

[REDACTED]
Rugby Road
Weston under Wetherley
Warwickshire
CV33 [REDACTED]

Andrew Jones Esq.,
Monitoring Officer
Warwick District Council
Riverside House
Milverton Hill
Leamington Spa
CV32 5HZ

5th March 2014

Dear Mr Jones

Code of Conduct and Pre-Hearing meeting

Thank you for the letters addressed to each of us, dated 27th February 2014 and received on Saturday 1st March.

We are obliged to comment that in our view it is utterly absurd for you to offer meeting dates between Monday 3rd and Thursday 6th March effectively giving no notice at all and which was clearly aimed at intimidating us by attempting to force the acceptance of the dates later in the month of 21st and 24th respectively. No reasonable person would conclude otherwise.

This behaviour has been symptomatic of your Council's modus operandi for nearly a year since the alleged complaints were first brought to our notice. You have continually ignored or failed to offer reasonable explanations against many of our equitable and valid requests for information, and have repeatedly failed to follow Warwick District Council's own written procedures.

In particular you have failed to acknowledge and respond to our legitimate claim of which you have had full detail, of us not being bound by Weston's Code of Conduct, as requested of you by your CEO, Chris Elliot now some three and a half months ago. This behaviour is completely unacceptable to us.

We have both offered an eminently sensible suggestion of a way forward to circumvent the inadequacies of your handling of the alleged complaints. This, as you know was for a totally unconnected (from WDC/WCC) independent peer review of the investigation and of the officers (including the investigating officer from WCC). Regrettably your Chief Executive rejected the proposal, it seemed to us, virtually out of hand. This we believed had great merit and was to be applauded if there was to be any recovery at all of natural justice in this complete debacle.

Your letters of 27th February serve only to perpetuate the farce you call an investigation and have acted as the catalyst for being 'the final straw'.

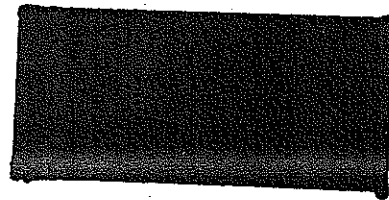
Notwithstanding any of the above we reiterate our considered position that we have not been bound by a Code of Conduct for Weston for the period 1st July 2012 to 15th January 2014, when Weston Parish Council adopted new Standing Orders mandating councillors and non-voting councillors to observe the latest Code of Conduct.

Accordingly and with the greatest of respect to the members of the Standards Committee, please be advised that we will not be attending any meetings of the Standards Committee/sub-committees and will deal with any outcome in a manner which we consider to be most appropriate.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Andy Coles



Councillor Mrs Lesley Mobbs