

**PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**

Note of meeting with Councillor Joanne Greenwood at 10AM on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

Present; Councillor Joanne Greenwood, Chris Gay Deputy Monitoring Officer and Imelda Grady Democracy Office

Chris Gay explained the purpose of the interview and the process to be followed in relation to the complaint against Councillor Alan Hosker.

Q1. How did you become aware of the post on Councillor Hosker's councillor Facebook page?

JG: By a phone call from a resident who was complaining that the post was horrendous and vile and was racist. The resident was aware of the previous post that Cllr Hosker had put on his Facebook page and referred to this as another racist post. I advised the resident to make the complaint to the Council but [REDACTED] did not want to as they found him intimidating. Also by [REDACTED] via a resident who had complained about the post.

Q2. Did the resident tell you how [REDACTED] felt the post made [REDACTED] feel.

JG: No, but [REDACTED] said it was another racist post on his Facebook page. I went to view the post later on (listening to it through headphones) and could see it was about the Tommy Robinson demonstration and was not surprised that it would have Cllr Hosker's support, I could see there was chanting going on but then I listened to it and within seconds could hear the phrases used and the offensive language, I listened to it for several minutes but not the full 12 minutes. I can't imagine it could have got any worse,

Q3. Were there any comments on the Facebook page.

JG: Yes, comments were made about the lack of coverage of the event by the BBC, Cllr Hosker posted that he was not surprised about the lack of media coverage, one other comment said the BBC shouldn't share it.

Q4. How did the post make you feel?

JG: Sad, very sad that someone representing my Ward would share it, by sharing it he was endorsing it and to feel so confident to put it on his Burnley Councillor Facebook site, people would think it was his professional view. Sad that people would see it.

Q5. Other than putting the video on, were there any comments attributable to Cllr Hosker.

JG: No, but neither did he comment that he didn't agree. In sharing it I feel that he is endorsing it.

Q6. In your view that fact that he had posted it identified his support?

JG: Yes, he endorsed it absolutely. A large amount of people view that page and sharing it was significant. The fact it was on his page as a Councillor not his own private page, he is not setting an example as a Councillor and shows a complete lack of responsibility. It was inappropriate.

Q6. What part of the Council's Code of Conduct do you feel has been breached?

JG: Bringing the office of Councillor into disrepute. There is a complete lack of responsibility and a lack of understanding of his responsibility.

Q7. What would you suggest would be an appropriate outcome?

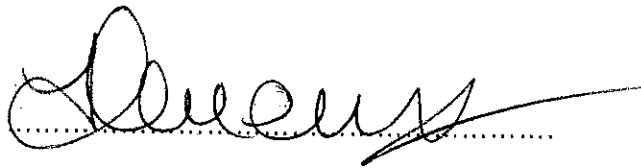
JG: Last time he was asked not to put things like this on Facebook and to put measures in place to ensure the it didn't happen again. This doesn't get monitored and he has done it again. So far his excuse is the same as last time. I hope for a different outcome as the last one hasn't worked in terms of social media and what he puts out there.

He is now demanding a public apology after the complaint. Can we ask that he publically comments on the outcome of the investigation? (CG explained the process and cannot compei a subject member to comment, he also outlined the possible sanctions that a Standards hearing could impose as being a recommendation to the Council that the member be censured; that findings be published; recommend to group leaders that an individual should be removed form a committee)

I have been identified specifically as the complainant and have been vilified on social media for it. It was on the Padiham Community Page but was removed after a day, some of the comments were horrendous and some were attributable to Councillor Hosker.

Councillor Hosker has told the press that investing the complaint will incur costs of £1k for the council. The Burnley Express and Telegraph have reported this and have contacted me for a comment; I referred them to the Council for comment. It has been very stressful and would like a swift conclusion. I can see how people are reluctant to make complaints.

Signed as a correct record:



Name:

JOANNE GREENWOOD

Date:

3/7/18