

**From:** [Russell Hawker](#)  
**To:** ["Charlie finbow"](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Private and Confidential

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Hi Charlie

Many thanks for your response.

I will send this all to the Monitoring Officer exactly as it is laid out below. He may contact you just to verify everything.

Regards  
Russell

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**From:** Charlie finbow [mailto: ]  
**Sent:** 28 September 2012 20:21  
**To:** russell hawker  
**Subject:** RE: Private and Confidential

Russell

See my replies in blue below the questions.

Kind regards  
Charlie

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**From:** russell.hawker@  
**To:**   
**Subject:** Private and Confidential  
**Date:** Fri, 28 Sep 2012 17:31:20 +0100

**To:**  
Charles Finbow

Dear Charlie

As discussed recently, I am being investigated by a County Hall standards investigator on behalf of the monitoring officer in relation to an allegation of a breach of the code of conduct made by former town councillor Ian Taylor.

It would be helpful if you would please answer some question by replying to this email so that I can forward the information to the monitoring officer to help him understand the relevant circumstances that occurred at certain times in relation to the Laverton Refurbishment Project whilst Ian Taylor was involved.

Please put you answers in blue text below my questions.

Please answer the following questions as best you can:

1. When were you first elected to Westbury Town Council and which party were you a member of at the time?

[2003 Conservative](#)

2. When were you re-elected to Westbury Town Council and which party were you a member of at the time?

[2007 Conservative](#)

2a. When did you resign off the town council?

2010

3. When were you the Mayor (with start and finish dates)?

May 2007 - May 2008

4. When did you join the Laverton Management working group (aka "LITMC") and when did you leave?

Cant remember but Gordon King was chair and Stephen Andrews was chair when I left the committee

5. Were you involved on the LITMC during the period when Ian Taylor was involved between September 2006 and March 2009?

Yes

6. Do you recall the full town council meeting on 4th September 2006 when the Laverton Business Plan was adopted and what was unusual about the way that the councillors voted (ie. for or against)?

Yes. It was unanimous

7. Do you recall a meeting of LITMC that occurred by the end of September 2006 when Ian Taylor was presented to the group as a new neighbour of the Mayor (Cllr Pam Cox-Maidment) and did you attend that meeting?

Yes

8. What did Ian Taylor say at the above mentioned first LITMC meeting with him about his ability to run all kinds of projects and, in particular, what did he say about his skills and ability to research and obtain grants that were needed to progress the refurbishment project?

He convinced the committee, apart from you, that he was the man for the job.

9. Did he specifically say that he had the all round ability to apply for and obtain grants that the building qualified for and if they were available he could do the job of applying for and obtaining them for the project?

Yes

10. Do you recall a LITMC meeting that both you and I attended in December 2006 or January 2007 when Ian Taylor announced that he had concluded his research on the Heritage Lottery Grant scheme and he told everyone that the project would not qualify for the HLF grant at all and that the business plan was fundamentally wrong and that we should be pursuing a Big Lottery Grant application instead? What did he say?

He had spoken personally to HLF and told us he was advised to apply for BLF Funding

11. As a result, what did the LITMC group vote to do?

Go with the Big Lottery Fund. You objected.

12. What did I say about his assertion that we should drop the HLF application and go for a Big Lottery Grant application?

That Ian Taylors advice was all wrong and rubbish as HLF had confirmed in writing that the project would be suitable for them if we apply in the right way.

13. Is it true to say that the LITMC were very keen to obtain grants and that Ian Taylor had taken charge of grant applications by the end of 2006?

Yes

14. Is it fair to say that I disagreed with all or most aspects of Ian Taylor's approach to applying for grants and that I refrained from being involved in this aspect of the project?

Yes

15. Did Ian Taylor obtain any grants at all in any way?

No.

16. Did the process of obtaining grants make any positive forward movement during Ian Taylor's involvement in the project between September 2006 and March 2009? If so, how?

No.

17. What were the consequences for the project as a result of the failure to obtain grants?

The project ground to a halt and was delayed until John Parker was appointed to lead the project and obtain grants. Also the hall manager was fired to cut costs and the hall was closed to the public for ad hoc lettings because the council had lost confidence in the project and was not prepared to carry the losses the hall was making due to the refurbishment not having yet happened. As a result, most of the preparation work done by the committee such as obtaining a schedule of works, tenders and quotes was wasted.

18. Do you feel that Ian Taylor failed to show that he was able to obtain grants?

He said he was the person we needed to obtain grants when he got involved and yet he didn't obtain any grants . So yes .

18a. How important to the project and the council was it that the person handling grant applications knew what they were doing and had the competence to apply for the right grants in the right way at the right time and were able to accomplish the task competently?

Imperative

18b. Did LITMC members and / or the council believe that Ian Taylor was appointed to handle grant applications whilst he was involved as project co-ordinator (between October 2006 - May 2007) and then that he was leading the process whilst he was LITMC chair (between May 2007 - March 2009)?

Yes

19. Given that the project manager, John Parker, appointed in 2009 to lead the project and obtain grants had immediate success in obtaining a variety of grants during a recession when grants were in less supply and given that Ian Taylor had ample opportunity to apply for any grant he chose during 2006 - 2008 (before the recession when grants were abundantly available), do you feel that Ian Taylor failed to provide the skills and result in obtaining grants that he had claimed he would provide back in September 2006 when he first told the LITMC what he could do if appointed to help the LITMC?

He failed to obtain any grants

20. Did Ian Taylor misrepresent his abilities to obtain grants to the LITMC when he joined the LITMC? If so, why?

I don't know if he misled but he failed to do what he said he would do, which was apply for and get the grants we needed.

21. Would you find it odd that the town council now has no records of any LITMC meetings from May 2006 until May 2007? How many LITMC meetings do you think occurred during this period?

Totally shocked . It seems to me astonishing . I cant think it was an error. Cant remember but a lot of meetings that's for sure.

I look forward to your reply ASAP, please.

Regards

Russell

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