

## Questions to Standards Committee 20 June 2023, with responses

Questions submitted by Mr Peter Gantlett, on 13 June 2023.

### **Question 1**

In 2020 I was subject to a code of conduct complaint, 14 months later it was resolved I had not breached the code of conduct. Subsequently I asked Wiltshire Council to investigate their behaviour and their failure to follow their own protocol. Wiltshire Council agreed to do this if I provided them with all the incidences where they had failed to follow Protocol 11. This I did, but then Wiltshire Council refused to carry out any investigation. When I raised the issue higher up in the Council, Wiltshire Council then accused me of failing to provide the information requested. That was clearly untrue. On both occasions it was suggested I should take my case to the ombudsman. Wiltshire Council should know the ombudsman will not deal with complaints from councillors.

The Chairman of the standards committee has investigated the issues and met with myself back in February 2023, meetings with Wiltshire Council officers were to follow that meeting.

I request a written report on the meeting held in February, between myself and the Chair of the Standards Committee, and subsequent meetings held with officers. I wish to know if Wiltshire Council are going to do anything about the way they dealt with the complaint against me and their subsequent behaviour.

### Response 1:

*Following Mr Gantlett's request that Wiltshire Council investigate its actions with regard to this complaint, we reviewed the process the Council had followed, taking into account the specific concerns raised. Having done so, the Monitoring Officer is satisfied that the process was in accordance with proper procedure and as such the Council will not be undertaking further action to investigate this matter. As advised previously, the Local Government and Adult Social Care Ombudsman can investigate how Code of Conduct complaints against councillors have been processed. The Ombudsman's contact details are available here: [Home - Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman](#)*

### **Question 2**

Since the 24<sup>th</sup> April have any further complaints been received by Wiltshire Council in connection with Clyffe Pypard Parish Council.

I appreciate when dealing with the last complaint regarding Clyffe Pypard Parish Council, a number of recommendations were made by the subcommittee, including the offer of help and or mediation from Wiltshire Council. I also appreciate you can take a horse to water, but you can't make it drink. Upholding standards is not just about good governance its about good safe guarding, and I would suggest there is a serious issue of safe guarding around Clyffe Pypard Parish Council. Wiltshire Council made a subsequent offer of help, but have not followed up on it.

### Response 2:

*No complaints relating to Clyffe Pypard Parish Council have been received by Wiltshire Council during the time period specified.*

*Wiltshire Council remains in contact with members of the Parish Council regarding options for addressing the current situation. However, it should be noted that the Parish Council is an independent legal entity and as such is responsible for its own functioning.*

*Wiltshire Council is not aware of any safeguarding concerns in relation to this matter. Any safeguarding concerns should be reported using the following contact details:*

[Safeguarding | Your care Your support Wiltshire](#)

### **Non-emergency**

For all other concerns including safeguarding please call **Advice and Contact:**

**0300 456 0111**

Monday to Thursday between 8:30am and 5:20pm (Friday 4:20pm)

### **Out of hours**

At all other times call the **Emergency Duty Service:**

**0300 456 0100**