

<b>Committee :</b>	<b>STANDARDS COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>26 January 2015</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Allegations against members</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Monitoring Officer</b>
<b>Action:</b>	<b>For Information</b>

## **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**

Date received: 23/04/13

#### **Complaint**

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

#### **Decision**

Reprimand, film to be taken off Facebook, training.

### **2.2 Case No.201301307**

Date received: 06/06/13

#### **Complaint**

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

#### **Decision**

Member suspended for 2 months by Standards Committee. No appeal submitted. Suspension came to an end on 15/12/14.

**2.3 Case No. 201301629**

Date received: 17/06/13

**Complaint**

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

**Decision**

Member suspended for three months by Standards Committee. No appeal submitted. Suspension came to an end on 18/12/14

**2.4 Case No. 6141/201400682**

Date received: 29/04/14

**Complaint**

Complaint by fellow member that a town councillor had misused his position for financial gain.

**Decision**

Ombudsman investigating aspects of complaint.

**2.5 Case No. 201402810**

Date received: 28/07/14

**Complaint**

Member had sent an e-mail to a local organisation, purporting to express the community council's views, without its authorisation.

**Decision**

Referred to Monitoring Officer for investigation and to report to the Standards Committee.

**2.6 Case No. 201403279**

Date received: 14/08/14

### **Complaint**

Complaint by member of the public that a county councillor had breached a number of the code's principles in dealing with a local matter.

### **Decision**

No investigation. Although a member should respond fully and promptly to correspondence, failure to do so was not serious enough to be a breach of the code. No evidence that the member had refused to discuss the matter with the complainant or that she had tried to cause him a disadvantage.

### **2.7 Case No. 5847/201402641 & 201402642 & 201403463**

Date received: 18/07/14

### **Complaint**

Complaint by a town councillor that three of his fellow members had failed to declare an interest.

### **Decision**

**5847/201402641 & 201402642** No evidence of failure to comply with the code – the members may have had a personal interest and they had declared that interest in the meeting. However the interest was not a prejudicial one.

**201403463** Investigation continuing.

### **2.8 Case No. 6769/201402621**

Date received: 18/07/14

### **Complaint**

Complaint by a town councillor that a fellow member had behaved in an inappropriate manner.

### **Decision**

No investigation. No evidence to support the allegation. Did not appear that behaviour would have been a breach even if proved...

**2.9 Case No. 20140314**

Date received: 29/09/14

**Complaint**

Complaint that a community councillor failed to declare an interest.

**Decision**

Considering whether to investigate.

**2.10 Case No. 5847/201404989 & 5847/201404990**

Date received: 21/10/14

**Complaint**

That a town council member had behaved in a manner that would bring the council into disrepute.

**Decision**

Considering whether to investigate.

**2.11 Case No. 5847/201404533**

Date received: 06/10/14

**Complaint**

That a community council member had failed to declare an interest and had behaved in an inappropriate manner

**Decision**

Investigation of certain aspects as part of an investigation already underway into complaints against the same member.

**2.12 Case No. 5847/201405385**

Date received: 14/11/14

**Complaint**

Complaint by a fellow member that town council member, in his role as Chair, had behaved unfairly towards him.

**Decision**

No investigation. No evidence that the behaviour was rude or offensive or that it constituted harassment under the code.

**3. Recommendation**

The Committee is asked to note the information.