



**Doncaster  
Council**

## **DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **HEARINGS SUB-COMMITTEE**

#### **NOTICE OF FINDING IN RELATION TO AN INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED BREACHES OF THE HATFIELD TOWN COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Hearings Sub-Committee of Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council, at a meeting held on Tuesday, 22nd January 2019 considered allegations made by Clare McRoy, the Clerk of Hatfield Town Council, against Councillors Jessie Credland, Michael Glynn and William Morrison of Hatfield Town Council. The Sub-Committee determined that there had been a failure by Councillors Credland, Glynn and Morrison to comply with the following Obligations of the Members' Code of Conduct adopted by Hatfield Town Council:-

##### **Member Obligation 1**

1. (He/she shall behave in such a way that a reasonable person would regard as respectful).

##### **Member Obligation 2**

2. (He/she shall not act in a way which a reasonable person would regard as bullying or intimidatory).

In addition, Parish Councillor William Morrison had failed to comply with the Code of Conduct of the authority concerned in relation to the following obligation of the Code:-

##### **Member Obligation 5**

3. (He/she shall not disclose information which is confidential or where disclosure is prohibited by law).

It was alleged that:-

- (i) Councillors Credland, Glynn and Morrison had handed Clare McRoy, (Clerk to Hatfield Town Council) a letter dated 11th June 2018, dismissing her from her post as Clerk. The complaint alleged that the three Councillors had no authority to issue the letter and did so without the knowledge of the rest of the Councillors or any proper processes being followed; and
- (ii) Councillor Morrison had passed on an email without authority or permission to another Councillor that Mrs McRoy had sent to him marked 'confidential'.

Having regard to the report and findings of an Investigation conducted by Helen Potts, Principal Legal Officer, Doncaster Council (Investigating Officer), the Sub-Committee accepted the Investigating Officer's findings that there had been a failure by Councillors Credland, Glynn and Morrison to comply with Obligations 1 and 2 of the Code of Conduct adopted by Hatfield Town Council in respect of the allegations detailed at (i) above for the reasons identified in the Investigating Officer's report. There had also been a failure by Councillor Morrison to comply with Obligation 5 of the Code of Conduct, adopted by Hatfield Town Council in respect of the allegation detailed at (ii) above for the reasons identified in the Investigating Officer's report.

## **Sanctions**

The Sub-Committee resolved that in the circumstances of this case appropriate sanctions to be imposed upon Councillors Credland, Glynn and Morrison are as follows:

- (1) Censure (and reprimanded) for their actions;
- (2) That they each provide a written apology to Clare McRoy, copied to the Monitoring Officer;
- (3) That the Sub-Committee's findings in respect of Councillors Credland, Glynn and Morrison's conduct be published on Doncaster Council's website and to recommend to Hatfield Town Council that the Sub-Committee's findings be published on its website;
- (4) That the Sub-Committee's findings be reported to Hatfield Town Council, for consideration;
- (5) To recommend to Hatfield Town Council that Councillors Credland, Glynn and Morrison undertake training at the expense of Hatfield Town Council on the Member Code of Conduct and the roles and duties of a Councillor, to be arranged with the Yorkshire Local Council's Association;
- (6) To recommend that Town Councillor Morrison also undertakes training on General Data Protection Regulations; and
- (7) To recommend to Hatfield Town Council to immediately remove Councillors Credland, Glynn and Morrison from the Hatfield Town Council Personnel Committee and, not to consider their reappointment to that Committee for a period of two years after the completion of the training at Recommendation 5 (and in the case of Councillor Morrison Recommendation 6), and the receipt of the apologies detailed at Recommendation 2.

## **Appeals**

There is no right of appeal for the Complainant or for the Members against a decision of the Sub-Committee.

If the Complainant or Members feels that the Council has failed to deal with the complaint properly and that this failure has caused injustice, they can make a complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman.

## **Hearing Sub-Committee**

The Hearings Sub-Committee was chaired by Councillor R A Jones and comprised Councillors Iris Beech and Mark Houlbrook, and Co-opted Members David Harle and Monica Clarke.

The meeting was also attended by the Council's Independent Person, Philip Beavers, whose views were sought by the Sub-Committee prior to making a determination on this matter.

The Council's Monitoring Officer, Scott Fawcus attended to provide legal advice to the Sub-Committee. The meeting was clerked by Andrea Hedges, Governance Officer. (DMBC Complaint Reference PC5 2018/19).

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Councillor R A Jones, Chair of the Hearings Sub-Committee  
Dated: 22nd January, 2019