

Appendix

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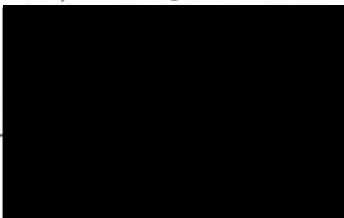
WITNESS STATEMENT

Statement of: COUNCILLOR CLIVE MCGREGOR

Age if under 18: OVER 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: COUNTY COUNCILLOR

This statement (consisting of 5 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature:



Date: 28th June 2011

I was the Leader of Anglesey County Council ("the Council") from May 2009 to May 12th 2011. I was elected to the Council in May 2008.

I am a former Divisional Commander in North Wales Police living and working on Anglesey. I retired in 1997.

Prior to my election I was acutely aware that the reputation of Council was abysmal. I decided that I wanted to stand to try to help with this. I was not affiliated to any political party.

Prior to my election I would say that I had a professional relationship with Councillor Elwyn Schofield. On one occasion we had a difference of opinion but there was very little contact between us prior to my election.

Immediately following the election I was appointed to the Executive Cabinet, with responsibility for highways and transport management. Former Councillor Phil Fowle was the Leader at that time. Councillor Schofield was also selected to be a member of the Executive with responsibility for property and small holdings.

I would say that for almost the whole of 2008 the Executive spent the majority of its time discussing the Craigwen issue. At almost all informal meetings of the cabinet matters were always brought back to this subject in my view these discussions were almost

always instigated and driven by Councillor Schofield. He had major concerns about the Council's decision to bid for this property at auction. These concerns mainly related to the decisions taken at the meeting of Ms Lynn Ball (Monitoring Officer), Mr. Derrick Jones (former Managing Director) and Mr. Arthur Owen (Corporate Director of Environment and Technical Services) on 17 July 2007. Councillor Schofield would constantly question why despite the flawed Executive decision, they determined that it was in the public interest to proceed. I have never understood why he got so concerned by the matter and did not just leave it. We achieved so little during the period because of the constant referrals to it; I consider that it was blown up out of proportion.

I would say that Councillor Schofield was critical of virtually every senior officer within the Council he would question competence, however in my view he was particularly venomous towards Ms Lynn Ball because of events dating back to 2006. He was constantly having a 'pop' at her; he was like a dog with a bone. He constantly brought up that officers were not fit for purpose including Ms Ball. In his criticism of Ms Ball he played a lot on the outcome of the Executive meetings in 2007 which ratified the purchase of Craigwen.

Councillor Schofield would talk out of motion constantly; he was like a dog with a bone. In my view there was no willingness on his part to move forward. He often expressed the view in private sessions that officers were colluding for their own agenda, he was totally and utterly convinced that the officers were not up to the standard he thought they should be. He would raise this at every informal meeting of the Executive, the longer it went on the more frustrated the rest of us became with him. Insofar as Ms Ball is concerned it was not just an issue with competence, I feel it was personal. Initially I would take the view expressed by him and some others, this was particularly so when I was new to the Executive, however I soon felt that there was so much needed to be done and that it was time wasted coming back to the Craigwen issue again and again.

At a meeting of the Executive on 8 September 08, the Cabinet had to consider a report from the monitoring officer in relation to the use of delegated powers for the settlement of complaints of maladministration, I had some concerns which I raised during the meeting. Councillor Schofield also raised concerns but he was very persistent in his challenge, he did not raise his voice at all he never does, he just goes on and on and on. He would have given Ms Ball chance to respond but would have comeback at her

he wouldn't have accepted anything that she would have said regardless of what it had been. His challenge towards the monitoring officer needs to be considered in the long term context of his behaviour at this time.

Since election I myself have felt that some of the Council systems are or were not as good as they ought to be, I have argued this in context of monthly finance reports. However, I consider that Councillor Schofield's behaviour of gradually chipping away at officers and in particular Ms Ball on this occasion his behaviour crossed the line of reasonable challenge.

On one occasion the Leader and Deputy Leader were discussing a particular course of action in a hastily organised meeting of the Executive when it was mentioned that legal advice had to be obtained before a particular action could be taken. Councillor Schofield expressed caution that we would not get independent legal advice from Ms Ball as she was closely involved with the then acting Managing Director, he said we would have to go elsewhere for independent legal advice.

After Christmas 2008 I began to see that the issues being raised by Councillor Schofield were getting personal and not professional. He engaged himself in what I would describe as a pursuit by certain members in the main, a phrase was used "three green bottles" and the aim was to get them removed from the Council. I believe that Councillor Schofield coined this phrase. It has been used in other meetings by other member's since, but I believe that he came up with it. The "three green bottles" referred to were Ms Ball, Mr. Derrick Jones and Mr. David Ellis Williams. The use of this phrase made me feel that we needed to back off here it had become personal.

I must confess I had very cordial relations with the officers, I had no concerns whatsoever where Ms Ball and Mr David Ellis Williams are concerned.

Councillor Schofield was very vocal about his views of senior officers and Ms Ball in particular; he also set out his issues of concern in a typed format. The notes prepared by Councillor Schofield were used by me in December 2008 to write to the Managing Director and were also used in full subject to some minor grammatical errors in the response to the Annual Letter sent to PWC in December 2008, now commonly referred to as the "Paragraph 85" letter. This letter was signed by the then Leader of the Council

Phil Fowlie. Councillor Schofield's notes were returned to him and I did not retain a copy.

On 27 November 2009 there was a meeting meeting with management group and the Executive, at this meeting a written apology was produced in respect of the "Paragraph 85" letter all members present were all going to sign it as a retraction. I had become the Leader of the Council by this time. Councillor Schofield was not at this meeting. Following the meeting I attended at his house with a copy of the letter bearing the signatures. He immediately said he would not he could not sign it. He said he was going to resign from the Council and fight it by election on the principle that he had been "gagged". I told him that if he did not agree to sign it he would not be a member of the Executive any longer. I rang him the next day and he said that he decided not to sign. I replied "fine do not bother coming to the meeting on Monday". I sent a letter to him confirming the situation that evening. I attach a copy of my letter as exhibit "CM1".

The following Monday Councillor Schofield turned up at the meeting of the Executive. I called him aside and reminded him of the decision I had taken and he then left.

Shortly afterwards there was a meeting of the Council on 10 December 2009. During the course of the meeting Councillor Schofield made a statement suggesting that he had never made complaints against officers, I recall thinking that he was a hypocrite. I believe that there was also a reaction by some of the member's; generally people were in disbelief that he made this comment. I knew that it was not true.

I subsequently had cause also to remove him from the Original Independents group, Councillor Schofield specifically went against my wishes and an agreement concerning the appointment of a Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, as a consequence of this I decided to expel him from the group also.

In June 2010 the leaders of the main political groups signed an agreement which is commonly referred to as the "Terms of Engagement" it set out arrangements for power sharing; it set out commitments for collaborative working and group discipline. The agreement specifically named Councillor Schofield and one other member and expressed support for a complaint to the Ombudsman. At this time Councillor Schofield was no longer a member of the Cabinet or the group. I had no hesitation in naming

Councillor Schofield in this agreement and feel satisfied that the ills of the Council are with people like that.

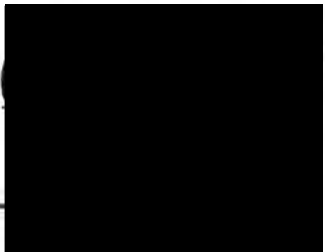
At the end of June 2010 I met with the interim Managing Director, Mr David Bowles to discuss the issues of this complaint. I was fully supportive of it and if he hadn't submitted the complaint to the Ombudsman at that stage, I would have done so.

I am not aware of any problems with Councillor Schofield since the complaint was submitted, I consider that the fact that the complaint is known has made him back off in my view.

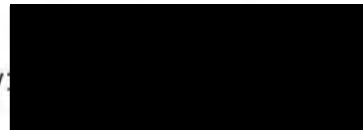
Since my election to the Council I have personally heard Councillor Schofield make what I consider to be unfair and unjustified allegations Ms Ball. I consider that his behaviour towards her has been particularly venomous and motivated by historical events.



Signature



Signature witnessed by





CYNGOR SIR
COUNTY COUNCIL

CLIVE MCGREGOR
Cynghorydd - Councillor

Arweinydd y Cyngor Sir
Leader of the County Council

Swyddfa'r Sir - Council Offices
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Ein Cyf - Our Ref: CMcG/MWJ
Eich Cyf - Your Ref:

6 Tachwedd, 2009.

Cynghorydd Elwyn Schofield,
Olgra,
Marianglas,
Ynys Môn.
LL73 8PL

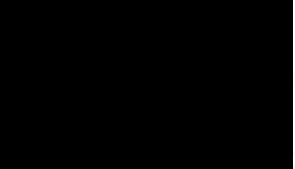
Annwyl Elwyn,

Amgaeaf gopi o'r ddogfen a drafodwyd gennym neithiwr fel y addewais. 'Rwyf yn bryderus o glywed eich bod yn bwriadu ymddiswyddo o'r Cyngor ac yn meddwl gwneud anerchiad cyhoeddus yn y Cyngor Sir am y rhesymau tu cefn i'ch penderfyniad. Deallaf eich bod am hysbysu'r Cyngor mai fi a baratowyd y llythyr dyddiedig 18 Rhagfyr, 2008, a gafodd ei anfon at Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru. Tydwi erioed wedi gwadu mai fy ngwaith i oedd y llythyr ac yn ddigon parod i gydnabod i'r Cyngor llawn mai fi a'i ysgrifennodd.

Nid wyf yn hoffi cael gwn wedi ei anelu at fy mhen i geisio newid fy meddwl ar unrhyw fater ac felly teimlaf mai'r peth gorau fyddai i chwi orffen fel aelod o'r Pwyllgor Gwaith o ddyddiad y llythyr yma. 'Roeddwn wedi gobeithio y byddech wedi derbyn y sefyllfa fod bob aelod arall a oedd tu cefn i'r penderfyniad wedi arwyddo'r llythyr ac yn barod i symud ymlaen.

Byddaf yn cadarnhau cynnwys y llythyr yma gyda chi mewn sgwrs.

Yn awir


Cynghorydd Clive McGregor,
ARWEINYDD Y CYNGOR

CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL

CLIVE McGREGOR
Cynghorydd – Councillor

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Ein Cyf – Our Ref: CMcG/MWJ
Eich Cyf – Your Ref:

6 November, 2009.

Councillor Elwyn Schofield,
Olgra,
Marianglas,
Anglesey.
LL73 8PL

Dear Elwyn,

Please find enclosed a copy of the document we discussed last night, as promised. I'm concerned to hear that you intend on resigning from the Council, and are thinking of making a public address at the County Council as to the reasons leading to your decision. I understand you want to notify the Council of the fact that I wrote the letter dated 18 December 2008, sent to the Wales Audit Office. I have never denied responsibility for writing the letter, and I am more than willing to acknowledge the fact that I wrote the letter to the full Council.

I don't like having a gun aimed at my head, trying to get me to change my mind on any matter, and so I feel the best thing would be for you to resign as a member of the Executive Committee from the

date of this letter. I had hoped you would have accepted the situation – that all other members who were behind the decision signed the letter and are ready to move on.

I will confirm the content of this letter with you when we next speak.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Clive McGregor,
COUNCIL LEADER