

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE HEARINGS PANEL

12 February 2013

Complaint in respect of Councillor Neil Turner formerly a member Barton-upon-Humber Town Council in respect of alleged breaches of the 2007 Members' Code of Conduct.

Monitoring Officer's Summary

1. The Complaint

The complainant, Mr Montagu Martin, a resident of Barton-upon-Humber, submitted a complaint alleging that Councillor Turner had breached several paragraphs of the Code of Conduct arising, in essence, from his involvement in the Community Heritage Arts and Media Project (CHAMP) which was being considered by the Town Council.

Following a Review Sub Committee meeting on 16 March 2010 it was determined that allegations that Councillor Turner had not declared personal and/or prejudicial interests (paragraphs 8,9,10 and 12 of the Code of Conduct) and had brought his office and authority into disrepute (paragraph 5 of the Code of Conduct) be referred for investigation.

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

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 of Conduct had technically been breached by a failure to declare personal and/or prejudicial interests at meetings of the Town Council when the issues concerning CHAMP were being considered. It concluded that there had been no breach of paragraph 5 of the Code of Conduct.

3. Pre Hearing

In preparation for the hearing before the Hearings Panel Councillor Turner has been provided with a copy of the Investigating Officer's report. At the time of writing this report Councillor Turner was unable to confirm whether he will be able attend the hearing due to prior existing out of area commitments.

4. Key Factors

Whether Councillor Turner 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 Code of Conduct and whether his involvement in such matters brought his office and authority into disrepute and as such constituted a breach of paragraph 5 of the Code of Conduct.

5. Procedure

The procedure to be followed by the Hearings Panel is enclosed with the agenda.

Will Bell
Monitoring Officer
4 February 2013