

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Standards Sub-Committee

20 November 2009

Report of the Monitoring Officer (Tunbridge Wells Borough Council)

Hearing into an allegation that Parish Councillor Vanessa Jones breached the Bredhurst Parish Council's Code of Conduct

Introduction and Background

On the 24 February 2009 the Standards Sub-Committee considered a complaint concerning the alleged conduct of Councillor Vanessa Jones of Bredhurst Parish Council. The decision of the Standards Sub-Committee was to refer the Complaint for Investigation.

On the 31 July 2009 the Standards Sub-Committee considered the Investigating Officer's Report and decided that it should be referred to a hearing. It therefore now falls to the Standards Sub-Committee to hear the matter and decide whether or not there has been a breach, or breaches, of the Code of Conduct, and if so, what sanction to impose, if any.

Details of the allegations, the relevant sections of the Code of Conduct, findings of fact in the Investigating Officer's Report which are agreed by Councillor Jones and those which are not agreed by Councillor Jones are all set out in the Pre-Hearing Process Summary attached as Appendix A. The Investigating Officer's Report is attached at Appendix B. The Hearing Procedures for the Standards Sub-Committee are attached as Appendix C.

Recommendations

That:-

- 1. The Standards Sub-Committee conduct the hearing in accordance with the Hearing Procedures for the Standards Sub-Committee and the legislation.**

- 2. The Standards Sub-Committee consider the evidence and determine whether there has been any breach, or breaches, of the Code of Conduct.**
- 3. If the Standards Sub-Committee find that there has been a breach, or breaches, of the Code of Conduct it should determine what sanction, if any, should be imposed.**