

Our ref:

Your ref:

This matter is being dealt with by: Mr Justin Price-Jones

Direct Line: 01900 702703



The Clerk  
Workington Town Council  
The Town Hall  
Oxford Street  
Workington,  
Cumbria

28 FEB 2014  
RECEIVED

27 February 2014

Dear Sir

**Re: Councillor Stephen Stoddart - Alleged breaches of Workington Town Council's adopted Code of Conduct for Members and Co-Opted Members of the Authority**

As you are aware, on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014 Allerdale Borough Council's Standards Committee was required to consider a report regarding allegations by Councillor Gerald Humes (of Workington Town Council), Councillor Andrew Lawson (of Workington Town Council) and a member of the public that Councillor Stephen Stoddart had breached Workington Town Council's adopted Code of Conduct.

A copy of the Decision Notice, dated 27<sup>th</sup> February 2014 is attached for your information.

**Recommendation No.3 of the Standards Committee (as set out in the Decision Notice) is that Workington Town Council arranges appropriate training for Councillor Stephen Stoddart in relation to the provisions of the adopted Code of Conduct.**

As you are aware, Workington Town Council, along with all other relevant authorities, has a duty to maintain and promote high standards of conduct by its members.

In the circumstances, I would be most grateful if you could proceed to make arrangements for the required training as a matter of some urgency, not least because I am now required to investigate yet another allegation against Councillor Stoddart.

Should you require any additional guidance or contact details for appropriate trainers/consultants, please do not hesitate to contact me.



**Allerdale - a great  
place to live,  
work and visit**

Allerdale Borough Council  
Allerdale House  
Workington  
Cumbria CA14 3YJ  
Tel: 01900 702702  
Fax: 01900 702507

For the avoidance of doubt, I confirm I have today written to Councillor Stoddart to advise him of the situation. (See copy letter attached for your information.)

Yours faithfully



Justin Price-Jones  
**Consultant Solicitor**

## **Allerdale Borough Council**

### **Decision Notice**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that at 1.00pm on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014 in the Council Chamber at Allerdale House, Workington, Allerdale Borough Council's Standards Committee met to determine complaints referred to it in relation to allegations made by Councillor Gerald Humes (of Workington Town Council), Councillor Andrew Lawson (of Workington Town Council) and a member of the public (Complaint Reference Numbers 2013/N003, 2013/N005 & 2013/N004 respectively) that Councillor Stephen Stoddart (of Workington Town Council) had breached Workington Town Council's adopted Code of Conduct for Members and Co-Opted Members of the Authority.

#### **Summary of the evidence considered by the Hearing Sub-Committee**

The Standards Committee considered the evidence set out in the report prepared and presented by the Investigating Officer in relation to a letter headed 'Bullies and Liars' that had been distributed to properties in the Moorclose area of Workington between April and June 2013.

Councillor Stephen Stoddart did not attend the meeting or submit any written statement.

#### **Summary of the Breaches of the Code of Conduct**

The Standards Committee considered that the following provisions of Workington Town Council's adopted Code of Conduct for Members and Co-Opted Members of the Authority were relevant:-

- a) **Paragraph 5(3)** - You must not disclose any information given to you as a Member in breach of any confidence.
- b) **Paragraph 5(4)** - You must not bring your office or the Council into disrepute.

#### **The Decision**

The Standards Committee found that Councillor Stephen Stoddart had failed to comply with Workington Town Council's adopted Code of Conduct for Members and Co-Opted Members of the Authority and made the decision to:-

- 1) Publish its findings in respect of Councillor Stephen Stoddart's conduct;
- 2) Report its findings to Workington Town Council; and
- 3) Recommend that Workington Town Council arrange for Councillor Stephen Stoddart to receive appropriate training in relation to the adopted Code of Conduct.

### **Additional Help**

Should you require additional support in relation to this notice or future contact with us, please notify us as soon as possible. Should you have any difficulty reading this notice we can make reasonable adjustments to assist you, in line with the requirements of the Equalities Act 2010.

We can also help if English is not your first language.

Signed: ....

Dated: .....

*27<sup>th</sup> February 2014*

Mrs Janice Wood (Chair of the Standards Committee)  
c/o Democratic Services  
Allerdale Borough Council  
Allerdale House  
Workington  
Cumbria  
CA14 3YJ

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