

Appendix

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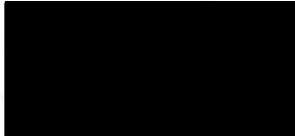
WITNESS STATEMENT

Statement of: **Councillor Robert G Parry OBE**

Age if under 18: **Over 18** (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **Councillor**

This statement (consisting of 3 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature:



Date: 1/7/11

I am an elected member of Anglesey County Council and local member for the Trewalchmai ward. I have been a member of the Council since 1981. I am currently part of the Executive Cabinet.

Councillor Schofield has been an elected member of the Council since my election. Throughout my time as a Councillor I have also sat on a number of the same Committee's as Councillor Schofield.

On 8 September 2008 I chaired a meeting of the Executive. As part of the meeting a report was received from the Head of Legal Services, Ms Lynn Ball concerning complaints of maladministration and the use of delegated powers to settle the same. I recall that Councillor Schofield raised some concerns in relation to this issue. I believe that Councillor Schofield held views against the use of delegated powers, he felt that members should always be involved in a decision and I believe that this is the reason he was going on about it on this occasion.

On this occasion Councillor Schofield raised his concerns with Ms Ball. I am aware that Ms Ball is not one of his favourite persons/officers. However I consider that his approach is the same with all officers of the Council.

This was not however an unusual occurrence we would get it all the time with Councillor Schofield, once he gets his teeth into something he will always refer to it at meetings. My approach towards Council business is somewhat different. I wouldn't go as hard as Councillor Schofield in seeking answers to my questions, I do accept however that everyone has their own way. Councillor Schofield will always demand an answer he will push, in all committees he has something to say on every issue and he wants his point heard and will press it home. It was common in the Executive for members to engage in robust challenges at this time, and on occasion it was necessary for me as Chair to warn Councillor Schofield and many others.

Whilst I consider that Councillor Schofield was persistent in his challenge on this occasion I did not have any concerns about his behaviour. As Chair of the meeting, I would have stopped him if I felt that his challenge was going too far.

The members of the Council are used to Councillor Schofield's ways, he can be quite aggressive. However, I am sure that I did not have any concerns about his behaviour on this occasion in view of the fact that I did not intervene.

I am aware that Councillor Schofield also held strong views about the Craigwen issue. I personally was quite satisfied with the result of the independent investigation into this matter. However, I believe that it is this issue which caused him to get a little bit cross with Ms Ball.

In December 2008 the Executive decided to respond to the draft annual letter issued by the Welsh Audit Office. I was part of the Executive at this time and I was in support of this decision. I was not involved in the preparation of the letter and did not see it before it was sent. I am now aware that Councillors McGregor, Schofield and Fowlie were involved in the drafting of it.

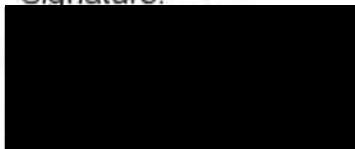
However, we later decided to draw a line under things. We all signed the retraction and apology as we wanted to close the matter. I believe that Councillor Schofield refused to sign letter. I was concerned with the fact that he wouldn't drop issues such as Craigwen and we tried to persuade him but he would not, he still believed that there was something going on that we did not know about and he remained suspicious despite the findings of the PWC report.

On 10 December 2009 at a meeting of the Council, Councillor Schofield stated that he had never complained about any officers of the Council. I recall that I was surprised when I heard this. At this time it was widely known that there were problems between staff and members, Craigwen and the paragraph 85 letter were particularly sore issues. I was not fully aware of the context of his statement and thought that maybe one of the officers had approached him and that he was apologising. I was surprised as I had heard Councillor Schofield say that he was going to complain about officers but I was not aware if he ever did.

It is my understanding that since that time Councillor Schofield has been expelled from the Executive, removed from his group and specifically named in the terms of engagement agreement as a consequence of his behaviour. I was aware that the former Interim Managing Director, David Bowles and Councillor Clive McGregor were experiencing some difficulties with him. I would say that Councillor Schofield is a forceful person and that he likes to get his own way. There have been a few incidents when he has in my view overstepped the boundary or gone further that I would have done personally. I consider that he may have personally targeted David Bowles following the creation of the Terms of Engagement agreement.

However, in my opinion I do not consider that his behaviour towards Ms Ball was different to that of any other officers. I personally have not encountered any problems with Ms Ball I know her family and live in the same area. I have observed Councillor Schofield challenge her in a meeting but in the same way that he would challenge any officer or member. I do not believe that his challenges have been on a personal level.

Signature:



Signature witnessed by:

