

PLEASE NOTE: Anything in GREEN indicates editors' notes. Because this transcript is from an audio recording, background noise (such as coughing, rustling, and fidgeting) may make certain sections difficult to decipher. Speech may also be very quiet in places, and some speakers may have been misidentified. Errors and omissions excepted. If anyone takes issue with any commentary or synopsis, the GPC and the Monitoring Officer have direct access to the original recording and are free to transcribe it themselves.

I note, this is the first time England has seen Natasha, the new Clerk in person.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation will be restricted to 15minutes unless the council decides otherwise. Items raised that relate to agenda will be discussed at the relevant point, public should know that decisions not on the agenda are unable to resolve by the councils of the following meeting if the council agree them as future and agenda items in this meeting, (have to be agreed as future items in THIS meeting?, as in tonight is the ONLY opportunity?... over 2 hours later?)

Four of the public would like to speak.

(start 1m43s – 11:35s – Total 9mins 52s)

#1 JACK LAWTEY (1:43 – 5:20)

I'd like to start by welcoming Miss Wilkinson to a new role as clerk of the council, wish her every success and hope that she received the full support the council in her role.

On the subject of zero precept and precept holiday raised by council earlier to previous meetings and recently by Robin Hood, AKA councillor Elliott in the Grimsby evening Telegraph. I would like to offer him a copy of an article written by a serving councillor at the time the agreed by the council before printing in the Spring 2021 edition of the Goxhill Gander. For anyone else interested, it can be found on the Gander website in the archive section on page 19 of that edition. The article is an explanation of the reasons why the precept was increased as it was and I can assure everyone here tonight, it was for more reasons than just to boost the reserves.

I've explained this at previous meetings and I know that the same gentleman was informed by the late councillor Gathercole at the annual meeting of the parish on the 29th of April 2021, that a detailed report had been published on notice boards and websites and he confirmed he had read it. There are three councillors here this evening who were at the council meeting, setting the precept in the budget on the 7th of January 2021. And at the annual meeting on the 29th of April 2021. And I'm sure that they can confirm my comments. In fact, I'm sure councillor England will remember the precept meeting as he was quite insistent that his name was noted as objective.

In financial terms, the annual return for 2020/21, stated that the council had funds of £24,214, a very small cash reserve for a council with Goxhill's turnover. By 2021/22, this had risen to £87,208, and was much more a reasonable amount. The figure has continued to rise each year, reaching £126,674 at the end of 2025/26. So I tend to agree with the council there is probably too much in the reserves at the moment. However, theres no financial reports of both budget reconciliations being posted on the website all this financial year. We, the public have no idea of the current state of council finances.

The budget figures for this year do not appear to add up, and as such, the council appears to have an income of £ 22,000 less than its planned expenditure for the year. Before the budget preset meeting of 2027/28 in December, I urged councillors to ensure they have a sound statement of the council's financial position and a good estimate of expected spend to the end of the year. So that should they be asked again to consider a proposal for a zero precept in 2027/28, they know exactly what it means for the council and

the village before they vote.

#2 PAUL WEEKS

Just two quick points for me please. First, is regarding the Cherry Trees that we discussed at the last meeting. That's there is great news regarding the successful Goxhill Parish Council community grant application for the trees. ... which is granted which is great. I can confirm [business name.. trees], which was the cheapest of the three quotes, have sent or should have sent in invoice to Goxhill Parish Council in order, the payment could be made, or just ask if the Parish Council hopefully agree to pay the invoice as quickly as possible, that will allow the trees to be then passed over to Paul Beaton the tree officer at North Lincs so that they can do more plantings the council know, it just means the aim I to plant the next month in October, so that would mean that we can get them done/get ready.

Chris, at the grants team, I've spoken to him, confirmed that the payments of the grant money to the council would normally take that just over a week so once they get the reprinted invoices from you guys we can go through councillor Ruddy, so they can pay, ... relatively quickly.

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank councillor Tony Ruddy, for his efforts in helping in getting the grant and also Paul Beaton the tree officer for their enthusiasm and support. So that's the first point.

The second one was just about the item agenda, 2613/12, this again is trees, the 8 Hawthorn trees.

I just can considerably hope that the Parish Council would agree to cover the cost of these 8 new large Hawthorn Trees for planting along Barrow Road.

This was previously discussed at the last meeting but got deferred to tonight. The total cost to the PC of the cheapest quote, allowing for the recoverable VAT is £880. These trees could then.. it was agreed again, planted at the same time by NLC which is no cost to the Parish Council next month and I think it will form, ... the idea is to improve the entrance as you come into Goxhill, have this line of these bright red scarlet...so the same as ones in Howe Lane, where they go bright red in the end in the spring.

So that will improve the appearance as you comes to the village and I just hope that the PC will look kindly upon the request, as it forms part of the regeneration of the trees in and around Goxhill.

#3 MR KIRWAN

Mr Chairman, at a meeting on the 20th of July 2026 of the Goxhill Parish Council, reference 2610/06. a proposal was put and seconded in public session, that Goxhill Parish council had no confidence in councillor England as chair of the council and inviting him to resign. It was passed with 9 votes FOR (VGorbutt TSnell MJones DCarnell RSnell ARuddy KFavell, so, 7 not 9, Leaning and Bollington were not present), and one vote AGAINST (David Elliott). As the chairman is voted in this role by parish councilors I would have expected that an honorable and principaled councillor who has lost the confidence of the council would stand down from the role as chairman. What do you intend to do?

#ENGLAND (index: 9 mins)

I do not ...when evidence is presented to me of the perceived failings from any other councilor, I will, um, I maybe, i'm... I would be more liberty than to rev review my position but as that hasn't happened, I, I um, I have no intention of standing down. Thank you ...

(I suggest that Cllr England reads the speech made by Cllr Robin Snells made just prior to the vote)

#4 MRS KIRWAN

Public rights of way. Big thank you to the GANDER team, to publish articles about the disgraceful state of foot paths and bridleways in our village.

They continually have overgrown brambles as well as needing to be cut. The result of which is a high accumulation of dog mess in the long grass. Perhaps signage along these foot paths would perhaps focus some dog walkers minds and get them off the phones, and good luck to our new contractor. The biggest current talking point amongst walkers is the green ramper. It has been reduced in places to width for 30 centimeters, and there is no room for people let alone horses to pass each other.

This is a bridalway and a restricted byway, which should be cut to a minimum width of 3meters. In '21, this ramper was completely stripped of vegetation along its length from Horsegatefield Road to the allotments by Fishfield Farms, at a cost of £3,060. North Lincs Council, they came out and put down the 2 meter gravel surface which made it accessible to all.

It is now not even accessible to wheel and mobility chair users and is hazardous to walk down and all because it has never been maintained properly by this council. Please make this a priority through the winter and uncover this 2 meter path and get the running ditch alongside it cleared out in case of flooding as the Met office have predicted ...because of climate change.

And I'm also concerned as to why financial claims from counselors are not conducted in public. Because after all, it is the council taxpayers money that is at stake and is not the best kept secret in the village as to the reasons why.

2603/02 Declarations of Interests/Dispensations

Index 12 mins

#ENGLAND.... Any on the agenda from any counselor?

ELLIOTT (Disruptive Episode #1)

Yeah, I've got interest in everything. Because I'm interested in it all.

#ENGLAND 2613/31 ..oh well mines predujicial

(Discuss and agree response to ACAS following receipt of Claimant's increased compensation request.)

val

2613/12?- Personal (Hawthorne Trees, deferred from previous meeting for clarification on budget spent from "Tree work" budget. Discuss and agree quotes submitted to GPC previously, including GPC contribution.)

It was confirmed that no written dispensation etc had been sent in and Elliott given plenty of chance.

D Elliott failed to notify about 2613/29 Which is very evidently him (Discuss and agree actions to Letter Before Claim and his request for £150 compensation.)

Dispensations: T Snell personal

2613/29 (Discuss and agree value of WorkNest, pre and post recruitment.)

2613/30 (Discuss and agree current situation with Court papers, actions henceforth.)

2613/03 Minute Approval

Index 13:10 – 22:30 (dragged out by DE for nearly 9.5 minutes)

Agree minutes for 20th August, England confirms that was not at that meeting.

#ELLIOTT DISRUPTIVE EPISODE #2

Has issue with the minutes that there is no context, particularly that he is mentioned many times in the minutes with no context whatsoever. Complained that was most "perturbed" that at the 20th meeting, that he had only received the minutes they were going to agree for the 12th August 60mins before that meeting,

so he had said that it was a waste of time to discuss them. He carried on about it, resulting lots talking at once. Argument between Rob Snell and Elliott.

Finally, 20th August minutes approved.

But then it went on. DE said he objects, there is no context and said there were personal attacks on him, and accused the council of Harrassment (20:40)

2613/04 Report from Ward Councillors

Index 22:30-25:10

Ward Councillor David Wells spoke. Reminded them that ERNLLCA provides full council training they can do. Then said had brought a sign cleaning brush.

He then referred to minute item 2613/24 (To discuss the issue raised by Cllr Wells regarding the votes on no confidence being conducted in an open meeting, stating these should have been conducted behind closed doors.) saying that was not what he said/asked for. "I don't quite see how it relates to what was actually said at the meeting", it was minute 15 on that agenda that I thought perhaps should have been done in private.

(This relates to agenda item 2611/15 – Where he said the Chair is GOD, To consider and agree next steps following the vote of no confidence in the Chair of GPC, including a request for Cllr England to resign as Chair of GPC. Held on the 12th August. I was present and this was just before the public were excluded). David made it clear that it was not related to the actual vote of no confidence, but related to the discussion about the next steps that he felt shouldn't have been public. He notified will not be present by the time that item came up.

KF said it was an exact copy/paste from his email request, so they didn't change/clarify it on this agenda despite David Wells trying to correct it.

2613/05 To consider and resolve that Goxhill Parish Council writes to the Goxhill Gander (DE)...requesting a correction to its article

stating that Cllr Elliott's proposal for a nil Parish Precept "fell" and was "official closed", as this is inconsistent with the Council's approved minutes, which record that the matter was unanimously deferred until nearer the end of the financial year for further detailed consideration.

Index 25:10 – 27:35

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1. The Minutes of the 8th July, which contains item 2607/17 relating to DE's 0% precept proposal are an UNAPPROVED DRAFT.
 2. Cllr England was NOT present at that meeting and therefore cannot comment on it's proceedings.
 3. Cllr Leaning who voted in favour also was not present at the 8th July meeting so should have abstained.
 4. Myself and several other members of the public were present and corroborate that the notice in the Gander is true.
 5. Prior to publishing in the Gander, Cllr Val Gorbett who actually chaired that meeting was emailed, stressing that it is vital that what I am writing is agreed to be correct, which she confirmed that his motion was NOT seconded.
 6. Cllr Elliot had ALREADY delivered a letter to the Treasurer of the GANDER, without considering the council in the matter. He claimed to have sent it to all trustees, but had not, including the Editor (you know, the one who actually puts the content together)

7. After being shown this letter by our Treasurer, Alex Williams (who was also witness to 2607/17), wrote to all councillors, including the clerk and Cllr England giving a detailed account of the proceedings.... And how motions work.
 8. The notice in the Gander is TRUE.
 9. This is a clear abuse of Council Agenda by Cllr Elliott
 10. The council has no statutory power or authority to direct, correct, or censor independent press. Individual councillors who have personal grievances with local reporting must handle them as private citizens, not through council agenda items.
 11. Given that the "side piece" related to Cllr Elliott conducting a private campaign, albeit using his councillor status and .gov email to further it without the council's consideration, it is a private matter.
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The side article stated: **"Notice: Parish Precept & Petitions** Following resident inquiries regarding recent petitions about the parish precept, the Gander offers the following clarification:

Council Status:

A proposal for a 0% precept was brought to Goxhill Parish Council but was **not** seconded. Under council rules, the motion fell and the matter is officially closed.

Private Campaigns:

Door-to-door petitions or surveys on this issue are purely private, individual initiatives. They are not official Parish Council consultations, and individual councillors have no authority to use official positions or communications to advance private campaigns.

Official GPC updates appear exclusively on the dedicated **Parish Council section on P18"**

England read out only the "Council Status" portion of it, and "As this is inconsistent with the council's approved minutes, which we record that the matter of unanimous city third, so never the end of the financial year for further detail consideration"

LIE 1: "Approved minutes"

ELLIOTT: YEH That was me...

Uh.. well, basically the Goxhill Gander has stated categorically that the the the the precept fell and it was it was barred and it was the end of the matter. Whereas the facts, the facts are, that that isn't the case, the facts, are the actual motion was to actually defer it for when we have more information nearer the time of the budget. And if if we want the Goxhill Gander to actually run the Parish Council, and that that's what you know. That's what we need to sort of agree that we're gonna do that. But we can't have outside bodies deciding what we said and what we didn't say, and then publishing it to the rest of the village.

So I don't think it's appropriate that that happened. And I think we need to ask them to correct it. You know, any any newspaper would correct a mistake that they made or an error they made or whatever it is. And I think it's only right and proper that the Goxhill Gander address what the the the correction that's required.

ENGLAND

Okay, any other council wish to comment. (none)

ELLIOTT

can I just ask if a member of the audience is recording (looking at your editor who is clearly holding up her phone, taking video, well, I thought I was, turns out I didn't actually get this bit on camera haha) EDITOR "I AM" DE: "Excellent"

I should also highlight that my memory is not THIS amazing, therefore the ENTIRE meeting is recorded on a dedicated device, not my phone, which is where this transcript originates, and can prove its accuracy.

ENGLAND

“Ok Right then, if Councillor Elliot would like to make a proposal”

ELLIOTT

“Well I propose that the Parish Council write to the Goxhill Gander and request a correction to the article.”

SE: Ok, we got a seconder?

VG: ok I'll second it (instantly)

3 in favour, 6 AGAINST (nice little mutiny), no abstentions

(AGAINST, included Mike Jones. After Elliotts motion went unseconded and FELL, it was Mike Jones new proposal afterwards that was moved. The in favour included 2 councillors that were not present for 2607/17 on the 8th July)

QUESTION: There were 10 Councillors, 9 voted. Has one been missed?

ENGLAND

“So Goxhill Parish Council are in favour of people misquoting them in the press!”

ELLIOT “Excellent”

England barely took a breath to go and say item number 6...”

2613/06– To discuss the legality of the EOM held 20/08/2026 (DE).

Index 27:35 – 34:30

ELLIOTT:

okay, um, standing order number six, extraordinary meeting, the chairman convene an extraordinary meeting any time. If the chair fails to call one, within 7 days, on written request from two councillors, those two councillors must convene themselves, and and their public notice must give the time place the agenda and be signed by the councillors.

The meeting on the 12th and 20th did not comply with this particular standing order. You're all very, very keen on standing orders. Um, and in fact, you complied with standing orders in the very first extraordinary meeting that you actually called. So i'm just a little a little unsure why you now decided not to follow this standing orders.

Because Elliott said 12th, England pointed out it was an ordinary meeting, and Elliot meant the Extraordinary meeting on the 20th August, so had to retract to raising only the 20th.

ELLIOTT... So are we happy for the council to disobey it's own standing orders because if we are theres kind of no point in having them, we can't pick and choose standing orders that we choose.

JONES... The 20th meeting was signed by Val and supported by myself and Robin.

ELLIOTT... No it wasn't, the meeting for 20th August was not requested, at all.

FAVELL... Can I ask why we are trying to pick fault, the meeting went ahead... we are here to act in the best interest of the village. Rather than picking fault can we just support and move forward.

T SNELL. I just like to say it was alleged it was illegal. I know that councillor Jones has sent some more information on that, but. Should it have been a legal meeting

The meeting on the 20th that Elliott is attempting to call illegal, was primarily about 2 PA's regarding the Carbon pipeline, involving 5 acres of hard standing and the implication that the resulting increase heavy traffic that affects Goxhill directly. According to public witness, that meeting is the one he turned up late at, tore open a bag of crisps, uttered profanity at Cllr Jones, was rude to the locum clerk, and tore up his

meeting papers...Let is also be noted, Cllr England has not been easily contactable TO call an extraordinary meeting, and again, was not present on the 20th August.

ELLIOTT..well, that's that's kind of not the point. Point is Goxhill Parish Council seems to think that the standing orders only apply when they feel like they should apply. If we're gonna be consistent with standing orders then we've got follow what they say, we've got to follow it every time, you can't just pick and choose. That is my point. You cannot pick and choose which standing orders as you want. You all voted for these stand orders. So if you voteted for them, you've got to comply with them. Do you not see that that's perfectly common sense. You can't just pick and choose which ones you want... you you can vote whatever which way you like. But just take away the fact that this is what the standing orders say, and this is what you did.

England tried to move things along, with Elliott trying to talk over him. England said You've made your point, and said "I agree that standing orders were not followed so therefore the reality the meeting shouldnt be classed as legal... how can I put it, I don't want to use the word farce, but if weve got standing orders and we're failing " (Elliot talking all over him again, including bickering if something was on the agenda)

"if we are not following them, it calls into question the credibility of the council"
(bickering, lots talking)

RUDDY ..You haven't attended a meeting for 4 or 5 meetings and then you're dictating policy
ENGLAND: No this is your policy (yet more bickering continues with several councillors)

ENGLAND "Councillor Elliot has suggested discuss the legality of the meeting, It's clear as day, it shouldn't have gone ahead however it did, councillor Favell made a great point about whether we are here for the benefit of the village ... whether we do what we want and not follow the rules, "

Ward Cllr Wells said they may have to take legal advise, but now he has called it illegal, that any decisions at that meeting would have to be redone.

PLEASE NOTE: Elliot said "**If the chair fails to call one**", which he failed to do, and 3 other councillors, not just two, called the meeting. This sounds like it followed standing order to me!

GORBUTT reminded the council that the meeting was for planning permission

ENGLAND, then said would defer the item until had advice from ERNLCCA and refused a proposal/vote and said this is what they are doing.

This entire thing is just "point scoring" over pedantic points, and NOT in the best interest in the village. Sam England has been AWOL for a large period of time, making operations even more difficult.

2613/07 To receive an update regards Village gardener and actions henceforth. (DE)

Index 34:30 – 35:25

ELLIOTT: I put this on the agenda. We discussed this a number of times and you don't seem to be making any progress. Councillor Snell was actually looking after this item and I was just wondering if there is any update Rob.

R SNELL: Right, there is no update, I never said I was doing anything about it. I told you the last meeting Ive got enough going on and not got time to do it. You came up the suggestion, and you batted across to me, I sent it back to you. If you want to do something about it then feel free...(spoken over by Elliott)

ELLIOTT I didn't bat it across to you
R SNELL Yes you did

ELLIOTT You took it up, you said I'll speak too.. whoever it was..

R SNELL No, I didn't at all, I said I was.. Last meeting, I told you I haven't got time, I you want to do it, feel free.

ELLIOTT So there isn't any update,

ENGLAND theres no update

This is clearly an idea brought by Elliott, but not wanting to do anything towards it, attempting to dictate and delegate to another councillor. This item on the agenda was a tactic to try to show up a fellow councillor.

2613/08 To receive an update regards a Liaison Committee with Keigar Homes (DE).

Index 35:25 – 39:10

T SNELL: Who is taking that up? Are we doing anything with that regarding the situation, are you taking it on? (directed at Elliot)

ELLIOTT: Can you talk to me in a normal manner please Trudy I don't understand who..

Are you taking it on... Elliot: NO

Talking over each other & more bickering

England repeats the agenda item.

ELLIOTT – yeh this was my item again. A couple of meetings ago we decided that we were going to have a liaison committee regarding the Keigar homes site. Carnell and Gorbett were gong to laise with Keigar homes and form some sort of liaison committee potentially someone from the village aswell. If you've seen Howe Lane now, it's covered in mud on a regular basis and I'm wondering what is happening with this. gone on for 5 years (interrupted by England giving an overview)

Just to inform the public that at a meeting several months ago, members of public raised concerns in the public participation, the development on Howe Lane and Hawthorne Gardens and destruction that it could potentially cause within the village. It was suggested by Councillor Elliott that we set up a link with anyone that has any concerns, with councillors and ... I think it Was Ruddy, Carnell, and Gorbett said that they would move that forward (door noise etc)... I think it was May, so it's an update with how youre getting on with that.

RUDDY: erm, no comment..pass

Another Cllr (Favell?) "nothing"

CARNELL: I would like make comment. The item referred to, I agreed to speak to Keigar about was the positioning of the fencing, (Elliott muttering over him) Nothing else. Because the ??? at Nut Villa was complaining about the vehicles coming out were having to turn sharply alongside his property. I have been in touch with the contractor and that situation no longer exists.

RUDDY I spoke to the chap who raised the issue with us and I asked him to log when the wagons stopped, how long they were stood in a morning, waiting ... not heard anything

Val: and the neighbours, they've got no concerns either, because Ive asked them. It was that wagon waiting to be let in, any building site you have that.

Basically, they said there is no longer a problem as they're not parking outside as have access to the site so there isn't a problem.

2613/09 Discuss and agree value of WorkNest, pre and post recruitment. (DE)

Index 39:10 – 41:45

ELLIOTT yes again this was my item, ... Mr Jaques had raised to the council the cost of Worknest and the value that we are getting from it, I mean it's a £7.5K bill over 3 years so it's a serious amount of money.

This point, for a change I personally tend to agree, however, it does bring the question of if worknest are aiding with advice on the clear and apparent ongoing recruitment issues they have persistently within the private section of the agendas. I do raise that this cost, doesn't seem to have ever hit the budget sheet.

"So we need to be able to assess whether it's being used effectively or at all. Uh, and, and, and I think that's something we need to assess. And we, we that the other, a recruitment of, uh, natasha, and, you know, we have this this contract in place. And it's a fair question to ask to actually scrutinise the expenditure to say, well, what value you we had out of it? What advice have we had from work nest in terms of interviews or, you know, scoring sheets, ...process, the employment office to they know, have we had any advice? I don't know. The the the the personal and disciplinary committee are available to response and i'm sure,"

ENGALND:, ok, Councillor Favell..

FAVELL: Well I'm not quite sure what to say other than Worknest have been invaluable to the recruitment process,

GORBUTT yeh and our Chair did recommend that we use them rather than ERNLLCA

FAVELL: Absolutely

GORBUTT: yeh, I agree I think they've been great for

ELLIOT interrupts: So we we have some advice from them

GORBUTT: Absolutely I mean we've got email evidence of that

ELLIOTT: oh right can we see that is it possible?

GORBUTT: Well it's personnel committee, information isn't is

FAVELL: It's private and confidential

ELLIOTT: I don't know, its not ... whats that got to do with it....

(More talking over each other)

Basically, they said it's personnel/recruitment related so they don't share that with the rest of the council.

FAVELL put an end to this::

At this moment in time, some of the issues that are going on at the moment, information is confidential and will remain between the P&D committee. I will discuss it in due course at another the time, but not now.

ENGLAND:: So Worknest is a bargain

He was corrected by Favell that "invaluable" was the term used. Favell re-iterated that "and we took direction from our chair, by you "

ENGLAND, and it was a great idea I don't know why we use ERNLLCA.

Bear in mind that Elliott and England are known as close friends, constantly backing each other up. They are often found in the pub together. Remember that there is potential ACAS legal action and England has declared that he has prejudicial interest in that. Ditching ERNLLCA is a thing that ENGLAND keeps pushing.

2613/10 Discuss and agree action from North Lincolnshire Councils email/letter.

Index 41:45 – 55:55

Chair Sam England, reading the communication /letter received from NLC

Letter from Richard Mel via email 12th August.

#SAM ENGLAND

Dear councillor England and all members at Goxhill Parish Council.

We have recently reviewed the number of standards complaints received from or against members of Goxhill Parish Council... summaries provided below.

Whilst we certainly acknowledge that receipts of complaints does not automatically indicate the existence of faults, Goxhill Parish Council has received the most complaints of any parish council since the new standards arrangements came into force in 2012.

Goxhill Parish Council is consistently included in the standards committee annual reports has been subject to more complaints than usual, being subject to six complaints in 2025/26.

....In the last 6 weeks. ...And by the way, this was dated the 12th of August...

In the last 6 weeks, we have received 16 standards complaints towards members of Goxhill Parish Council. We anticipate that we will also receive further complaints. For the entirety of 2025/ 26, we received 31 complaints for all of North Lincolnshire.

....The number of complaints it gets better everyone... Yeah,...

The number of complaints related to Goxhill therefore represents 52% of **the (garbled)** receive complaints for all 55 town and parish councils and for North Lincolnshire council. We have also received hundreds of phone calls, emails or letters from Goxhill Parish council members in the last year.

The above disproportionate number of complaints build upon significant concerns that we have been made aware over the last 1 to 2 years that the council is not always been run in the best interests of residents. I am increasingly concerned that the council appears dysfunctional and driven by petty arguments and frequent antagonism within and outside of your meetings.

I'm concerned that this potential misuse of the standards regime is leading to a disproportionate cost of the taxpayer, and that it may be evidence that the parish council is focusing on internal disagreements at the cost of your overriding purpose in serving the residences of Goxhill.

I have therefore reported this issue to the standards committee assessment panel who shares my concerns. At an assessment panel meeting on the 10th of August 2026, the members agreed the following steps. I would be grateful if you could make arrangements to discuss and agree response.

....This five, uh, bullet points here....

(Note we cannot distinguish the 5 points from the audio transcript)

The first one we recommend that the council seeks professional mediation for all members to seek methods of working together for the benefit of the community. I have also been given permission to introduce a method to screen all complaints related to Goxhill Parish Council, before they formally accepted with immediate effect, this now involves the monitoring officer or the deputy monitoring officer in consultation with the independent person and the chair of the standards committee initially reviewing all complaints naming a Goxhill Parish Council member against the assessment criteria attached. If in our opinion the complaint does not meet the stage one criteria, or if any of the stage two criteria apply, then it will not be accepted. Naturally, if the complaint is considered a potential breach and it will be accepted into the formal standards regime.

Additionally, if mediation is not accepted, then we reserve the rights to publish and publicise this letter, including the local media. We may also provide regular public reports to your council, and we may continue to write public updates to the standard committee of activity.

It is likely that all outliers in the number of complaints received will form part of the 2026/ 27 annual public report from the standards committee. As above I would be grateful if this matter was considered by your council and the outcome be reported back to me by the above email address.

Please note, to ensure consistency and transparency. We will only accept email correspondence from members of Goxhill Parish Council until further notice. We do not intend to engage in any further discussion about the content of this letter.

I look forward hearing from you,

yours sincerely

Richard Mel

Deputy Monitoring Officer North Lincs Council

I would just like to say, that at the time of this letter, I only have ONE complaint ref with NLC standards, with a directly related addendum, and that is solely about Cllr David Elliott. I see no point in keeping that a secret. However, I am aware of I think 5 made by other people for their own reasons, and the other 10 are a mystery to me. I see a formal complaint as a serious issue to be used as a last resort.

ENGLAND: Councillors, what would you like to do or any suggestions

LEANING: (46:10) "What a load of rubbish", "and absolute load of rubbish", "Right, they've had all these complaints, how many have they followed up, theres been two complaints about me, one when I cannot decipher, it was wrong, there was nothing wrong about it, it was a load of lies. And like Goxhill Gander, a not Goxhill Gander, the Goxhill Grapevine, the last letter, we got that letter last meeting (ref 20th August) I picked mine up, screwed it and chucked it in the bin, cos that's where it deserves, and then weve got a member of the public saying I screwed up the minutes, I didn't screw up the minutes, they should tell the truth these people that are putting it on the Goxhill Grapevine, not what they think, get the truth. And North Lincs Council, to be absolutely honest with you, are and absolute waste of time. They haven't done nothing, they send a letter here, makes them look good cos theyre looking after their jobs but that's all they are doing cos they aren't doing anything. Before I resigned from council before (undeciphered me and Roy atton?) must have had about 30 and how many times. How many you had Sam?

ENGLAND: 34...

LEANING: and how many got through,

ENGLAND: part of one.

LEANING: Part of one, nothing. All these people from Goxhill Parish that are writing to North Lincs, want to think first cos theyre absolutely wasting their time.

Trudy?: or tell the truth when theyre writing them (?)

LEANING Yeh, tell the truth. And if anybody wants to report me to North Lincs, get on with it, cos I couldn't care less, cos I know they're not going to do anything

Others are talking presumably about other complaints in the background.

ELLIOT: "I agree with Charlie, because they've put the ball back in our own court telling us sort yourselves out, but as a councillor I've got no power to do a single thing, we rely on North Lincs council to do something about it. (someone is flicking papers) to uphold (noise)... and not doing so they can put 52% of them in but they're not doing anything about it so the people that are getting complained about are just going to carry on doing what they were doing as they know they can just circumvent and navigate around it."

I genuinely had no idea if Leaning had been complained about, but given what he said, lays far too close in detail to be more likely a complaint I know of about David Elliott's behaviour during the meeting 20th August, making me want to query if there had genuinely been any complaint about Leaning at all. As for Elliott, this was sticking 2 fingers up and saying I'll carry on doing what I want. Favell spends a lot of her time with her hand up in the air so long that she has to hold her arm up, sometimes to be completely blanked and not be permitted to speak.

FAVELL permitted to speak by the chair.

"As much as hear what (fidgeting noises) councillors said, the council as a whole, the majority of us are working together, but unless we can agree on things rather than the squabbling over dates or if the meeting is legal rather than working for the better of our village, there is always going to be animosity between us I would just encourage councillors to be more mindful and remember that we are here for the public, not to (something, find fault?) between ourselves."

Some clapping

T SNELL: "I think a lot of recent events have pulled this council together and stronger in the last few months than we ever have been before so I don't think any mediation would be beneficial, just a few cracks in the pipes..."

Snell or Ruddy: "be very costly"

T SNELL well yeh ...

ENGLAND: Sadly, I believe that in the last 3 or 4 months, the councils become more fractured than it has been for a long time

Note, vote of no confidence in Sam and they're clearly not just doing what he wants them to, and due to the "problems in the recruitment process" etc, Sam is attending his first meeting in 3 or 4 months...

RUDDY?: Lack of leadership

ENGLAND: Well, if people don't want to take advice that's up to them but anyway that's what I believe .. from what I can gather from councillors that have chosen to speak on this that North Lincs Councils recommendations, we are looking to write back to them to say we are not going to take anything you said seriously, and we're not going to do mediation. Basically it's North Lincs Councils problem to fix, and it's not us, it's the general sentiment then.

T SNELL: Would that be best to have a vote on it Mr Chair

ENGLAND: Well, no, no, just this should be before proposal.

T SNELL: Oh, okay, thank you.

ENGLAND: Councillor Elliott

ELLIOT: Yeah. Um. Councillor Jones said around the way forward. I'm just wondering whether we still agree with the way forward being, code of conduct complaints, report any proven breaches of the local authorities code of conduct such as bullying or failure to treat with respect to the monitoring officer at your principal district council. This is the way forward.

Mixed voices: Um, well, not sure it is or not or you should be reported. So it just should be that. Well, what

you saying that do,

ENGLAND: Bullying should be reported.

JONES: Sorry just repeat that, what you saying Ive done?

ELLIOTT: well, this this the document you sent round Mike saying the way forward. It was your sort of efforts to try and castigate councilor, england, um, and you were encouraging people to issue code of conduct complaints. I'm just wondering whether that's all fits in with the type of thing that we want to be doing.

JONES: Ah no I didn't do anything like that

WELL, I missed this at the meeting itself, but that was a direct accusation thrown at Jones by Elliott

ELLIOTT Pardon? Well let me read it you. Formal recourse and standards....

JONES: go to the top..(interrupted by England)

ENGLAND: Councillor Elliott, I think this is entirely the problem that North Lincs Council wants us to try and rectify, ok, and it doesn't seem as though we're making a good effort at doing that at the moment.
Councillor Favell

FAVELL::Thank you, chair. I would just like to say in the last 6 months or so I think since May um any event that's been on and I would like to thank the majority of the council ... (muffled but doesn't say Sam England or David Elliott) Tony, Trudy, Carnell, Val, Rob and Mike who supported eachother and worked together, phone calls between eachother, the support network increased valuably and I would be willing to do a team building exercise with any of you such as we went to the park, a number of councillors turned up to support eachother (unclear) that wan to work together, it gives me the strive to keep going with Goxhill Parish Council and we are working towards effective ... and public relationship ... Claps

ENGLAND: that isn't a reflection of what was said at the beginnin so would you like to make a proposal to the council.

FAVELL: Yes, I propose that if it is ok with the clerk to make enquiries regarding some form of mediation or a team building event for us all to go to

Seconded by Leaning, who went on to comment that café at memorial hall, when its our turn, most of us turn up

ENGLAND: Can I just say when we've had things, things like this been recommended before, they will only work with mediation If everybody buys into it. It's not gonna if if there one person says, i'm not, or don't want to do it, or this is rubbish or whatever its not gonna work. So therefore, it's a vote that needs unanimous decision if we are going to do this.

FAVELL:: ...idea is to try and do something together to encourage relationships and trying to improve them, I can't make councillors come, but from the event that we put on over the last few months and councillors turning up and phone calls and the support, relationships are improving and something like that would only encourage to improve those. Its what we should be doing as councillors for members of the public and it's what North Lincs Council are asking for

ENGLAND: I agree, and your proposal is seconded by Charlie. All those in favour. 7 FOR, (I would assume 2) AGAINST, 1 abstention (I will leave readers to guess who, THOSE bits we usually DO eventually get in the minutes, but there are still only 10 councillors total)

ENGLAND: Okay, Natasha could you investigate and then we'll take it up from there that'll be great.

ELLIOTT: Chair, that wasn't unanimous.

ENGLAND: No it wasn't unanimous, there wasn't an objection, hopefully people might change their mind Ruddy? Well I didn't.

LEANING: The big problem in Goxhill at present time, the people that were coucillors who thought they

could do the job resigned because they found out they couldn't do it, and I think a lot of this rubbish that gets on this Goxhill grapevine, people saying this and saying that, 90% of it's a load of rubbish! And I think that personally we have a good council. We do a lot of things for the village and people that are objecting should come in and have a go, but they won't because they got something to look after, they ain't got time, well we ain't got time, but we find time

ENGLAND: There have been some positives for Goxhill Parish Council, the park meet and greet thing that Trudy organised, the playground is looking great thank you Rob, the 250 bus I've lost count of how many emails I've sent to North Lincolnshire council so now the village is actually linked directly to I think Hull and we've got a Sunday service even when it stops which is a real positive.

People do prefer the scandal as opposed to the discontent as opposed to all the good stuff sadly but em

Leaning said something indecipherable.

END OF PART 1