

Date of meeting: 31st July 2007

Attendees: Councillor Roger Hollingworth, Leader of the Council and Thelma Warwick.

Purpose: to obtain Councillor Hollingworth's recollections of the Council meeting held on 27th February 2007 and of a Conservative Group meeting held prior to the Council meeting.

Meeting notes recorded by Thelma Warwick

1. It was confirmed that Councillor Hollingworth is currently the Leader of the Council.
2. Councillor Hollingworth confirmed that a Conservative Group meeting was held on Monday 26th February 2007. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the budget prior to the Council meeting that was to take place the following day.
3. Conservative Group meetings are minuted by Councillor Dyer and Councillor Hollingworth suggested that Thelma Warwick contacts Councillor Dyer to obtain a copy of the minutes for the 26th February meeting.
4. Members attend Conservative Group meetings in their official capacity. Meetings are only attended by Conservative Councillors at Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) and discussions are in relation to BDC business.

The Conservative Association holds meetings for political purposes which are totally separate from the Group meetings.

5. Councillor Hollingworth recalls that at the 26th February Conservative Group meeting Councillor Newnes had prepared a paper concerning Bromsgrove Rovers football club which was distributed to each member of the Group.

During the discussion in relation to this paper, Councillor Hollingworth recalls that:

- Councillor Peter Whittaker and Councillor Margaret Sherrey both brought to Councillor Newnes' attention that he has a prejudicial interest in Bromsgrove Rovers football club.
 - One individual said that Councillor Newnes is paid by the club for the discos that he runs.
 - Councillor Newnes asked the Group to support giving Bromsgrove Rovers football club a grant.
 - It was suggested that either Bromsgrove Rovers could submit a grant application or could put a case forward for Bromsgrove youngster to play football at the Victoria Grounds (that is, the ground where Bromsgrove Rovers play).
 - At the end of the discussion the Group had agreed to support giving Bromsgrove Rovers a grant
6. Councillor Hollingworth brought to Thelma Warwick's attention the fact that BDC do not give grants at all. Accordingly, the proposal to give a grant to Bromsgrove

Rovers never went through the Chamber as Councillor Hollingworth refused to take it.

7. At the Council meeting held on 27th February 2007 Councillor Hollingworth recollects that the discussion in relation to Bromsgrove Rovers took place as part of the Leaders announcements. Furthermore, he recollects Councillor Newnes being involved in the discussion and packing up and leaving the meeting before it was officially closed.
8. According to Councillor Hollingworth, the Conservative Association has brought Councillor Newnes to task over his relationship with Bromsgrove Rovers football club.
9. Councillor Hollingworth is aware that Councillor Newnes was made the Chairman of the Bromsgrove Football Development Plan committee shortly after the 26th February Conservative Group meeting. Councillor Hollingworth is not sure whether Councillor Newnes was a member of the committee prior to being made Chairman.
10. Councillor Hollingworth perceives that Councillor Newnes has tried to achieve a financial gain for an organisation that he represents.
11. Thelma Warwick asked Councillor Hollingworth if he would like to review a copy of these meeting notes; Councillor Hollingworth replied that he does not need to see a copy.