

The Clerk
Desborough Town Council
High Street
Desborough
Northamptonshire
NN14 2QS

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Our ref:
Date: 23 August 2019

Dear Graham

STANDARDS COMPLAINT AGAINST FIVE MEMBERS OF DESBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

I refer to the above complaint, received earlier this year. The complaint has taken longer than was desirable for us to investigate, but this has now concluded and the report is attached. You will see that a breach of the code has been found on two of the points in the original complaint. All the councillors concerned have accepted the report and that they breached the code.

In these circumstances, the Council's internal Statutory Officers Group (SOG) determined today that a local resolution was appropriate and to that end, I am setting out what we require the Town Council and the affected members to do to bring the matter to a close.

1. The full report should be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Town Council, in public session.
2. The members named in the report should, at the meeting, each apologise for their failure to declare their interests and for their failure to do so in a timely manner and accept that they breached the code in not doing so.

In addition, we recommend that

3. The Council should cancel the dispensation provided to members who are library trustees and expect in future that members who are trustees should withdraw from the meeting when issues concerning the funding or management of the library are to be debated.

This last point might suggest the dispensation was improperly applied in the first place; it was not, but it is considered necessary, in the light of the findings of the report, to "clean the slate" on this matter and be clear that a conflict of interest applies and this takes precedent over considerations of political balance on the Council.

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Working with and on behalf of local people

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I am required to report to the Borough Council's Standards Advisory Committee both the report, my decision as to the remedy and that you have implemented the remedy, so please let me know when all the steps above have been completed.

Yours sincerely



Martin Hammond
Monitoring Officer

copies:

Mike Sawford, Independent person
Cllr Linda Burnham
Cllr Steve Draycott
Cllr Gilbert Holmes
Mr Bill McElhinney
Cllr Jean Read
Mr Kevin O'Brien, complainant