

## CODE OF CONDUCT INVESTIGATION (Interviews)

Ref: MC Feb 2

CONFIDENTIAL

### Interviewee 1

Interviewer: **Louise Arnold**

Interviewee: **Cllr M Dixon**

Date: **25 April 2023**

#### Preliminary

1. An explanation was given that the investigation was being conducted in accordance with the BDC Councillor Complaints Procedure. Advice was given about the steps, i.e. that after the investigation was complete I would draft my report and send to the parties involved for comment, then finalise my report before sending to the MO for a decision.

#### Questions & responses

2. In the Facebook post by Cllr R Walker he refers to having a conversation with someone, and states “when the witch last spoke to me. She said “You, I will destroy you!!!” [SIC] – have you had any conversations with Cllr R Walker recently or made any similar comments?

*We don't speak – I wouldn't even say hello to him if I saw him.*

3. How did you find out about the Facebook post?

*Somebody (can't recall who) must have told me. I don't follow anyone on Facebook – someone told me so I went and had a look, that's when I saw the post.*

4. Do you have any idea what the Facebook post is referring to?

*Literally no idea what he is talking about. I wouldn't go around talking about other councillors.*

*At a council meeting last night some ladies afterwards asked me about him – he had attended the meeting which was rare as he usually doesn't show up. I showed them the list of attendances at meetings and they were shocked at how few meetings he does attend.*

5. Is there anything else you want to add to your complaint or feel I should know?

*Its horrendous at Clowne, I just want to make a positive difference but we have to continually put up and deal with stuff like this. Ross Walker doesn't attend meetings very often and shouldn't be able to claim the full amount of allowance because he doesn't work for it – we wish there was a way to reduce the amount or only earn an allowance for meetings etc you actually attend.*

## **Interviewee 2**

Interviewer: **Louise Arnold**

Interviewee: **Cllr S Gregory**

Date: **26 April 2023**

### Preliminary

1. An explanation was given that the investigation was being conducted in accordance with the BDC Councillor Complaints Procedure. Advice was given about the steps, i.e. that after the investigation was complete I would write my report before sending to the MO for a decision.

### Questions & responses

2. How did you find out about Cllr R Walker's Facebook post?

*Maxine (Dixon) called me and told me about it.*

3. In the Facebook post, Cllr Walker states "when the Witch last spoke to me. She said "You, I will destroy you!!!" [SIC] – when was the last time you spoke to Cllr Walker?

*I haven't spoken to him since around February 2017 – it was the day of the swimming pool opening – he was abusive, it was disgusting, I haven't spoken to him since then. He hardly attends any meetings and when he does I won't engage with him.*

*Since Feb 2017 he, and his family have verbally abused me and posted lots of things on Facebook about me. He incites hatred, I have lived here all my life and he turns people against me – as soon as you oppose him and say no to him he turns against you and that's it.*

4. The Facebook post not only refers to having spoken to whomever its referring to recently but also that that person has "began casting spells to everyone she cornered in the street and at council. it even along with her medal carried a file of lies about me which she would show to everyone who was to polite to walk away.....But now to get at me it's trying again to stop and hold back Clowne. Just carry on casting spells and playing the

victim you narcissist bitch....” [SIC] – do you know what Cllr Walker is referring to, or have any idea what the post is about?

*Absolutely no idea – people ask me questions about him – he’s been very abusive to and bout the Clerk and we have had to deal with a lot of things. He thinks he can get away with everything.*

5. Is there anything else you want to share about your complaint?

*He thinks he can get away with everything. People won’t confront him because he intimidates them – he needs people who are vocal on his side but doesn’t like it when you turn against him and say no. I am sick of having to keep quiet and keep my cool – I act appropriately but want to tell people the truth. That’s why I am not standing anymore, I want to be able to have my say without getting into trouble.*

*My whole street has concerns, they keep asking me if I am ok, and if I am scared and they keep checking on me. It’s vile, no one will want to stand against him. I can’t defend myself against him, if I do I’d end up breaking the rules. He incites hatred.*

### **Interviewee 3**

Interviewer: **Louise Arnold**

Interviewee: **Cllr N Hoy**

Date: **N/A**

Cllr Hoy was approached with requests (17/4/23 and 26/4/23) to engage in an interview to discuss the complaint but no responses were received.

### **Interviewee 4**

Interviewer: **Louise Arnold**

Interviewee: **Cllr R Walker**

Date: **N/A**

Cllr Walker was approached with requests (20/4/23 and 26/4/23) to engage in an interview to discuss the complaint but no responses were received.