

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE HEARINGS PANEL

11 SEPTEMBER 2012

Complaint in respect of Councillor Paul Vickers of Barton-upon-Humber Town Council in respect of alleged breaches of the 2007 Members' Code of Conduct.

Monitoring Officer's Summary

1. The Complaint

Mr Montagu Martin, a resident of Barton-upon-Humber, submitted a complaint alleging that Councillor Vickers failed to declare personal and/or prejudicial interests (paragraphs 8,9,10 and 12), prevented access to information (paragraph 4(b)) and brought his office and authority into disrepute (paragraph 5).

An Assessment Sub Committee of the Standards Committee had referred the allegation in respect of failing to declare interests to the Monitoring Officer for investigation.

The complainant asked for a review of the decision not to refer the other allegations for investigation. A Review Sub-Committee upheld the decision not to refer the allegation of preventing access to information but overturned the decision not to refer the allegation of bringing his office and authority into disrepute.

An Investigating Officer was appointed to investigate the alleged breaches of paragraphs 5, 8,9,10 and 12).

2. Investigating Officers Report

The Investigating Officer appointed by the Monitoring Officer has completed her investigation and submitted her report to the Monitoring Officer. The report concluded that paragraphs 8, 9,10 and 12 of the Code had technically been breached by failure to declare personal and/or personal and prejudicial interests at meetings of the Town Council, although this appeared to be an error of omission rather than commission and had no material impact on the decisions that were taken at the meetings referred to. It concluded that there had been no breach of paragraph 5.

3. Pre Hearing

In preparation for the hearing before the sub committee the councillor has been provided with a copy of the report. He has indicated by means of an email that he accepts the findings of the Investigating Officer. A copy of the email correspondence is appended.

4. Key Factors

Whether Councillor Vickers failed to declare interests at meetings of the Town Council at some or all of the meetings referred to in the complaint and therefore breached paragraphs 8,9,10 and 12 of the 2007 Members' Code of Conduct.

5. Procedure

The procedure to be followed by the sub committee is enclosed with the agenda.

Will Bell
Monitoring Officer
3 September 2012