

Committee :	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Date:	27 January 2014
Title	Allegations against members
Author:	Monitoring Officer
Action:	For Information

1. Background

The purpose of this report is to present information to the Committee regarding formal complaints made against members. The report is based on information received from the Ombudsman and the case references are his.

2. Complaints

2.1 Case No.201300346

Complaint

That a county councillor had secretly filmed and recorded a conversation and then put it on his Facebook page.

Decision

Investigation continuing.

2.2 Case No.3982/201301430

Complaint

That a county councillor had allowed offensive and libellous comments posted on his Facebook page.

Decision

Considering whether to investigate.

2.3 Case No.201301307

Complaint

That a county councillor had behaved in a threatening manner towards the complainant.

Decision

Investigation continuing.

2.4 Case No. 201301629

Complaint

That a town councillor had failed to declare an interest at a meeting of the council.

Decision

Investigation continuing.

2.5 Case No. 4414/201301916

Complaint

The Ombudsman has decided to investigate matters that came to his attention as part of the investigation into another complaint against the councillor (para 2.1 above):

- Bringing his office as councillor or the authority into disrepute
- Conflict between the councillor's business interests and his role as councillor and misuse of his position as councillor
- Attending a meeting where a conflict of interests could arise ,contrary to the Monitoring Officer's advice

Decision

Investigation continuing.

2.6 Case No. 201303060

Complaint

Complaint against a town councillor, by a member of the public living next door to him:

- That he had caused the complainant stress and upset by causing arguments over trivial matters
- That he had made unfounded allegations about him to the Environmental Health department
- That he said he would use his influence as a councillor to have a white line in front of the complainant's property removed

Decision

No investigation. It appeared that what the complainant was describing was a neighbour dispute and that the councillor was acting as a private individual. Furthermore no evidence had been provided to substantiate the allegation that he had threatened to use his influence as a councillor.

2.7 Case No. 201302762

Complaint

That the member had breached the code of conduct by relaying a financial offer on behalf of a company, whilst aware that it was higher than an offer made by another company. He had also made a statement that was untrue. The complainant was unhappy at the way the member had interfered in the matter.

Decision

No investigation. Lack of direct evidence. Whilst the member had relayed the offer referred to, there was no direct evidence that he was aware of the other offer, or that the statement was an intentional falsehood.

3. Cases heard by the Standards Committee.

The Committee held a hearing in respect of the complaint against Councillor A. M. Jones, Gwynedd Council on 26th September, 2012. The Councillor has lodged an appeal with the Adjudication Panel for Wales. The Panel will be considering the appeal on 17 January 2014 on the basis of the submitted papers only, i.e. without a hearing.

4. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to note the information.