means the Council are directly involved in this matter. SPC via the Amenities Committee requested I visit both Middletons, the estate agents, and [REDACTED] to informally discuss the A board situation and therefore, SPC will be involved in any matters of libel and defamation and with the harassment and bullying I'm personally receiving from people which is very stressful.

Rod Goldsmith, Chairman Steyning Parish Council

From: John Fullbrook <john.fullbrook@steypningpc.gov.uk>
Sent: 18 December 2019 01:57 PM
To: Rodney Goldsmith <rodney.goldsmith@steypningpc.gov.uk>
Subject: [REDACTED]

Hi Rodney

I have spoken with [REDACTED] re the [REDACTED] situation.

He was very clear she had said nothing to him about you being involved with the broken and then missing A-Board. He doesn't know where [REDACTED] got her information from but suggested perhaps you could ask [REDACTED] rather than [REDACTED] seeing as [REDACTED] hasn't posted these statements. He didn't think it appropriate to invite [REDACTED] to the Office and wasn't about to ask her.

He did also say that [REDACTED] had popped in to see her as WSCC rep as he had been made aware of her difficulties and that therefore the appropriate person is now available to her if there are any other issues regarding the pavement adjacent her shop frontage.

From my point of view I would reiterate I would not be willing to suggest [REDACTED] be invited to the Council Office to 'tell her side of the story'. She possibly knows nothing of what others are saying about her and you, and certainly she is not accountable for what other people are choosing to say on Facebook.

I'm sorry but I'm not sure what else I can do now to assist you, though let me know if something springs to mind

Regards

John

John Fullbrook
Clerk to the Council
01903 812042

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John Fullbrook

From: John Fullbrook
Sent: 18 December 2019 12:42
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Victoria Sponge update

Hi [REDACTED]
Are you able to call me when free
Thanks
John

John Fullbrook
Clerk to the Council
01903 812042

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