

Complaints by Mr J Prior and Councillor Robert Phipps against Councillor Alison Eden

Appendix 1

1. Comments from Councillor Eden

- (a) Paragraph 8.3 relating to “He added that she spends half her life on a plane but she opposes air travel”

Comment from Councillor Eden

“This is absolute fiction! I’ve never met Jim Prior. How would he know how often I travel for work? I think I flew about 5 times in the whole of 2019. Unbelievable.”

- (b) Paragraph 8.7 – relating to “She is throwing shit in his opinion and some of it will stick. There was absolutely nothing wrong at the meeting. She has gone on the attack.”

Comment from Councillor Eden

“‘throwing shit’ is a very low brow expression in the same vein as ‘go fuck yourself’. It’s interesting that the language that I am accused of using which is not my language is clearly the language of my accusers!”

2. Comments from Mr Prior

“Thank you for draft report on my complaint about Councillor Eden’s behaviour, whilst I understand that it is very difficult to ascertain the true facts by telephone I feel that my complaint has been ‘downgraded’ and I would comment on your report as follows.

Paragraph 6.5 - My letter was in response to her front page article regarding me intimidating her. Although not named it was obvious from the carefully worded piece of journalism that she was referring to me. I was not asked by the Monitoring Officer not to go to the press, this is a lie and I have all the e-mails from Karen Trickey to confirm this and how would Councillor Eden know this anyway. Therefore her claim that this claim is vexatious is without merit.

Paragraph 9.1 - I refute the insinuation that I used a sexist term by the use of the word ‘screamed’. Screamed, shouted, hollered, yelled

are all words that I would use to describe somebody who is using an inappropriate volume of speech in a specific context. I believe Councillor Eden's use of the word sexist is used in the same manner as vexatious in 6.5, to lessen the impact of her behaviour to me by besmirching and questioning my character.

Paragraph 9.7 - Councillor MacGregor was at the meeting as a member of the public, not as a Councillor as he is not a member of the Town Council. Clearly he is associated with Councillor Eden as they arrived and left together. In order to add balance and fairness to your investigation surely it would have been appropriate to interview my wife who was also present in the same capacity as Councillor MacGregor rather than rely on Councillor Eden and MacGregor's testimony.

Paragraph 9.8 - I disagree. When somebody looks at you and replies to your comments by telling you to 'fuck off' and then 'go fuck yourself' it is clear and unambiguous to whom that is directed at. This is confirmed in 7.5 and 9.3 by Councillor Phipps and would have been by my wife if you have accorded her the same status as Councillor MacGregor as per my comments on 9.7 above

Paragraph 10.6 - I disagree. There is ample evidence in your report (7.3, 7.5, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4) to confirm that she used the word 'fuck', in a swear word context and format directly at me, the only questionable aspect is whether 'go fuck yourself' was used directly at me, Councillor Matthews or everybody in the room, which on the balance of probabilities it is unlikely to be the latter. This again could have been confirmed by my wife as per 9.7 above.

Paragraph 10.7 - I disagree. As above you have been told by Councillor Phipps, Councillor Matthews, other un-named witness and my wife if you had interviewed her that Councillor Eden told me to 'fuck off' as a minimum.

Whilst understanding the difficulties you face in conducting an investigation remotely and by telephone, I feel that this has been engineered down to be perceived as a disagreement between two political opposed Councillors by cunning use of manipulation. For example, 9.11. 'Overheard in a cafe', 'Sssh there's David', 'gossiping about Councillor Eden'. Really, is this evidence or an attempt to victimise Councillor Eden? I also note that you haven't listed Councillor Cox in 5.2, did this so called evidence come from Councillor Cox or via Councillor Eden?

I am sure you would agree it is far better outcome for Councillor Eden to be found to be in breach of the Council's Code of Conduct with regard to Councillor Matthews that can be dismissed as the 'rough and tumble' of politics rather than swearing and being abusive to a member of the public.

3. **Comments from Councillor Phipps**

“Councillor Alison Eden is a formidable woman highly educated I believe at Oxford university and in no way is a shrinking violet. I think it could be practically impossible to verbally bully council Eden, she is an excellent public speaker and more than able to cope with the rigours of the council chamber. I thought that this complaint that I lodged against Councillor Eden was to be based on the facts and events that took place at the council meeting on the night in question.

I had no intention to dig up the past events or indiscretions of anyone. But seeing as Cllr Eden has brought up my past and the past of our MP by way of subterfuge a smokescreen in some way make out that my action is purely for revenge is absolutely ridiculous. Council Eden is using every trick in the book to try and squirm out of her uncomfortable position at the moment.

As far as I can see Mr Austin with the greatest of respect to you by the wording of your report and your interpretations of your findings it looks as if you have fallen for her story hook line and sinker.

I have had in my possession for some time a video clip of Councillor Alison Eden at what I believe was taken at National Liberal Democratic conference in full flow I did not send this to you previously as I did not think it was relevant to my complaint but as you have seen fit to include evidence of my past long before I was a councillor I think it only right and proper that you take this clip into consideration.

As you can see by this clip Councillor Eden has no qualms about using foul language in public it is my understanding she was reading out the words of another but even so to my mind there are ways of toning down the use of the F Word without actually saying fuck or other inappropriate words in public.

This is just a taster of the foul language that she deems fit for use while in public office. To say this type of language is beyond her vocabulary is totally inaccurate.

Paragraph 2.1 - Council Eden did most definitely direct the words go fuck yourself at Mr Pryor. This was in response to Councillor Eden swearing and using foul language in the council chamber directed at Councillor Matthews and Mr Prior complaining that the use of foul the language in front of his wife was disgraceful. To be very clear Cllr Alison Eden walked in Mr Prior’s direction looked at him as she was leaving the chambers and said in the direction of his face A GO FUCK YOURSELF. I am a Christian and I

am happy to swear on the holy bible to this fact .

Paragraph 6.2 - The fact that Councillor Eden has mentioned that she thinks I am on some sort of revenge mission against her is incorrect I have stuck to the factual happenings that occurred at the council meeting in question. I can prove that I have no malice against Councillor Eden as if I did I would've sent you this enclosed video clip sometime ago at the beginning of this investigation but I felt it had no bearing at that time , but since you're taking Councillor Eden's evidence against me as to character I feel you should take this video clip into consideration as to her character. “