

Meeting Notes

Appendix A

Reference: Local Investigation SBE 17438.07

Date of meeting: 16th May 2007

Attendees: Councillor Stephen Peters and Thelma Warwick (Investigating Officer)

Purpose: to confirm details of the allegation.

Meeting notes recorded by Thelma Warwick

The following points were discussed:

1. Councillor Peters confirmed that he received a telephone call from Peter Lammas of the Bromsgrove Advertiser around 4.15 – 4.30 p.m. on Friday 15th December 2006.
2. Councillor Peters receives telephone calls from Peter Lammas on a fairly regular basis; he was not expecting a telephone call.
3. Councillor Peters recalls that Peter Lammas said that he had received information regarding an agenda item in relation to the Standards Committee meeting that had been held on Thursday 14th December 2006.
4. During the course of the telephone conversation Peter Lammas informed Councillor Peters that he had been given details of an allegation that had been made in relation to Councillor Peters and that he had obtained the information from a fellow Councillor.
5. As Peter Lammas told Councillor Peters details of the information he had received, Councillor Peters worked out that the source of the information would have to be a person who knew the exact details of the allegation. Councillor Peters perceived that the individual was Councillor Duddy.
6. Councillor Peters did not deny what he was told by Peter Lammas and informed him that the information was confidential and, therefore, could not be reported.
7. Councillor Peters asked Peter Lammas was Councillor Duddy the source of the information he had received and Peter Lammas confirmed that he was.
8. Councillor Peters reported the telephone conversation to Debbie Warren who was carrying out the investigation into the allegation that Peter Lammas had referred to. Councillor Peters believes that someone, perhaps Claire Felton, contacted Councillor Duddy to remind him of the requirement for confidentiality.
9. Councillor Peters confirmed that he received a telephone call from Peter Lammas during the morning of Thursday 1st February 2007.
10. Councillor Peters recalls that Peter Lammas said that he had received new briefing information from Councillor Duddy in relation to the agenda for the Standards Committee that was due to take place on Thursday 8th February 2007. The information that Peter Lammas had received named Councillor Peters as the subject of an allegation and details of the allegation.
11. Councillor Peters reminded Peter Lammas that he had telephoned him previously in relation to the allegation. Peter Lammas said that he did not recall the conversation.

- 12. Councillor Peters reminded Peter Lammas that the information was confidential and, therefore, could not be reported. As far as Councillor Peters is aware there have been no reports in relation to the allegation made against him reported in the Bromsgrove Advertiser.
- 13. Councillor Peters believes that he reported the second telephone conversation to Debbie Warren but is not certain and does not have a copy of a letter.
- 14. Councillor Peters is sure that all correspondence that he received in relation to the investigation of the allegation that he was the subject of was marked 'Private and Confidential'.
- 15. Councillor Peters knows the requirement for confidentiality as detailed in the Code of Conduct. Furthermore, Councillor Peters is aware of a draft Member/Member protocol that details how Members should deal with one another.
- 16. Councillor Peters is sure that details of the allegation and who was the subject of the allegation were not in the public domain at the times he received telephone calls from Peter Lammas.
- 17. Thelma Warwick reminded Councillor Peters that the meeting was confidential and clarified the next steps of the investigation.

.....

Stephen Peters

Dated:

[ORIGINAL DOCUMENT SIGNED BY COUNCILLOR STEPHEN PETERS ON 18TH MAY 2007]