

Borough Council of  
**King's Lynn &  
West Norfolk**



**Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk**  
**Standards Committee Hearing**

**Date: 11, 12, 18 and 25 September 2013**

**Complaint Reference Numbers: 21/11, 22/ 11, 31/11 and 32/11**

**Terrington St Clement Parish Councillor G Moore**

**DECISION NOTICE**

Complainants	Terrington St Clement Parish Councillor Miss B Hill Terrington St Clement Parish Councillor Mrs S Young
Standards Committee Members	Borough Councillor Mrs K Mellish (Chairman) Borough Councillor G McGuinness Borough Councillor D Whitby
Council Officers	Wendy Vincent, Democratic Services Officer Cara Jordan, Legal Adviser
Local Investigator	Emma Duncan
Date of Investigator's Report	12/01/13

## Decision Notice

**Standards Committee Hearing**  
**Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk**  
**Date: 11, 12, 18 and 25 September 2013**  
**Reference: 31/11 and 32/11**

### **1. Summary of the Complaint:**

It is alleged that Councillor Moore:

- (a) On 14 March 2012 failed to treat other Members with respect by shouting and gesticulating at the Chairman (31/11 and 32/11).
- (b) On 14 March 2012 failed to declare interests on item relating to youth facilities (31/11 and 32/11).
- (c) On 14 March 2012 bullied other Members by shouting, gesticulating and ridiculing (31/11 and 32/11).
- (d) On 14 March 2012 brought the Parish Council into disrepute by his conduct (31/11 and 32/11).
- (e) On 14 March 2012 attempted to secure an advantage for himself or PACT (31/11 and 32/11).

### **2. Relevant sections of the Code of Conduct**

Paragraphs 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

### **3. Summary of evidence considered and representations made**

The Committee read the report and relevant documentation. The Investigating Officer presented her report and Councillor Moore gave evidence.

### **4. Facts and Reasons**

The Committee carefully considered the report, the oral evidence and witness statements in coming to their decision as to whether there had been a breach of the Code of Conduct, and in particular a breach of paragraphs 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. The Committee viewed CCTV footage from the Parish Council meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

In respect of allegations (a), (b), (c) and (d) above, Councillor Moore accepted that he breached the Code of Conduct at the Hearing. The Committee considered allegation (e). Councillor Moore accepted that he had breached the Code by not declaring an interest relating to youth facilities. He is a member of the Cricket Club. This is an interest which should have been declared at the beginning of the meeting or when the content of item 11 became apparent to him. Having left the meeting when this item was initially discussed, Councillor Moore was made aware of the content of item 11 when the Clerk informed him of this in the waiting area. Councillor Moore, now knowing the content of item 11, returned to the meeting and took part in the discussion. Item 11 had not concluded. The Committee finds that Councillor Moore's body language is reflective of a person who knows that he should not be in the room at that time as he does not return to his seat but remains standing with another two Councillors, who had also left and returned to the room, for around the next 20 minutes. Councillor Moore is seen on the CCTV standing beside these two other Councillors in the meeting room and his conduct, individually and taken together, was visible to those in the meeting who did not have a prejudicial interest and who were entitled to

discuss and vote on item 11. There was some urgency in considering this item in order to obtain funding, any action to delay a decision was likely to frustrate its progress. Item 11 was not concluded at the meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012. Whilst we accept that Councillor Moore did not specifically speak about the piece of land in issue, the Committee finds that his presence in the room, during this controversial item, and his entering into discussion and shouting at other councillors, as seen in the CCTV footage, was an attempt to secure an advantage for himself or the Cricket Club.

## 5. Finding of Breach/non Breach of Terrington St Clement Parish Council Code of Conduct

- (a) On 14 March 2012 failed to treat other Members with respect by shouting and gesticulating at the Chairman (31/11 & 32/11). **COUNCILLOR MOORE DID BREACH TERRINGTON ST CLEMENT PARISH COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT.**
- (b) On 14 March 2012 failed to declare interests on item relating to youth facilities (31/11 & 32/11). **COUNCILLOR MOORE DID BREACH TERRINGTON ST CLEMENT PARISH COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT.**
- (c) On 14 March 2012 bullied other Members by shouting, gesticulating and ridiculing (31/11 & 32/11). **COUNCILLOR MOORE DID BREACH TERRINGTON ST CLEMENT PARISH COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT.**
- (d) On 14 March 2012 brought the Parish Council into disrepute by conduct (31/11 & 32/11). **COUNCILLOR MOORE DID BREACH TERRINGTON ST CLEMENT PARISH COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT.**
- (e) On 14 March 2012 attempted to secure an advantage for himself or PACT (31/11 & 32/11). **COUNCILLOR MOORE DID BREACH TERRINGTON ST CLEMENT PARISH COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT.**

## 6. Sanctions imposed

The Panel recommends that Terrington St Clement Parish Council arrange training for Councillor Moore in the following terms:

A tailored training course provided by NALC or other appropriate provider dealing with the following topics to be completed by 31 March 2014.

- Role of the Parish Council.
- Roles of the Councillors and the Chairman.
- Role of the Clerk.
- Code of Conduct.
- Disclosable Interests.
- Conduct of Meetings.
- Records/Minutes.
- Committees.
- Sources of help and advice and where to obtain this information from.
- Treating those attending Parish Council meetings with respect.
- Dealing with Difficult situations.

Signed.....Date: 27 September 2013

(Councillor Mrs K Mellish, Chairman of the Standards Committee Hearing)