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Darren Stevens
Interim Director of Corporate Resources
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
County Hall
Beverley
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Dear Mr Stevens

Malfeasance in public office by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Parnaby

Thank you for your letter of the 23rd November 2017.

Your contention that my reference to the Cllr. Parnaby Standards Committee investigation referring only to carefully selected items was just an insinuation is incompatible with the facts contained in my letter of 5th November 2017. The true situation has more resemblance to an accused rapist being asked to check his own DNA sample by his prosecutor.

The only evidence that would stand up to cross examination in a witness box is that provided to council officers by me in 19 letters consisting of 45 pages over the last ten months and Cllr Parnaby is very much aware of this and that is why he has remained silent.

Cllr. Parnaby's silence would not survive very long in the witness box, his single attempt at answering the many questions asked of him by myself and others over this period has been his comment to the council's investigating solicitor that he has always kept his council business and his friendship separate, this was immediately proved to be false by the evidence that he introduced his associate builder to another lifelong friend in order to take control of the friends planning application.

The Monitoring Officer, Mathew Buckley's Report to the Standards Committee 7th November 2017 apart from being restricted to easily deniable verbal comments doesn't even report these without bias. My detailed transcript of a recorded conversation regarding Cllr. Parnaby taking along his builder friend to introduce him to a potential developer in order to take control of his development which resulted in the developer throwing everyone out of his house when they gained control of the access and reduced the agreed price by £200,000 following Planning Permission was reported to the Standards Committee as Cllr. Parnaby wishing to sell some land? There was no mention of this in the transcript provided or the verbal evidence which followed in a 1 hour meeting. It is simply misinformation made up in order to mislead and draw the attention away from the actual evidence which was the £200,000 argument and Cllr. Parnaby's involvement in a planning application.

Other misinformation in the report includes a mention of Cllr. Parnaby "going on holiday with a friend"? I have no idea where this came from, my evidence with witnesses was that he did not declare the use of an apartment in Menorca over several years for him and his wife's family which belonged to a building company.

The Monitoring Officers report does mention additional allegations and then states that these have not been discussed with Cllr Parnaby as the connection with the investigation was unclear and in any event are unsupported by any evidence. This is just nonsense, what credibility does a not guilty verdict have when the defence selects which accusations to use and which witnesses to allow?

Mathew Buckley would not be allowed in a court of law to ignore, as he clearly has, the extensive evidence provided to him of Cllr. Parnaby`s offences. My six page letter of the 24th August 2017 and its follow up reminder 2nd October includes seven items of serious wrongdoing by this rogue councillor, some of which are clearly criminal offences, has not even received an acknowledgement. What is the point of a Monitoring Officer who cannot do his job? He is just cheating the taxpayers who fund his six figure salary.

Thank you for providing the correct figure for the increased salary of Alan Menzies following his recent promotion. The actual amount is of no importance, the major significant fact is that the way this was handled by Cllr. Parnaby was in breach of the ERYC Constitution on several counts.

The Appointments Committee chaired by Cllr. Parnaby on 16th January 2017, behind closed doors with the press and public excluded, discussed the appointment of Alan Menzies without it being on the Agenda therefore denying the councillors and the public the five clear days notice required by the Constitution and prior to this new role being agreed by other councillors and also denying others the chance to apply following advertising the position.

The far more serious breach of the code of conduct by Cllr. Parnaby was to chair this Appointments Committee consisting of him and only three others in order to promote and financially reward Alan Menzies unopposed without disclosing that Menzies was in fact a close personal friend of his.

This is not the first time Cllr. Parnaby has chaired meetings without disclosing an interest as my previous letters have indicated. Item 6 in my letter 24th August 2017 to Mathew Buckley details another “behind closed doors meeting” chaired by him involving hundreds of thousands of pounds of taxpayers money and his close friends, Sue Lockwood and Darryl Stephenson.

These three benefiting council officers are not just work colleagues they are very close long standing friends of Cllr. Parnaby`s, they enjoy days out, meals out, and getting together. This is not the first time this outrageous scandal has been brought up and it is therefore not credible that the question has not been asked of Cllr Parnaby so why has he never publicly commented on this very serious accusation?

His refusal to give evidence totally diminishes the Monitoring Officers “no evidence” comments.

Yours sincerely

Peter Robinson

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