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Campaigner kicked out for 'utterly shameful' comments about Ruth Davidson's baby

By



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Published: 12:31 Updated: 17:25 Thursday 16 May 2019

Inaccuracies corrected in red

A campaigner was kicked out of a council meeting and police were called following “utterly shameful” comments about Ruth Davidson’s baby.

Peter Gregson, who was addressing the council’s transport and environment committee in response to a proposed cycle route through Roseburn, was escorted out of the City Chambers following the outburst. I was not escorted. I left the Dean of Guild room of my own accord. I was outside the room when Patrice, the doorman said I had to leave the building. I pointed out to Patrice that Cllr Macinnes had only asked me to leave the room, and I was entitled to be in the Council. It was a public building, I was a ratepayer. After a while, at my suggestion, Patrice agreed to get the Police involved. Whilst we were chatting, I explained that we ought to seek clarification from Cllr Macinnes. Eventually Patrice felt that would be best, so I popped back into the meeting for clarification from the Convener. She was none too pleased to see me back, but I think welcomed the chance to give the Councillors a moment to reflect. She clarified that she wanted me out of the Council building. Since Cllr Macinnes is supreme commander of the Council and gets to boss all 17,000 staff and ex-staff (including me), I started heading for the exit of my own volition. As we were walking and chatting (Patrice has a diesel car too, he fears (as I do) crippling expense if Cllr Macinnes gets her way) I realised I had left my jacket in the Dean of Guild Room. Luckily an attendant was happy to go and get me a selection from the room and I was able to pick mine out. At this point Cllr Karen Doran, an old friend came up and suggested we go out for a fag together. Once outside, we had an interesting chat about Labour policy and congestion charging.

Mr Gregson accused the council of “asphyxiating Ruth Davidson’s baby”, Finn, by claiming the authority was not tackling air quality. **I accused the Council of planning to asphyxiate Ruth’s baby, because they were going to build a cycle track in front of her office, which would lead to the parking being removed, which would bring NO2 levels at her door to dangerous levels.**

The former council employee, who is currently suspended by the Labour party, over what he claims are “bogus anti-Semitism charges”, was interrupted and halted by transport and environment convener, Cllr Lesley Macinnes.

Cllr Macinnes labelled the comments “utterly shameful” and moved to “disassociate the council and everyone else in this room” from his views that she said were “an appalling presentation of your argument”.

Primary school pupils from St John Vianney School, who had spoken passionately about improving air quality in the city, were forced to leave the meeting by a teacher during the incident. **Not true. The children had left during the boring Friends of the Earth speaker, a good 10 minutes before Mr Gregson spoke.**

Conservative Cllr Nick Cook called for Mr Gregson to leave the room, leading to Cllr Macinnes suspending the meeting for a private discussion between councillors. **Not true – it was Cllr Macinnes that called for it. She was the one who called for a meeting. The Council webcam will prove this. See it at www.tinyurl.com/counciltelly**

Cllr Macinnes then ejected Mr Gregson, who left the room, stating, “please let baby Finn live” and “watch out for the future, folks”.

Mr Gregson, who was wearing a yellow vest and holding a gas mask, sent out a press release, following his ejection. In it he claims he “pointed out that he was a ratepayer” when security staff tried to remove him, at which point he re-entered the room. He was finally removed from the building by security staff and vice convener of transport and environment, Cllr Karen Doran. **Not true. I left of my own accord. See above**

A Police Scotland spokeswoman said: “Officers were called to the City Chambers around 11.45am today following a report that a man was refusing to leave, however the situation was resolved prior to our attendance.”

A spokesman for the Scottish Conservatives said: “Quite rightly, Ruth wants to keep her baby as far away from party politics as possible.”

An earlier version of this story incorrectly referred to Mr Gregson as an anti-cycling campaigner when, in fact, he supports cycling provision but is opposed to this particular plan. **Thank Goodness for Euan Mcgrory, Deputy Editor and a man of some integrity, making this correction**

Readers- please go to the Scotsman website and enjoy the many comments there, including Pete Gregson’s.