

Lewes District Council Standards Panel

Hearing Date: 16 January 2018

Agenda item no. 5: investigation into two complaints against

Dave Neave, former councillor of Telscombe Town Council

DECISION NOTICE

1. Whether former Councillor Neave failed to comply with Telscombe Town Council's Code of Conduct

Having considered all the written and oral submissions in relation to the complaints and the Investigating Officer's report, the Panel finds that former Telscombe Town Councillor Neave failed to comply with the following two provisions of the Telscombe Town Council Code of Conduct:

- 1) That a Member shall behave in such a way that a reasonable person would regard as respectful, both inside and outside the Council Chamber; and
- 2) That a Member shall not act in a way which a reasonable person would regard as bullying or intimidatory, both inside and outside the Council Chamber.

The Panel's reasons for making these findings were that Councillor Neave's choice of language was totally inappropriate and disrespectful. As regards his non-verbal behaviour, his conduct did not amount to bullying but could be perceived by a reasonable person as intimidatory.

2. Sanctions

The Panel has decided to issue the following sanctions in respect of former Councillor Neave's conduct, recognising his admission that his language and behaviour were totally inappropriate and his willingness to apologise:

- 1) The Panel invites Dave Neave to write to Telscombe Town Council by the end of January 2018, formally apologising for his conduct at the fireworks debrief meeting held at the offices of Telscombe Town Council on 20 September 2017;
- 2) In terms of Councillor Neave's future participation in other councils on which he serves, the Panel recommends that Councillor Neave avoids

participating in council meetings where he is concerned about the possibility of reacting angrily about an item affecting him personally, and in that situation seeks to resolve his anger through alternative channels.

- 3) The Panel will write to the Town Clerk of Telscombe Town Council to ask that she remind all its councillors of the need to comply with the Code of Conduct and to engender a culture of mutual respect in all forms of communication used.

3. Publication

In accordance with the Council's Standards Panel Hearings Procedure, a copy of this notice will be sent to former Councillor Dave Neave as subject member and to Councillors Andy Smith and David Wright as complainants. In addition, this notice will be reported to the next meeting of Telscombe Town Council and published on its website.

Date of Decision Notice: 17 January 2018

**Oliver Dixon, Deputy Monitoring Officer
Lewes District Council**