
MEETING	STANDARDS COMMITTEE HEARINGS SUB-COMMITTEE
DATE	11 FEBRUARY 2011
PRESENT	MR DIXON (INDEPENDENT MEMBER, IN THE CHAIR) COUNCILLOR FORSTER (PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER) COUNCILLOR HORTON (CYC MEMBER)

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No personal or prejudicial interests were declared in the business on the agenda.

2. PUBLIC OR PRIVATE HEARING

It was agreed that the meeting be held in public.

3. COMPLAINT AGAINST A MEMBER OF HEWORTH WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL

Members considered a complaint made against Cllr Alice Thomas, of Heworth Without Parish Council, which had been referred to the Hearings Sub-Committee for determination following an investigation.

The complaint related to an allegation that the subject member had approached the complainant in an angry and threatening manner on a number of occasions, when he was waiting in his car in a restricted parking area to collect his daughter from school, and had shouted "I've got your registration. I'm a councillor and I am going to get you." The Assessment Sub-Committee had referred the case for investigation on 25 June 2010. On meeting again on 21 December 2010 to consider the report of the Investigating Officer, they had decided that there was a case to answer. The matter had therefore been referred for a hearing.

The complainant and subject member did not attend the hearing and no witnesses were in attendance. The Deputy Monitoring Officer attended in his role as Investigating Officer, to present his report.

Having considered all the evidence presented, it was

RESOLVED: (i) That Cllr Thomas failed to comply with paragraphs 2 and 5 of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct.

(ii) That a sanction of censure be applied for this breach.

REASON: (i) The Sub Committee accepts that Councillor Thomas was entitled to have concerns about parking on yellow lines and was entitled to express those concerns and to encourage drivers not to park inappropriately. However, the Sub Committee believes that Councillor Thomas went too far. She did not treat the complainant with respect and brought her office into disrepute.

(ii) The Sub-Committee considers this to be an appropriate sanction, taking into account the circumstances of the case, the time that has elapsed since the incidents and the supportive statement provided by the Parish Clerk.

A Dixon, Chair

[The meeting started at 9.30 am and finished at 10.10 am].