

No.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Decision Notice – Meeting, 22nd November, 2024.

The Committee agenda is available [here](#).

The recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Present: R. Hendicott (Chair and Independent Member); Councillors J.E. Charles and R. Birch, G. Watkins (Independent Member) and Councillor P. Summers (Town and Community Council Representative).

AGENDA ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from R. Alexander, G. Olphert and L. Tinsley (Independent Members) and Councillor C.P. Franks.

AGENDA ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

AGENDA ITEM 3 REPORT RELATING TO A COMPLAINT AGAINST COUNCILLOR I.PERRY IN RESPECT OF ST NICHOLAS AND BONVILSTON (MO/HLDS) –

Prior to the commencement of the proceedings representations were made to the Chair regarding the quorum for the Committee with Councillor Charles agreeing to stand down from the meeting and not take part, in line with the regulations.

RESOLVED

(1) T H A T Councillor Perry failed to comply with paragraph 4(c) of the Code of Conduct “*you must not use bullying behaviour or harass any person*” in relation to the sending of the email of the 5th July to Mrs. Griffin.

(2) T H A T Councillor Perry failed to comply with paragraph 4(b) of the Code of Conduct “*you must show respect and consideration for others*” in email correspondence with former Councillor Sims.

(3) T H A T Councillor Perry failed to comply with paragraph 6(1)(a) of the Code of Conduct “*you must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute*” in respect of his actions in relation to requests for information from Council Members which in the Standard Committee’s view demonstrated a lack of respect and transparency.

No.

(4) T H A T having regard to the resolutions above Councillor Perry be suspended for two months from being a Member of the St Nicholas and Bonvilston Community Council and that prior to the end of the suspension period Councillor Perry attends Code of Conduct training with the Monitoring Officer.

(5) T H A T Councillor Perry be advised of his right to appeal against the Committee's determination within a period of 21 days of receiving notification, by giving notice in writing to:

The Registrar
Adjudication Panel for Wales
Government Buildings
Spa Road East
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LE1 5HA

and that the notice of appeal must specify:

- the grounds for appeal, and
- whether or not the person giving notice of the appeal consents to the appeal being conducted by way of written representations.

(6) T H A T, subject to an appeal (if any) the findings of the Standards Committee as detailed in Resolutions (1) – (4) above be publicised in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Investigations (Functions of Monitoring Officers and Standards Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2001, as amended. (5)

Reasons for decisions

(1) Mrs. Griffin was clear in her evidence of how she perceived the comments in the email sent to Councillor Perry on the 5th July. In considering the totality of the evidence the Committee found that the content of the email sent to Mrs. Griffin on the 5th July was in their view intended to intimidate her.

(2) Councillor Perry's actions in relation to the email requests from former Councillor Sims demonstrated a lack of respect towards former Councillor Sims.

(3) Councillor Perry's actions in relation to requests for information from Community Council Members in regard to legitimate questions also lacked respect and transparency. Former Councillor Sims' requests for information relating to the Community Council's finances, including bank statements, were in the Standard Committee's view, perfectly reasonable and legitimate in her role as Community Councillor. Councillor Perry's failure to provide appropriate responses or information, along with the defensive tone of the responses evidenced a lack of transparency in his dealings, which could bring his office or authority into disrepute.

(4) Having regard to the resolutions of the Standards Committee as outlined in Resolutions (1), (2) and (3) above.

No.

(5&6) To comply with the Local Government Investigations (Functions of Monitoring Officers and Standards Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2001, as amended.