

Complaint 2

Complaint in black, response from Barr community council in blue italics

Preamble

The complaint had timed out the Scheme quoted 4 week window to submit a complaint and no reason was given to consider it outside the suggested period of time. The chair again asked that we give the <position> of the <organisation> the courtesy of discussing the complaint even though it is a breach of the scheme. All Agreed.

To whom it may concern

I am putting this formal complaint in as a member of the public that attended Barr community council meeting in. November 2022.

My complaint is against Tom Walker (chairman)

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his conduct in dispensing the link officer to the public gallery and refusing him a chance to speak. This in my mind was totally unnecessary, Tom could easily have explained that the link officer was to sit in the gallery before the meeting started and explain his reasons at start of meeting. Instead he chose to publicly humiliate and intimidate the link officer in a way that was in my mind akin to bullying.

Issue: expulsion of link officer

Comments made by community council during discussion:

- Due to interference with Barr community's wind farm funding, disruptive behaviour and divisive attitude at previous meeting Chris Campbell was asked to join the public.*
- While a bit theatrical, this was justified by previous actions of the Link Officer.*

Views of chair as subject of complaint:

It was not against the Scheme and was justified by the previous behaviour of the Link Officer.

He failed to distribute or oversee the distribution of minutes of the previous meeting (October meeting) to the link officer or any members of the public who attended the November meeting .

He allowed the inaccurate October minutes to be proposed and seconded but would not allow one of the community councillors who had concerns about accuracy of the minutes to raise his concerns and these be rectified. He blatantly stopped the concerned councillor from having time to speak about these issues in a manner akin to the way he treated the link officer at the beginning of the meeting.

Issue: minutes not sent to non-members of community council

Comments made by community council during discussion:

Barr community council follows Scheme which lists who gets minutes. Incorrect information had been provided by previous Link Officer to <organisation> stating that members of public should receive draft minutes.

The minutes were passed following the Scheme. Only one dissension was recorded by the community councillor who is also a trustee of the <organisation>, a conflict of interest which had been recorded previously.

It was reiterated that meetings are being held in an atmosphere of intimidation, highlighting the extended public attendance at both November and January meetings.

Extract from email from former South Ayrshire Council Link Officer, mentioned above

“2 members of the public, present at the October meeting, were also present at the November meeting. They did not receive a copy of the Minutes from the October meeting and were not consulted for accuracy of the Minutes. As they were not in receipt of a copy of the draft Minutes at any point they were not in a position to make any comment.”

My 2nd concern is regarding <second CC member> another community councillor putting inflammatory statements on social media before and after the November meeting. I feel is totally unnecessary and not becoming of a community council representative.

Response:

Inflammatory comment was:

“Community council tonight. It's going to be like a bear pit, except there are also snakes and scorpions in the bear pit and the bears are hungry and radioactive and the bear pit is full of sewage”

Previously dealt with internally using Scheme section 16. Public apology made.

To say I was saddened by the manner the meeting was conducted in November is an understatement and is not becoming of a group that is there to act as a conduit between villagers and village groups and the main council.

Since my late teens I have been associated with many groups ,chairman of <organisation>, chairman of <events>, vice chairman of <organisation>,I am currently <position> and I am on the council (trustee) of <organisation> a world wide organisation.

In all my years of being part of organisations I have seen many forms of chairmanship but what I saw at Barr on that November evening was the worst form of chairmanship I have ever witnessed.

Issue: lack of professionalism of the group and chair

No discussion required for this comment

Votes:

Issue 1: Expulsion of Link Officer due to his behaviour

No merit, all agreed.

Issue 2 & 3

Previously covered by <organisation> complaint

Issue 4: Social media statements

Previously covered

Issue 5

No merit, all agreed.

Closing discussion:

The complaints were considered in detail for over two and a half hours on the 24th January 2023 with an officer of South Ayrshire Council present.

It was noted that tensions remained very high within the village, the complaints have been very stressful to all involved and the suspension brought unnecessary strain to all involved

Full complaint without comment

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