



Minutes

Name of meeting	APPEALS SUB COMMITTEE
Date and time	15 JANUARY 2019 COMMENCING AT 10:00 AM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	CLLrs John Kilpatrick (Chairman), Stuart Hutchinson, Karl Love, Shirley Smart
Co-opted Member	Cllr Margaret Webster (East Cowes)
Officers Present	Jennifer Beresford, Helen Miles, Simon Wiggins

1. [Declarations of Interest](#)

There were no declarations received at this stage.

2. [Minutes of this meeting](#)

RESOLVED:

THAT the Chairman be authorised to sign, as a true record, a copy of the Minutes when they had been produced.

3. [Investigation into an allegation concerning Councillor Thomas Millington of Bembridge Parish Council.](#)

The report of an investigation by Simon Wiggins appointed by the Monitoring Officer, Mrs Helen Miles, for the Isle of Wight Council into an allegation concerning Councillor Thomas Millington of Bembridge Parish Council was considered by the sub-committee.

Five complaints (PC.85/18, PC.86/18, PC.87/18, PC.88/18 and PC.92/18) had been received alleging that Councillor Millington had breached the members Code of Conduct although two were subsequently withdrawn. It was alleged that Councillor Millington failed to treat others with respect and that he had brought his office into disrepute on several occasions:

- Through his actions during a meeting of Bembridge Parish Council.
- Due to the content of communications between himself and the parish office and those posted on a social media webpage(s).
- Through a driving conviction.

The sub-committee reviewed the evidence presented by the investigating officer. Members were satisfied there was decisive evidence in the form of emails, recordings and minutes to determine that the facts of the complaints, regarding the use of inappropriate language were true.

Consideration was then given to whether Councillor Millington's behaviours and comments had breached the code of conduct. Discussion took place regarding what would be considered acceptable language by a public office holder and it was agreed that the language used was unacceptable and amounted to a breach of the code of conduct.

It was agreed that there was no breach of the code of conduct in relation to the driving conviction as Councillor Millington was not driving his vehicle in his capacity as a councillor.

The committee then debated what sanction, if any, would be appropriate to be recommended and it was agreed :-

RESOLVED

THAT a recommendation be made to Bembridge Parish Council that **CENSURE** is the appropriate sanction in relation to Councillor Tommy Millington for breaching the Members Code of Conduct, for his use of inappropriate language in communications between himself and the parish office, at a public meeting of the council, and comments posted on social media.

CHAIRMAN