

<b>Committee :</b>	<b>STANDARDS COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>29 June 2015</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Allegations against members</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Monitoring Officer</b>
<b>Action:</b>	<b>For Information and Guidance</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. The Committee will also be up-dated in relation to the direction of the Committee relating to the training of Cllr Christopher O'Neal on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2014.

## **2. Complaints**

### **2.1 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 and had taken part in a discussion on a matter in which he had a prejudicial interest.

#### **Decision**

Ombudsman investigating.

### **2.2 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**

Ombudsman investigating.

**2.3 Case No. 201403463**

Date received: 18/07/14

**Complaint**

Complaint that a town councillor had taken part in a discussion on a matter in which she had a prejudicial interest.

**Decision**

No further steps to be taken. Although there was evidence to suggest that a breach of the code had taken place, the Ombudsman was not persuaded that the Standards Committee would impose a sanction in the circumstances.

**2.4 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**

Standards Committee concluded that there had been a breach of the code and imposed a censure.

**3. Cllr. Christopher O' Neal**

The Committee will recall that following its decision to suspend the Cllr in July 2014 that it directed that he should attend a training session with the Monitoring Officer on "The Code of Conduct and all protocols which are relevant to the Councillors conduct"

Following completion of his suspension steps have been taken to arrange a training session with the Councillor. Up to now it has not been possible to arrange the training. Despite agreeing three dates and times with the Councillor in March April and May he has not attended any. I will be giving further advice to the committee on this matter at the meeting. I have informed the Councillor that I will be reporting on the matter to the Committee.

#### **4. The Ombudsman's Casebook**

The Ombudsman published a Code of Conduct Casebook, dealing with the complaints he has investigated. A copy of the most recent edition is attached to this report. All editions can be found on the Ombudsman's website ([www.ombudsman-wales.org.uk](http://www.ombudsman-wales.org.uk))

#### **3. Recommendation**

The Committee is asked to note the information.