

Witness Statement of Lewis Corbett

- 1. I, Lewis Corbett, am making this statement with regards to issues to be considered by Enfield Council Licensing Sub-Committee at a forthcoming review of the Club Premises Certificate of Ponders End and District Smallholders Association Limited.
- 2. I am a member of the committee of Ponders End and District Smallholders
 Association limited, having been re-elected at an AGM held on 11th June, unopposed.
 I have been on the committee for approximately 2 years
- 3. I am making this statement as a result of several incidents that occurred on different dates through 2016 and 2017.
- 4. As part of my role on the committee and indeed as a member of the Association I am aware that there is a group of individuals who have been causing the Association significant difficulties and generally disrupting the effective running of the Association.
- 5. As part of my duties as one of the clubhouse's (now former) barmen, I was responsible for managing the premises, serving customers etc. On 15th April 2017 Ms Monique Andrew-Vassell entered the clubhouse, and asked me for some toilet tissue. Ms Andrew-Vassell is one of the individuals referred to in my point above. Despite this, I paused my duties in the clubhouse to go to get some toilet tissue for her.
- 6. When I returned, I witnessed Ms Andrew-Vassell removing printed notices from the clubhouse tables, and proceeding to screw these up. When I asked her what she was doing, she immediately became confrontational towards me, a complete contrast to her approach and tone moments before. Ms Andrew-Vassell told me that what was printed on the notices was "complete lies". She then began to shout at me that she would not leave the premises, and that I could not tell her to do so. At no point had I asked Ms Andrew-Vassell to leave the premises; I merely queried why she was screwing-up notices.
- 7. At this point she left the clubhouse, and I noticed other members of the group mentioned at point 4 above. A little while later, the police arrived and entered the clubhouse to talk to me. They explained that they had been told that I had made threats towards Ms Andrew-Vassell. I explained that this was untrue, and the police (I believe) went back outside to speak to Ms Andrew-Vassell. A short time later the police came back in to advise me that they were leaving. I never heard any more from them with regards to the allegations made against me by Ms Andrew-Vassell. No action was taken against myself, and nor (as far as I am aware) was any taken against Ms Andrew-Vassell.
- 8. I have also received letters through the post signed by another member of the above mentioned group Ms Bradford. These letters made me feel very uncomfortable, and made demands that I was required to attend meetings with Ms Bradford and others, apparently to discuss my continued employment as a barman.

- Not wishing to inflame the situation with Ms Bradford's group, I took the decision to just ignore these letters.
- 9. Despite this, I continued to receive letters, making similar demands of me. For this reason, in early May 2017 I contacted the non-emergency police department, stating that I wished to report instances of harassment and intimidation note by this point I was aware that members of Ms Bradford's group were apparently prepared to use physical violence in their attempts to take over the running of the Association/clubhouse (despite them not having any authority to do so) Felial not wish to fall victim to these, hence my call.
- 10. I was interviewed on approx. 3rd May 2017 by officers, who took a statement from me as to the actions of Mr Bradford and others in her group, and as to how they actions made me feel. I explained that I felt harassed. The police advised me that the incidents I had described were more civil matters, than police matters, but they did advise me that I could contact them again if any further incidents occurred.
- 11. Another incident occurred on 27th April 2017 when I was on duty in the clubhouse. The same group of individuals already mentioned entered the clubhouse and told me and the customers within that we were required to leave, so that the locks could be changed.
- 12. This concerned me a great deal, particularly as the police were also in attendance with the group. I calmly asked the customers to ignore any requests made of them from the group, explaining that they were just trying to disrupt the running of the clubhouse again. When the customers began to challenge the authority of the group to make such demands/orders, the police then told the group that they did not have any power to make such demands. The police then left, and to my relief, so did the other group. Again, I felt intimidated by them in my place of work.

13. I believe the contents of this my Statement are true

Signed

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Witness Statement of Tracey Dawson

- 1. I, Tracey Dawson, of matters to be considered by the Enfield Council Licensing Sub-Committee.
- 2. I am a member of the Committee of Ponders End and District Smallholders
 Association Limited, and was re-elected unopposed to the committee on 11th June
 2017. I have served on the Committee for approximately 8 years.
- 3. I am making this statement with regards the actions of a particular individual on 1st January 2017.
- 4. On that date I was in the Clubhouse of the Association for the purposes of taking subscriptions from members for their annual fees. Also present were Colin Corbett, Angela Powell, Joanne Outhwaite, Steve Outhwaite and Lin Marsh.
- 5. It should be pointed out at this stage that the Association have been having difficulties over a significant period of time from a particular group of individuals. The difficulties have been through intimidation tactics, idle threats and general disruptive behaviour. Their sole aim has been to disrupt the running of the Association.
- 6. On 1st January 2017 whilst in the clubhouse a gentleman entered the club who we know as 'Dr Vaughan Watson'. We know this individual to be associated with the group who have been causing us difficulties.
- 7. He entered the clubhouse when the club was not open except for members to pay their subscriptions to the committee. He is not, and never has been a member of the Association.
- 8. He sat down on one of the seats nearest the dartboard. He was invited to leave as he had no entitlement to be in the clubhouse at all, let alone when the clubhouse was not officially open.
- 9. He refused to leave and then he got up and went to walk down towards the end of the clubhouse where the bar is situated. Myself and Angela Powell were stood in front of him, Colin Corbett was behind him at the time. The idea of standing in front of him was to discourage him from further entering the clubhouse.
- 10. All of a sudden and without warning he pushed me hard to the chest area causing me to fall backwards over a chair and table, causing pain to my back.
- 11. He was prevented from further assaulting me by the others present. He was repeatedly told to leave but refused to do so and in fact remained in the clubhouse in his original seated position until the police arrived. The police had been called by Steve Outhwaite as soon as the incident happened.
- 12. As soon as he had assaulted me and we were telling him to leave other members of the group entered the clubhouse and were filming the situation. This group included Vivienne Nicholas, Laurie Bradford, Bill Haydes and Liseby Hector. This group became quite yocal and also failed to leave or assist us to have Dr Vaughan Watson removed.
- 13. The police arrived and spoke to the parties. We were able to show the police CCTV footage of the incident as the clubhouse has CCTV inside.

- 14. I was very shaken by the whole incident and at the time was advised of my options as to how to proceed with the matter. After consideration I advised the police that I did want the matter taken further as I felt that this man had assaulted me in an entirely unprovoked manner.
- 15. The group left and I was subsequently advised by the police that he had been interviewed and the outcome was that he had received an adult caution having admitted the offence.
- 16. I can confirm that the reference number for this incident that I was given is 5200035/17.
- 17. I was also advised that the police had told him that he was not to attend the site of the Association any more. He is not entitled to be on the club premises in any event as he is not a member. Nonetheless he has been to the site since.
- 18. A copy of the CCTV has been made available to Enfield Council which clearly shows the incident taking place.
- 19. I believe the contents of this my Statement are true

T. Dauson

Signed



Witness Statement of Jenny Page

- 1. I, Jenny Page, of production with regards to issues to be considered by Enfield Council Licensing Sub-Committee at a forthcoming review of the Club Premises Certificate of Ponders End and District Smallholders Association Limited.
- 2. I am a member of the committee of Ponders End and District Smallholders Association limited, having been re-elected at an AGM held on 11th June, unopposed. I have been on the committee for approximately 3 years
- 3. I am making this statement as a result of an incident that occurred on 12th March 2017.
- 4. As part of my role on the committee and indeed as a member of the Association I am aware that there is a group of individuals who have been causing the Association significant difficulties and generally disrupting the effective running of the Association.
- 5. As a committee member one of my roles is to operate the trading hut on Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday mornings. This is on a voluntary basis only.
- 6. On 12th March I was in the Trading Hut, it was a Sunday morning.
- 7. It was shortly before 12pm on that date that I was on my own in the shop. All of a sudden an individual came into the shop that I know as Vivienne Nicholas and had in her hand a white piece of paper which she was waving around. She was very determined in her tone and was saying that I had to leave and that I no longer had any authority to be in the trading hut and that I had to hand over all the books and the keys.
- 8. I was shocked by this and didn't know what to do. She was followed into the trading hut by 6-8 other individuals who are also members of their group including Faye Bernard, Winston Binns, Phillip Nicholas etc.
- 9. As said I was in shock, I had no idea what to do, I was being told I had to leave, items were being demanded from me and I just didn't know how to deal with the situation at all as I was on my own. It was a very intimidating situation to be in. I didn't feel I had any choice but to comply with their request.
- 10. I picked up my personal property and handed over the keys and left and went into the clubhouse straightaway to tell others what had happened. I told Colin Corbett, who was in the clubhouse, and he called the police immediately. The CAD reference 3754 refers to this.
- 11. The police attended and spoke to the parties concerned and then had the other group hand the keys back to us as they had no authority to take them in the first place.
- 12. There was no further action by the police at this time but after the police left Vivienne came into the clubhouse and in a rather sheepish fashion had to ask if we could retrieve items that she had left in the trading hut. Colin Corbett went across

with her and allowed her to retrieve her property. Her tone was very different compared to how she had behaved earlier in the day when they first came in. 13. I believe the contents of this my Statement are true

Signed

4. Page



Witness Statement of Colin Corbett

- I, Colin Corbett, am making this statement with regards to issues to be considered by Enfield Council Licensing Sub-Committee at a forthcoming review of the Club Premises Certificate of Ponders End and District Smallholders Association Limited.
- I am a member of the committee of Ponders End and District Smallholders
 Association limited, having been re-elected at an AGM held on 11th June, unopposed.
 I have been on the committee for more than 8 years
- 3. I am making this statement as a result of several incidents that occurred on different dates through 2016 and 2017.
- 4. As part of my role on the committee and indeed as a member of the Association I am aware that there is a group of individuals who have been causing the Association significant difficulties and generally disrupting the effective running of the Association.
- 5. I was present at the committee meeting held on 11th August 2016 to which the police were called. This was as a result of two individuals with no right to sit-in on committee meetings trying to gain entry. The police attended, the situation (which had become heated) was diffused, and no action was taken against any party.
- 6. I was also in the clubhouse on the morning of 1st January 2017 when Tracey Dawson was physically assaulted by Dr Vaughan Watson for which he received an official police caution.
- 7. As part of my duties as one of the clubhouse's barmen, I am responsible for opening the premises each morning so that business can commence. On the morning of 23rd April 2017 whilst attempting to open the clubhouse, I was confronted and surrounded in the clubhouse by a number of individuals from the group being led by Mr Haydes and Ms Bradford.
- 8. I believe that this group has deliberately "lain in wait" for me that morning, with the intention of intimidating and harassing me. The group surrounded me, and attempted to read to me a pre-prepared letter. I advised them that I did not wish to hear from them, but they ignored this, and continued to surround me.
- 9. At this point, slightly fearing for my own personal safety, and wishing to get on with my job, I telephoned for the police to attend. They did so attend, and I was able to get into the clubhouse, away from the group of individuals outside.
- 10. I have also received letters through the post from Mr Haydes' and Ms Bradford's group. These letters have been sinister in tone I believe, attempting to convince me that my job was at risk. The letters also made demands that I make available to them copies of my pay slips, and other documentation. I reasonably in my view consider such documentation to be private and personal to myself. Therefore, at no point have I responded to any of these letters, or acquiesced to any of the demands made of me.
- 11. I was also telephoned by the barman on duty on the afternoon of 27th April 2017 and by members of the Association who were there too when a group of

individuals entered the clubhouse and told customers to leave, as they were there to change the locks. The customers and staff quite rightly refused to do so. The police were in attendance at this time too, and I had made my way to the premises when they advised the group of individuals that they had no authority to make such demands.

12. I believe the contents of this my Statement are true

Signed

Witness Statement of Linda Marsh

- 1. I, Linda Marsh, of , am making this statement with regards to the forthcoming review by Enfield Council Licensing Committee of the Club Premises Certificate held by Ponders End and District Smallholders Association Limited.
- 2. I am a member of the Association and have been for 36 years as both a plotholder and latterly an associate member. I am also the current, elected, secretary of Ponders End and District Smallholders Association Limited. I was re-elected to that
- role at the Annual General Meeting held on 11th June 2017 and was elected unopposed.
- 3. I am making this statement in respect of several incidents that have occurred that I have been witness to.
- 4. Over the past 3 years approximately a small group of individuals have continuously tried to cause disruption to the Association. There have been incidents of threatening and abusive language and indeed intimidation and ultimately violence.
- 5. The individuals responsible have since purported to form their own committee and claim to be legitimate in their attempts to take over the running of the Association.
- 6. I recall that on show day in September 2016 there were stalls set up in the car park for the enjoyment of those in attendance including children. The group that includes Mr Haydes and others attended and began to shout things about us not being the committee. We felt it necessary to ensure the children were taken inside due to the groups behaviour.
- 7. In October 2016 at Halloween I was made aware that Maria Swords had attended at the clubhouse in order to decorate for the celebrations but there was an incident which resulted in her being pushed by members of this group which included Winston Binns and Vaughan Watson. I did not actually witness the incident but was told about it after the event.
- 8. On the date that we held our Christmas Bazaar in December 2016 again this group attended as we were all set up for opening and started to shout abuse at us.
- 9. On 1st January 2017 I was in the clubhouse in order to start to collect annual subscriptions from members. Also present were others including Angela Powell, Tracey Dawson, Jo Outhwaite, Steve Outhwaite and Colin Corbett. Vaughan Watson entered the clubhouse. He was asked why he was there and was asked to leave. He refused and then got up and walked further into the club. He then assaulted Tracey Dawson by pushing her over a table and chair, hurting her back.
- 10. The police were called and I was advised that Vaughan Watson had received a police caution as a result of the incident.
- 11. Since then there have been a number of incidents that I have either been a witness to directly or have been advised of in my capacity as secretary. Im aware that members of this group attended the clubhouse and demanded that everyone leave as they were going to change the locks. This was not successful.

- 12. On one occasion one of my fellow committee members was in the trading hut when she was surrounded and the keys were obtained from her. Again, the police had to be called and the keys were returned to us by them.
- 13. I, as the secretary, bank the takings at our local branch each week. In May, the 8th I believe, I attended and paid the takings as usual. I then asked for a balance on the account. This was refused. At that point I was advised that I could no longer access the account and it was established that the mandate had been altered which prevented me from gaining access. This matter was reported to Barclays and Action Fraud. We believe this group to be wholly responsible for this. It is still under investigation as far as we are concerned and we have not been advised differently.
- 14. I have been accused personally by this group of stealing large sums of money from the Association, an allegation I totally refute. This has, however had a detrimental effect on my health, as has the whole situation.
- 15. My partner passed away shortly before Christmas 2016. The funeral procession left from the Association's clubhouse as he was a longstanding and loyal member and it felt a fitting tribute to him. This was interrupted by members of this group who proceeded to take photos of the funeral cortege.
- 16. This group have taken members subs without the authority to do so and have attempted to prevent people from paying their subs to us as the legitimate committee. Those monies have not been paid to me as secretary but the rent for the site has still to be paid and I have been ensuring that this has been paid.
- 17. It has been an extremely upsetting and stressful period of time for both myself, my fellow committee members, and indeed members of the Association who despair at the actions of this group and their motives.

18. I believe the contents of this my statement to be true

L. Harsh

Signed

COUNTER PETITION AGAINST CLOSURE OF PONDERS END & DISTRICT SMALLHOLDERS ASSOCIATION LIMITED CLUBHOUSE

We the undersigned are aware of a petition that has been set-up demanding the closure of the PEDSA clubhouse, alleging "crime and disorder...and public nuisance".

We the undersigned strongly refute the claims put forward, and have evidence that the petition has been lodged by a group of known trouble-makers, who have been attempting to disrupt the running of the Association for a number of months now.

Their group have pursued a campaign of harassment, intimidation, and even physical assaults against members of our Association. Their actions, and subsequent petition, in no way reflect the views of us, the PEDSA members.

We the undersigned therefore request Enfield Council to dismiss the petition requesting the closure of the clubhouse. We also call upon Enfield Council to take action to safeguard us, the members, from any future harassment/intimidation by this group.

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