

APPENDIX 1

[Redacted]

Your details

Title

Councillor Dr.

Forename(s)

Martin

Surname

O'Neill

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

This document is available in Welsh and English. You can write to us in Welsh and we will reply in Welsh. This will not lead to a delay in responding.

[REDACTED]

Your Complaint

Organisation

Type

Community Council

Organisation - please select from the list. If your complaint is about more than one organisation, you will need to submit a separate complaint for each one. If the body you are complaining about does not appear in the list below please telephone us on 0300 7900203 or email ask@ombudsman-wales.org.uk

Mumbles Community Council

Councillor Name

Louise Thomas

Explain how the individual has breached the Code of Conduct.

Please say which or refer to the paragraphs of the "Code" you think the member has breached.

Please also include the names and contact details of any witnesses relevant to your complaint.

I am Chair of Mumbles Community Council and it has come to my attention that Councillor Louise Thomas has submitted yet another complaint to the Ombudsman's office about another councillor. This is the latest in what I consider to be a series of

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vexatious complaints to the Ombudsman's office submitted by Councillor Thomas since she became a councillor in May, and which are always targeted at a small group of other councillors. To date every one of these complaints has been found to have had no substance and even though Councillor Thomas has been made aware of the local resolution procedure she has made no attempt to use it and has on every occasion gone straight to the Ombudsman's office.

The repeated actions of Councillor Thomas of submitting unsubstantiated complaints to the Ombudsman's office that are always targeted at a small group of councillor is , in my opinion, in clear breach of the code of conduct in relation to vexatious complaints which states:

"You must not make vexatious, malicious or frivolous complaints against other members or anyone who works for, or on behalf of, your Council."

and further goes on to state:

"The Code should not be used by members to pursue their political or private differences. You should also avoid making complaints which have little or no substance (frivolous complaints) which are designed mainly to annoy the person complained about. "

I believe the timing of this latest complaint, in the run up to the Christmas holiday, is particularly pernicious being aimed at causing the person it is aimed at distress and worry over the holiday period

Supporting Documents

Declaration

I wish for the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales to consider my complaint.

I understand that my complaint form and all material supplied with it (including my identity) may be disclosed in full to the member who I am making a complaint against and that this information may become public knowledge. This information will also usually be disclosed to the Monitoring Officer and Clerk (where applicable) of the appropriate Council.

I understand that I may be required to give spoken evidence in public in support of my complaint to the authority's standards committee, or any case tribunal which may be appointed to consider any report which the Ombudsman may issue if he decides to investigate my complaint.

Privacy

This document is available in Welsh and English. You can write to us in Welsh and we will reply in Welsh. This will not lead to a delay in responding.

When considering your complaint, the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales will process your personal information, which may include health or social services records if your complaint relates to one of these areas. Further information about how we process your personal information is available in the Privacy Notice for Complainants & Representatives here. A copy of this notice will also be attached to your confirmation email.

Privacy

Authorisation given

APPENDIX 2

[Redacted]

Your details

Title

Councillor Dr.

Forename(s)

Martin

Surname

O'Neill

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Your Complaint

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Mumbles Community Council

Councillor Name

Louise Thomas

Explain how the individual has breached the Code of Conduct.

Please say which or refer to the paragraphs of the "Code" you think the member has breached.

Please also include the names and contact details of any witnesses relevant to your complaint.

Under the code of conduct it states:

Disclosing confidential information

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See paragraph 5(a)

You must not disclose confidential information, or information which should be reasonably regarded to be of a confidential nature, except in any of the following circumstances:

- you have the consent of the person authorised to give it
- you are required by law to do so.

The Information Commissioner has issued helpful guidance on the Freedom of Information Act and Data Protection Act which is available on his website at www.ico.gov.uk or by calling 0303 123 1113. As a community councillor you may have sight of sensitive information, for example of a commercial nature. You must also be mindful that, as a councillor, you hold a position of trust and you may find that members of the public will provide you with information that could reasonably be regarded as confidential and you should always confirm (where possible obtain an agreement in writing) that you have the permission to disclose such information before doing so. As a general rule, you should treat items discussed in the confidential sections of meetings (exempt items) as confidential. Similarly, legal advice is almost always covered by legal privilege and should not be disclosed.

I am Chair of Mumbles Community Council and it has been brought to my attention that Cllr Louise Thomas secretly recorded a closed session of a full council meeting held on the 4th December 2021 where sensitive information was being discussed, she then offered to show this recording to a member of the public which is in clear transgression of the code of conduct. I attach a screen shot of the discussion via Facebook where Cllr. Thomas admits recording the information and offers to show it to a member of the public.

Supporting Documents

- LT Conversation 221221.docx

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Privacy

Authorisation given



Louise Thomas

Assign conversation ▼



Mon 16:22



Hi Jason, what have you been told by MCC?

About what? We're waiting for news on the transfer

Sent by Jason Williams [?]

Have they given you a time to start? I am having a major issue with some information that is being held back, I



am also one of lans sister best friends so I wont lie to you

As far as we're aware we're waiting on the transfer to be finalised

Sent by Jason Williams [?]

okay, I am close to resigning over this,

as I am really not that political. However, they are and I dont want to be say anything on FB, as I know this could really backfire on MCC. Its not straightforward as they are making out. They think I am against the skatepark, but that's not true, I know so many people that skate. But what they are doing is dodgy and I wont be involved. They have had a confidential

meeting on Friday the 4th of December, which excluded the public citing it was sensitive. The main purpose of the meeting was to raise the funding to pay Mavericks £68,000 now to secure the contract. However we dont own the lease yet, so that is regarded as super risky. I said just to wait until we get the lease then pay the contract then. I do not trust CCoS, and I do not trust MCC, you are being used as a success story for the

labour party who are just interested in young votes. I am sick of it, and want to leave Swansea. I cannot even look at Sue knowing how much Ian you and the team have worked for this. You have to ask why the rush? Why not just wait until we get the lease, then pay. They said we need to do this now as they have some form of assurance from the lottery, only in the meeting this was disputed and it all became a little bit hazy. I have recorded this meeting as I know they



will dispute this. Jason I am writing this absolutely gutted. I would like to think they would have informed you of this as you are an integral part of this project. However, if they havent, then you must ask about funding and see what they come up with. They can report me for disclosing this, but I have read all the amazing and excited comments on FB and it makes my blood boil, that the possibility that this will be delayed until proper funding is sought is just awful. Also

Underhill project was just approved at a cost of 1.5m and the 3 councillors at this meeting were fuming, as they know now that there will be less funding available for MSA. What I would do is try and raise as much now. do a go-fund me. Honestly you cannot trust them, I am willing to meet up and play the recording, if need be. I am so sorry Jason, but when I read Pams message I just couldnt stomach it anymore. Louise



What is your email address please?



Mon 18:32

Sent this just now



All always be and should be held accountable for our actions, and for the greater good and not to make this political.
With decision to pay Mearns to fund fairly and if we go ahead, we should be disclosing this to the public. We should not be hiding any financial facts or how we could fund ourselves in certain ways.
We want to appear to be the underdog for changing confidential information, but truly cannot not back and wish these councillors to be the MSA. If when its going to continue, when you have to turn financial backing from the lottery. Just that it is possible that this information is on social media. We have done nothing to change down the settlement of local council and debts. You are making out that this is a done deal, when its still being and still concerns, especially after we asked to financially back ourselves, which is a considerable cost to MSA.
You are willing to state publicly that there will be small risk to pay Mearns up from the £50,000 down payment, then we cannot be criticised for selling the public. However, if there is an issue with the lottery funding, the MSA will be highly critical of MSA and it wont be long before the headlines are a waste of the issue.
It is, be open and honest and stop using the word confidential as a tool in keeping people in the dark. This is not our money, it's the tax payers and they're the ones to conduct ourselves in a manner that's above board.
As a strong person to stand up for what is right and ask the questions that need asking. One of my best friends in the order of Ian Thomas and I'll use it to her or her family when they ask what is happening. If MSA are not prepared to hold back this information, then you will have me no option but to, a public inquiry.
Send this with you all.
Louise

I think the political side of things is squarely the purview of the MCC. As you know, we are established to support the redevelopment and represent the community in favour of it and we aim to continue to work with MCC to realise the redevelopment, and are invited to attend meeting, as deemed appropriate by MCC.

Thanks for sending us a copy of the email. We note the content and assume this is something MCC will review.

In terms of email addresses, we prefer any correspondence comes via our social media or association email, rather the personal addresses.

Best wishes

Sent by Jason Williams [?]

Thanks Jason, I feel somewhat relieved that you are made aware I honestly want you to succeed, I know how much this means to the

community. Best wishes Louise

Hi Louise - for sake of completeness and openness I will confirm you have shared the email with us and share my response to you - I will send to the Clerk, Martin O'Neill (as MCC Chair) and Rebecca Foggarty (as Chair, Community & Social Development). I will cc yourself

Sent by Jason Williams [?]

Yes of course that is no problem at

all.

Reply in Messenger...

APPENDIX 3

Local Government Act 2000	Deddf Llywodraeth Leol 2000
<p>Model Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members with voting rights</p>	<p>Cod Ymddygiad Enghreifftiol ar gyfer Aelodau ac Aelodau Cyfetholedig â hawliau pleidleisio</p>
<p>The attached Annex sets out the text (in English and Welsh) of the Model Code of Conduct prescribed by the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) (Wales) Order 2008, as amended by the following statutory instruments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies and Credit Unions Act 2010 (Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2014 – (No. 2014/1815) (“the 2014 Regulations”) – effective from 1 August 2014. • Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2016 (No. 2016/84) – effective from 1 April 2016. <p>This document has been produced for the benefit of relevant authorities to whom the Model Code applies, but it does not itself have any legal standing. It is believed to be a true and accurate representation of the law as at 1 April 2016, but no assurance is given in this regard and authorities should take their own legal advice on matters relating to the Code.</p> <p>Please note the 2014 Regulations were made by the UK Government. They amend the Model Code to insert a definition of a ‘registered society’. It appears that the Welsh language version of the Model Code was not amended at the same time. The Welsh Government is in discussion with the UK Government about this with a view to the Welsh language version being amended as soon as practicable.</p> <p>In the interim, the Welsh Government does not believe this anomaly has a material bearing on the operation of the Model Code.</p>	<p>Mae'r Atodiad amgaeedig yn nodi testun (yn Gymraeg a Saesneg) y Cod Ymddygiad Enghreifftiol a bennir gan Orchymyn Awdurdodau Lleol (Cod Ymddygiad Enghreifftiol) (Cymru) 2008, fel y'i diwygiwyd gan yr offerynnau statudol canlynol:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rheoliadau Deddf Cwmnïau Cydweithredol a Chymdeithasau Budd Cymunedol ac Undebau Credyd 2010 (Diwygiadau Canlyniadol) 2014 - (Rhif 2014/1815) (“Rheoliadau 2014”) - yn dod i rym ar 1 Awst 2014. • Gorchymyn Awdurdodau Lleol (Cod Ymddygiad Enghreifftiol) (Cymru) (Diwygio) 2016 (Rhif 2016/84) – yn dod i rym ar 1 Ebrill 2016. <p>Cynhyrchwyd y ddogfen hon er budd awdurdodau perthnasol y mae'r Cod Enghreifftiol yn gymwys iddynt, ond nid oes ganddi unrhyw statws cyfreithiol. Credir ei bod yn cynrychioli'r gyfraith ar 1 Ebrill 2016 yn wir ac yn gywir, ond ni roddir unrhyw sicrwydd yn hyn o beth, a dylai'r awdurdodau geisio eu cyngor cyfreithiol eu hunain ar faterion sy'n ymwneud â'r Cod.</p> <p>Sylwer: Gwnaed Rheoliadau 2014 gan Lywodraeth y DU. Maent yn diwygio'r Cod Enghreifftiol drwy fewnosodi diffiniad o ‘cymdeithas gofrestredig’. Mae'n ymddangos na ddiwygiwyd fersiwn Gymraeg y Cod Enghreifftiol ar yr un pryd. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wrthi'n trafod hyn â Llywodraeth y DU gyda'r bwriad o ddiwygio'r fersiwn Gymraeg cyn gynted ag y bo'n ymarferol.</p> <p>Yn y cyfamser, nid yw Llywodraeth Cymru yn credu bod yr anghysondeb hwn yn effeithio'n ymarferol ar weithredu'r Cod Enghreifftiol.</p>

THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

PART 1 INTERPRETATION

1.—(1) In this code —

"co-opted member" ("*aelod cyfetholedig*"), in relation to a relevant authority, means a person who is not a member of the authority but who —

- (a) is a member of any committee or sub-committee of the authority, or
- (b) is a member of, and represents the authority on, any joint committee or joint sub-committee of the authority, and who is entitled to vote on any question which falls to be decided at any meeting of that committee or subcommittee;

"meeting" ("*cyfarfod*") means any meeting —

- (a) of the relevant authority,
- (b) of any executive or board of the relevant authority,
- (c) of any committee, sub-committee, joint committee or joint sub-committee of the relevant authority or of any such committee, sub-committee, joint committee or joint sub-committee of any executive or board of the authority, or
- (d) where members or officers of the relevant authority are present other than a meeting of a political group constituted in accordance with regulation 8 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990,

and includes circumstances in which a member of an executive or board or an officer acting alone exercises a function of an authority;

"member" ("*aelod*") includes, unless the context requires otherwise, a co-opted member;

"registered society" means a society, other than a society registered as a credit union, which is —

- (a) a registered society within the meaning given by section 1(1) of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014; or
- (b) a society registered or deemed to be registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act (Northern Ireland) 1969;

"register of members' interests" ("*cofrestr o fuddiannau'r aelodau*") means the register established and maintained under section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000;

"relevant authority" ("*awdurdod perthnasol*") means—

- (a) a county council,
- (b) a county borough council,
- (c) a community council,

2.

(d) a fire and rescue authority constituted by a scheme under section 2 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 or a scheme to which section 4 of that Act applies,

(e) a National Park authority established under section 63 of the Environment Act 1995;

"you" ("*chi*") means you as a member or co-opted member of a relevant authority; and

"your authority" ("*eich awdurdod*") means the relevant authority of which you are a member or co-opted member.

(2) In relation to a community council—

(a) "proper officer" ("*swyddog priodol*") means an officer of that council within the meaning of section 270(3) of the Local Government Act 1972; and

(b) "standards committee" ("*pwylgor safonau*") means the standards committee of the county or county borough council which has functions in relation to the community council for which it is responsible under section 56(1) and (2) of the Local Government Act 2000.

PART 2 GENERAL PROVISIONS

2.—(1) Save where paragraph 3(a) applies, you must observe this code of conduct —

(a) whenever you conduct the business, or are present at a meeting, of your authority;

(b) whenever you act, claim to act or give the impression you are acting in the role of member to which you were elected or appointed;

(c) whenever you act, claim to act or give the impression you are acting as a representative of your authority; or

(d) at all times and in any capacity, in respect of conduct identified in paragraphs 6(1)(a) and 7.

(2) You should read this code together with the general principles prescribed under section 49(2) of the Local Government Act 2000 in relation to Wales.

3. Where you are elected, appointed or nominated by your authority to serve —

(a) on another relevant authority, or any other body, which includes a Local Health Board you must, when acting for that other authority or body, comply with the code of conduct of that other authority or body; or

(b) on any other body which does not have a code relating to the conduct of its members, you must, when acting for that other body, comply with this code of conduct, except and insofar as it conflicts with any other lawful obligations to which that other body may be subject.

4. You must —

(a) carry out your duties and responsibilities with due regard to the principle that there should be equality of opportunity for all people, regardless of their gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, age or religion;

- (b) show respect and consideration for others;
- (c) not use bullying behaviour or harass any person; and
- (d) not do anything which compromises, or which is likely to compromise, the impartiality of those who work for, or on behalf of, your authority.

5. You must not —

- (a) disclose confidential information or information which should reasonably be regarded as being of a confidential nature, without the express consent of a person authorised to give such consent, or unless required by law to do so;
- (b) prevent any person from gaining access to information to which that person is entitled by law.

6.—(1) You must —

- (a) not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute;
- (b) report, whether through your authority's confidential reporting procedure or direct to the proper authority, any conduct by another member or anyone who works for, or on behalf of, your authority which you reasonably believe involves or is likely to involve criminal behaviour (which for the purposes of this paragraph does not include offences or behaviour capable of punishment by way of a fixed penalty);
- (c) report to your authority's monitoring officer any conduct by another member which you reasonably believe breaches this code of conduct;
- (d) not make vexatious, malicious or frivolous complaints against other members or anyone who works for, or on behalf of, your authority.

(2) You must comply with any request of your authority's monitoring officer, or the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales, in connection with an investigation conducted in accordance with their respective statutory powers.

7. You must not —

- (a) in your official capacity or otherwise, use or attempt to use your position improperly to confer on or secure for yourself, or any other person, an advantage or create or avoid for yourself, or any other person, a disadvantage;
- (b) use, or authorise others to use, the resources of your authority —
 - (i) imprudently;
 - (ii) in breach of your authority's requirements;
 - (iii) unlawfully;
 - (iv) other than in a manner which is calculated to facilitate, or to be conducive to, the discharge of the functions of the authority or of the office to which you have been elected or appointed;
 - (v) improperly for political purposes; or

(vi) improperly for private purposes.

8. You must —

(a) when participating in meetings or reaching decisions regarding the business of your authority, do so on the basis of the merits of the circumstances involved and in the public interest having regard to any relevant advice provided by your authority's officers, in particular by —

(i) the authority's head of paid service;

(ii) the authority's chief finance officer;

(iii) the authority's monitoring officer;

(iv) the authority's chief legal officer (who should be consulted when there is any doubt as to the authority's power to act, as to whether the action proposed lies within the policy framework agreed by the authority or where the legal consequences of action or failure to act by the authority might have important repercussions);

(b) give reasons for all decisions in accordance with any statutory requirements and any reasonable additional requirements imposed by your authority.

9. You must —

(a) observe the law and your authority's rules governing the claiming of expenses and allowances in connection with your duties as a member;

(b) avoid accepting from anyone gifts, hospitality (other than official hospitality, such as a civic reception or a working lunch duly authorised by your authority), material benefits or services for yourself or any person which might place you, or reasonably appear to place you, under an improper obligation.

PART 3 INTERESTS

Personal Interests

10.—(1) You must in all matters consider whether you have a personal interest, and whether this code of conduct requires you to disclose that interest.

(2) You must regard yourself as having a personal interest in any business of your authority if

— (a) it relates to, or is likely to affect —

(i) any employment or business carried on by you;

(ii) any person who employs or has appointed you, any firm in which you are a partner or any company for which you are a remunerated director;

(iii) any person, other than your authority, who has made a payment to you in respect of your election or any expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a member;

(iv) any corporate body which has a place of business or land in your authority's area, and in which you have a beneficial interest in a class of securities of that body that

exceeds the nominal value of £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body;

(v) any contract for goods, services or works made between your authority and you or a firm in which you are a partner, a company of which you are a remunerated director, or a body of the description specified in sub-paragraph (iv) above;

(vi) any land in which you have a beneficial interest and which is in the area of your authority;

(vii) any land where the landlord is your authority and the tenant is a firm in which you are a partner, a company of which you are a remunerated director, or a body of the description specified in subparagraph (iv) above;

(viii) any body to which you have been elected, appointed or nominated by your authority;

(ix) any —

(aa) public authority or body exercising functions of a public nature;

(bb) company, registered society, charity, or body directed to charitable purposes;

(cc) body whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy;

(dd) trade union or professional association; or

(ee) private club, society or association operating within your authority's area,

in which you have membership or hold a position of general control or management;

(x) any land in your authority's area in which you have a licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy for 28 days or longer;

[Note: subparagraph (b) is omitted.]

(c) a decision upon it might reasonably be regarded as affecting —

(i) your well-being or financial position, or that of a person with whom you live, or any person with whom you have a close personal association;

(ii) any employment or business carried on by persons as described in 10(2)(c)(i);

(iii) any person who employs or has appointed such persons described in 10(2)(c)(i), any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are directors;

(iv) any corporate body in which persons as described in 10(2)(c)(i) have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £5,000; or

(v) any body listed in paragraphs 10(2)(a)(ix)(aa) to (ee) in which persons described in 10(2)(c)(i) hold a position of general control or management,

to a greater extent than the majority of—

(aa) in the case of an authority with electoral divisions or wards, other council tax payers, rate payers or inhabitants of the electoral division or ward, as the case may be, affected by the decision; or

(bb) in all other cases, other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the authority's area.

Disclosure of Personal Interests

11.—(1) Where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority and you attend a meeting at which that business is considered, you must disclose orally to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest before or at the commencement of that consideration, or when the interest becomes apparent.

(2) Where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority and you make —

(a) written representations (whether by letter, facsimile or some other form of electronic communication) to a member or officer of your authority regarding that business, you should include details of that interest in the written communication; or

(b) oral representations (whether in person or some form of electronic communication) to a member or officer of your authority you should disclose the interest at the commencement of such representations, or when it becomes apparent to you that you have such an interest, and confirm the representation and interest in writing within 14 days of the representation.

(3) Subject to paragraph 14(1)(b) below, where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority and you have made a decision in exercising a function of an executive or board, you must in relation to that business ensure that any written statement of that decision records the existence and nature of your interest.

(4) You must, in respect of a personal interest not previously disclosed, before or immediately after the close of a meeting where the disclosure is made pursuant to sub-paragraph 11(1), give written notification to your authority in accordance with any requirements identified by your authority's monitoring officer, or in relation to a community council, your authority's proper officer from time to time but, as a minimum containing —

(a) details of the personal interest;

(b) details of the business to which the personal interest relates; and

(c) your signature.

(5) Where you have agreement from your monitoring officer that the information relating to your personal interest is sensitive information, pursuant to paragraph 16(1), your obligations under this paragraph 11 to disclose such information, whether orally or in writing, are to be replaced with an obligation to disclose the existence of a personal interest and to confirm that your monitoring officer has agreed that the nature of such personal interest is sensitive information.

(6) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (4), a personal interest will only be deemed to have been previously disclosed if written notification has been provided in accordance with this code since the last date on which you were elected, appointed or nominated as a member of your authority.

(7) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (3), where no written notice is provided in accordance with that paragraph you will be deemed as not to have declared a personal interest in accordance with this code.

Prejudicial Interests

12.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2) below, where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority you also have a prejudicial interest in that business if the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

(2) Subject to sub-paragraph (3), you will not be regarded as having a prejudicial interest in any business where that business—

(a) relates to —

(i) another relevant authority of which you are also a member;

(ii) another public authority or body exercising functions of a public nature in which you hold a position of general control or management;

(iii) a body to which you have been elected, appointed or nominated by your authority;

(iv) your role as a school governor (where not appointed or nominated by your authority) unless it relates particularly to the school of which you are a governor;

(v) your role as a member of a Local Health Board where you have not been appointed or nominated by your authority;

(b) relates to —

(i) the housing functions of your authority where you hold a tenancy or lease with your authority, provided that you do not have arrears of rent with your authority of more than two months, and provided that those functions do not relate particularly to your tenancy or lease;

(ii) the functions of your authority in respect of school meals, transport and travelling expenses, where you are a guardian, parent, grandparent or have parental responsibility (as defined in section 3 of the Children Act 1989) of a child in full time education, unless it relates particularly to the school which that child attends;

(iii) the functions of your authority in respect of statutory sick pay under Part XI of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992, where you are in receipt of, or are entitled to the receipt of such pay from your authority;

(iv) the functions of your authority in respect of an allowance or payment made in accordance with the provisions of Part 8 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, or an allowance or pension provided under section 18 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989;

(c) your role as a community councillor in relation to a grant, loan or other form of financial assistance made by your community council to community or voluntary organisations up to a maximum of £500.

(3) The exemptions in subparagraph (2)(a) do not apply where the business relates to the determination of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration.

Overview and Scrutiny Committees

13. You also have a prejudicial interest in any business before an overview and scrutiny committee of your authority (or of a sub-committee of such a committee) where—

(a) that business relates to a decision made (whether implemented or not) or action taken by your authority's executive, board or another of your authority's committees, sub-committees, joint committees or joint subcommittees; and

(b) at the time the decision was made or action was taken, you were a member of the executive, board, committee, sub-committee, joint-committee or joint sub-committee mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) and you were present when that decision was made or action was taken.

Participation in Relation to Disclosed Interests

14.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraphs (2), (2A), (3) and (4), where you have a prejudicial interest in any business of your authority you must, unless you have obtained a dispensation from your authority's standards committee —

(a) withdraw from the room, chamber or place where a meeting considering the business is being held—

(i) where sub-paragraph (2) applies, immediately after the period for making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business has ended and in any event before further consideration of the business begins, whether or not the public are allowed to remain in attendance for such consideration; or

(ii) in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that that business is being considered at that meeting;

(b) not exercise executive or board functions in relation to that business;

(c) not seek to influence a decision about that business;

(d) not make any written representations (whether by letter, facsimile or some other form of electronic communication) in relation to that business; and

(e) not make any oral representations (whether in person or some form of electronic communication) in respect of that business or immediately cease to make such oral representations when the prejudicial interest becomes apparent.

(2) Where you have a prejudicial interest in any business of your authority you may attend a meeting but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise.

(2A) Where you have a prejudicial interest in any business of your authority you may submit written representations to a meeting relating to that business, provided that the public are allowed to attend the meeting for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business, whether under statutory right or otherwise.

(2B) When submitting written representations under sub-paragraph (2A) you must comply with any procedure that your authority may adopt for the submission of such representations.

(3) Sub-paragraph (1) does not prevent you attending and participating in a meeting if —

(a) you are required to attend a meeting of an overview or scrutiny committee, by such committee exercising its statutory powers; or

(b) you have the benefit of a dispensation provided that you —

(i) state at the meeting that you are relying on the dispensation; and

(ii) before or immediately after the close of the meeting give written notification to your authority containing —

(aa) details of the prejudicial interest;

(bb) details of the business to which the prejudicial interest relates;

(cc) details of, and the date on which, the dispensation was granted; and

(dd) your signature.

(4) Where you have a prejudicial interest and are making written or oral representations to your authority in reliance upon a dispensation, you must provide details of the dispensation within any such written or oral representation and, in the latter case, provide written notification to your authority within 14 days of making the representation.

PART 4 THE REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Registration of Personal Interests

15.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (4), you must, within 28 days of—

(a) your authority's code of conduct being adopted or the mandatory provisions of this model code being applied to your authority; or

(b) your election or appointment to office (if that is later),

register your personal interests, where they fall within a category mentioned in paragraph 10(2)(a), in your authority's register of members' interests by providing written notification to your authority's monitoring officer.

(2) Subject to sub-paragraph (4), you must, within 28 days of becoming aware of any new personal interest falling within a category mentioned in paragraph 10(2)(a), register that new personal interest in your authority's register of members' interests by providing written notification to your authority's monitoring officer.

(3) Subject to sub-paragraph (4), you must, within 28 days of becoming aware of any change to a registered personal interest falling within a category mentioned in paragraph 10(2)(a), register that change in your authority's register of members' interests by providing written notification to your authority's monitoring officer, or in the case of a community council to your authority's proper officer.

(4) Sub-paragraphs (1), (2) and (3) do not apply to sensitive information determined in accordance with paragraph 16(1).

(5) Sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) do not apply if you are a member of a relevant authority which is a community council when you act in your capacity as a member of such an authority.

(6) You must, when disclosing a personal interest in accordance with paragraph 11 for the first time, register that personal interest in your authority's register of members' interests by providing written notification to your authority's monitoring officer, or in the case of a community council to your authority's proper officer.

Sensitive information

16.—(1) Where you consider that the information relating to any of your personal interests is sensitive information, and your authority's monitoring officer agrees, you need not include that information when registering that interest, or, as the case may be, a change to the interest under paragraph 15.

(2) You must, within 28 days of becoming aware of any change of circumstances which means that information excluded under sub-paragraph (1) is no longer sensitive information, notify your authority's monitoring officer, or in relation to a community council, your authority's proper officer asking that the information be included in your authority's register of members' interests.

(3) In this code, "sensitive information" ("*gwybodaeth sensitif*") means information whose availability for inspection by the public creates, or is likely to create, a serious risk that you or a person who lives with you may be subjected to violence or intimidation.

Registration of Gifts and Hospitality

17. You must, within 28 days of receiving any gift, hospitality, material benefit or advantage above a value specified in a resolution of your authority, provide written notification to your authority's monitoring officer, or in relation to a community council, to your authority's proper officer of the existence and nature of that gift, hospitality, material benefit or advantage.

APPENDIX 4



DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

I, Louise Thomas having been elected to the office of member of Mumbles Community Council declare that I take that office upon myself and will duly and faithfully fulfil the duties of it according to the best of my judgement and ability.

I undertake to observe the code for the time being as to the conduct which is expected of members of Mumbles Community Council and which may be revised from time to time.

Signed *Louise Thomas*

Dated *10-5-2021*

This declaration was made and signed before me,

Signed *S. Heyden*

Clerk to Mumbles Community Council



Mumbles
Community Council

DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

I, LOUISE THOMAS having been elected to the office of member of Mumbles Community Council declare that I take that office upon myself, and will duly and faithfully fulfil the duties of it according to the best of my judgement and ability.

I undertake to observe the code for the time being as to the conduct which is expected of members of Mumbles Community Council and which may be revised from time to time.

Signed *L Thomas*

Dated 10.5.22

This declaration was made and signed before me,


Signed *S Heyd*

Clerk to Mumbles Community Council


APPENDIX 5

Our ref: 202106524 and
202106588

Ask for: Mr Leigh McAndrew

 01656 644216

Date: 1 February 2022

 Leigh.McAndrew
@ombudsman.wales

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Former Councillor Louise Thomas



Dear Former Councillor Thomas

Code of Conduct complaints made by Councillor Dr. Martin O'Neill

The Ombudsman has decided to investigate the complaints made against you by Councillor Dr. O'Neill, of which you were informed on 4 and 7 January 2022.

I have been asked to carry out the investigations.

202106524

This complaint will be investigated on the basis that there may have been a failure to comply with the following paragraphs of the Code of Conduct ("the Code"):

- 6(1)(d) – You must not make vexatious, malicious or frivolous complaints against other members or anyone who works for, or on behalf of, your authority.

202106588

This complaint will be investigated on the basis that there may have been a failure to comply with the following paragraphs of the Code:

- 5(a) – You must not disclose confidential information or information which should reasonably be regarded as being of a confidential nature, without the express consent of a person authorised to give such consent, or unless required by law to do so.

Page 1 of 2

- 6(1)(a) – You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute.

You need not respond to this letter if you do not wish to. However, any comments made at this stage will be taken into consideration. You should bear in mind that your comments may also be disclosed to the complainant or used in any subsequent proceedings.

If my investigations find that there is a case to answer, I will in due course put to you the evidence I have found, and you may be invited to interview to answer any questions which appear relevant in the light of it.

I have written to notify the Monitoring Officer of Swansea Council and to the Clerk to Mumbles Community Council of these investigations and have asked for any relevant information.

The Ombudsman's investigations are conducted in private. You are therefore asked not to contact or discuss the details of the complaints with any potential witnesses or persons who may be involved in the matter, whether directly or indirectly, to avoid any prejudice to the investigations.

If you consider that specific information should be considered, or witnesses should be contacted by the Ombudsman as part of his investigations, please let me know and I will consider your request in light of the remit of the Ombudsman's investigations.

Meeting your needs during our investigation

Please let us know if you need us to adapt the way we communicate with you. If anything makes it difficult for you to engage with us during the investigations, for example, if you have a disability, please contact us to explain how this affects you.

We will consider whether your request is reasonable and appropriate in the circumstances. This is because we need to use public money carefully.

Yours sincerely



Leigh McAndrew
Swyddog Ymchwilio/Investigation Officer

APPENDIX 6

From: [Mumbles Community Council](#)
To: [caseinfo](#)
Cc: [Leigh McAndrew](#)
Subject: FW: Complaint made to the Ombudsman - 202106524 [REF/JR/rR/pE/gY/]
Date: 20 February 2022 19:29:08
Attachments: [Local Government Model Code of Conduct - as amended from 1.04.2016 Eng and Welsh-1.pdf](#)
[Email to Louise Thomas 10 May 2021.pdf](#)
[Declaration of Acceptance of Office.pdf](#)
[Emails re Training.pdf](#)
[Louise Thomas Disclosure of Interests.pdf](#)
[CO2112.S-MI.pdf](#)
[CO2112-MI.pdf](#)
[Letter of complaint 12.5.2021 MCC.pdf](#)
[Email 12 May 2021.pdf](#)

From: Clerk <council@mumbles.gov.uk>
Date: Sunday, 20 February 2022 at 19:26
To: "Leigh.McAndrew@ombudsman-wales.org.uk" <Leigh.McAndrew@ombudsman-wales.org.uk>
Cc: "caseinfo@ombudsman.wales" <caseinfo@ombudsman.wales>
Subject: Re: Complaint made to the Ombudsman - 202106524 [REF/JR/rR/pE/gY/]

Hi Leigh

Apologies for the delay in replying to you.

1. Supplied
2. Supplied – please note due to Covid-19 restrictions it was not signed in my presence. She has also notified me that she is magistrate.
3. She requested the training, and I booked her onto the course and the details were sent to her by One Voice Wales, but as the email supplied indicates, she did not actually attend the training (mor the other two courses he was booked onto.
4. Supplied
5. Supplied
6. N/A
7. Please see supplied email. When I spoke to her, she told me that she already written to you (and Audit Wales) on the night of her first meeting. During our chat I explained the purpose of the Local Resolution Procedure, but she has never subsequently engaged with it.
8. N/A
9. None.

If I can help further in any way, please let me know.

Best wishes

Steve

From: "Leigh.McAndrew@ombudsman-wales.org.uk" <Leigh.McAndrew@ombudsman-wales.org.uk>

Date: Thursday, 17 February 2022 at 08:09

To: Clerk <council@mumbles.gov.uk>

Subject: Complaint made to the Ombudsman - 202106524 [REF/JR/rR/pE/gY/]

Dear Mr Heydon

Reference: 202106524

Further to my letter dated 1 February 2022, a copy of which is attached, I do not appear to have received the requested information from you. Please provide the information as soon as possible. Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Mr Leigh McAndrew
Swyddog Ymchwilio/Investigation Officer

Ffôn/Tel: 01656 644216

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Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru/ Public Services Ombudsman for Wales
1 Ffordd yr Hen Gae
Pencoed
Pen-y-Bont ar Ogwr/ Bridgend/
CF35 5LJ

www.ombwdsmon-cymru.org.uk / www.ombudsman-wales.org.uk
<https://twitter.com/OmbudsmanWales>

Hybu'r Gymraeg

Gallwch ysgrifennu atom yn Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg. Ni fydd hyn yn arwain at oedi cyn ymateb.
Welsh Language Promotion

You can write to us in Welsh and we will reply in Welsh. This will not lead to a delay in responding.

Sganiwyd y neges hon am bob feirws hysbys wrth iddi adael Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru.

Mae Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru yn cymryd o ddifrif yr angen i ddiogelu eich data.

Mae ein Hysbysiad Preifatrwydd yn esbonio sut rydym yn defnyddio eich gwybodaeth a sut rydym yn diogelu eich preifatrwydd.

On leaving the Public Services Ombudsman, this email was scanned for all known viruses.

The Public Services Ombudsman takes the protection of your data seriously.

Our Privacy Notice explains how we use your information and the ways in which we protect your privacy.

Bydd pob galwad yn cael ei recordio ar gyfer dibenion hyfforddi a chyfeirio

All calls are recorded for training and reference purposes

Ystyriwch yr amgylchedd – a oes wir angen i chi argraffu'r neges e-bost hon?

Please consider the environment - do you really need to print this email?

Subject: Re: JUNE 2021 - Remote training sessions that are taking place in June / MEHEFIN 2021 - Sesiynau hyfforddiant o bell a gynhelir ym mis Mehefin.
Date: Thursday, 27 May 2021 at 11:12:35 British Summer Time
From: Louise Thomas
To: Mumbles Community Council
Attachments: image001.jpg, image002.jpg, image003.png, image004.png, image005.jpg

Thanks Steve

On Thu, 27 May 2021, 10:53 Mumbles Community Council, <council@mumbles.gov.uk> wrote:

Hi Wendi

I would like to book one of our new councillors – Louise Thomas - onto the following courses:

21/06/2021	Monday	The Council Module 1	6.30-8.00
28/06/2021	Monday	The Councillor Module 2	6.30-8.00
30/06/2021	Wednesday	Code of Conduct Module 9	6.30-8.00

Many thanks

Steve

From: [REDACTED]@onevoicewales.wales>
Date: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 at 15:53
To: [REDACTED]@onevoicewales.wales>
Cc: [REDACTED]@onevoicewales.wales>
Subject: JUNE 2021 - Remote training sessions that are taking place in June / MEHEFIN 2021 - Sesiynau hyfforddiant o bell a gynhelir ym mis Mehefin.

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below details of Remote training sessions that are taking place in June, please bring this to the attention of your council.

The cost of the training is £30 for members or £50 per person for non members. You will be invoiced after the training has taken place.

There is a bursary available to eligible councils.

Session times are listed against the module date.

01/06/2021	Tuesday	The Councillor Module 2	6.30-8.00
01/06/2021	Tuesday	Local Government Finance Module 6	6.30-8.00
01/06/2021	Tuesday	Code of Conduct Module 9	2.00-3.30
02/06/2021	Wednesday	The Council as an Employer Module 3	6.30-8.00
03/06/2021	Thursday	The Council Meeting Module 5	2.00-3.30
03/06/2021	Thursday	Local Government Finance Module 6	6.30-8.00
03/06/2021	Thursday	Advanced Local Government Finance Module 21	6.30-8.00
08/06/2021	Tuesday	Information Management Module 15	6.30-8.00
08/06/2021	Tuesday	The Council Module 1	2.00-3.30
09/06/2021	Wednesday	Understanding the Law Module 4	6.30-8.00
09/06/2021	Wednesday	Advanced Local Government Finance Module 21	6.30-8.00
09/06/2021	Wednesday	Local Government Finance Module 6	6.30-8.00
09/06/2021	Wednesday	Code of Conduct Module 9	6.30-8.00
10/06/2021	Thursday	Chairing Skills Module 10	2.00-3.30
10/06/2021	Thursday	The Council as an Employer Module 3	6.30-8.00
10/06/2021	Thursday	Local Government Finance Module 6	6.30-8.00
11/06/2021	Friday	Understanding the Law Module 4	6.30-8.00
14/06/2021	Monday	Advanced Local Government Finance Module 21	6.30-8.00
14/06/2021	Monday	Understanding the Law Module 4	2.00-3.30
16/06/2021	Wednesday	The Council as an Employer Module 3	2.00-3.30
16/06/2021	Wednesday	Understanding the Law Module 4	6.30-8.00
16/06/2021	Wednesday	Code of Conduct Module 9	6.30-8.00
17/06/2021	Thursday	The Council as an Employer Module 3	6.30-8.00

17/06/2021	Thursday	Effective Staff Management Module 18	6.30-8.00
17/06/2021	Thursday	Advanced Local Government Finance Module 21	6.30-8.00
17/06/2021	Thursday	Local Government Finance Module 6	6.30-8.00
21/06/2021	Monday	The Council Module 1	6.30-8.00
22/06/2021	Tuesday	Advanced Local Government Finance Module 21	6.30-8.00
23/06/2021	Wednesday	Understanding the Law Module 4	6.30-8.00
23/06/2021	Wednesday	The Council Meeting Module 5	6.30-8.00
23/06/2021	Wednesday	Local Government Finance Module 6	6.30-8.00
24/06/2021	Thursday	Advanced Local Government Finance Module 21	6.30-8.00
24/06/2021	Thursday	Equality & Diversity Module 14	6.30-8.00
25/06/2021	Friday	The Council as an Employer Module 3	6.30-8.00
28/06/2021	Monday	The Councillor Module 2	6.30-8.00
28/06/2021	Monday	Understanding the Law Module 4	6.30-8.00
28/06/2021	Monday	Chairing Skills Module 10	6.30-8.00
28/06/2021	Monday	Information Management Module 15	6.30-8.00
29/06/2021	Tuesday	Local Government Finance Module 6	6.30-8.00
30/06/2021	Wednesday	The Council as an Employer Module 3	6.30-8.00
30/06/2021	Wednesday	Code of Conduct Module 9	6.30-8.00
30/06/2021	Wednesday	Advanced Local Government Finance Module 21	6.30-8.00

Many thanks.



Annwyl Gyfaill,

Wele isod fanylion sesiynau hyfforddiant o bell a gynhelir ym mis Mehefin.

Cost yr hyfforddiant yw £30 i aelodau neu £50 y person i unrhyw un arall. Danfonir anfoneb atoch ar ôl i'r hyfforddiant ddigwydd.

Mae bwrsari ar gael i gynghorau cymwys – gofynnwch am fanylion.

Rhestrir amserau sesiynau ar gyfer dyddiadau'r modylau.

01/06/2021	Dydd Mawrth	Y Cynghorydd Modiwl 2	6.30-8.00
01/06/2021	Dydd Mawrth	Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol Modiwl 6	6.30-8.00
01/06/2021	Dydd Mawrth	Cod Ymddygiad Modiwl 9	2.00-3.30
02/06/2021	Dydd Mercher	Y Cyngor Fel Cyfogydd Modiwl 3	6.30-8.00
03/06/2021	Dydd Iau	Cyfarfod Y Cyngor Modiwl 5	2.00-3.30
03/06/2021	Dydd Iau	Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol Modiwl 6	6.30-8.00
03/06/2021	Dydd Iau	Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol Estynedig Modiwl 21	6.30-8.00
08/06/2021	Dydd Mawrth	Rheoli Gwybodaeth Modiwl 15	6.30-8.00
08/06/2021	Dydd Mawrth	Dealltwriaeth o'r Gyfraith Modiwl 4	2.00-3.30
09/06/2021	Dydd Mercher	Dealltwriaeth o'r Gyfraith Modiwl 4	6.30-8.00
09/06/2021	Dydd Mercher	Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol Estynedig Modiwl 21	6.30-8.00
09/06/2021	Dydd Mercher	Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol Modiwl 6	6.30-8.00
09/06/2021	Dydd Mercher	Cod Ymddygiad Modiwl 9	6.30-8.00
10/06/2021	Dydd Iau	Sgiliau Cadeirio Modiwl 10	2.00-3.30
10/06/2021	Dydd Iau	Y Cyngor Fel Cyfogydd Modiwl 3	6.30-8.00
10/06/2021	Dydd Iau	Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol Modiwl 6	6.30-8.00
11/06/2021	Dydd Gwener	Dealltwriaeth o'r Gyfraith Modiwl 4	6.30-8.00
14/06/2021	Dydd Llun	Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol Estynedig Modiwl 21	6.30-8.00
14/06/2021	Dydd Llun	Dealltwriaeth o'r Gyfraith Modiwl 4	2.00-3.30
16/06/2021	Dydd Mercher	Y Cyngor Fel Cyfogydd Modiwl 3	2.00-3.30
16/06/2021	Dydd Mercher	Dealltwriaeth o'r Gyfraith Modiwl 4	6.30-8.00
16/06/2021	Dydd Mercher	Cod Ymddygiad Modiwl 9	6.30-8.00
17/06/2021	Dydd Iau	Y Cyngor Fel Cyfogydd Modiwl 3	6.30-8.00
17/06/2021	Dydd Iau	Rheolaeth Effeithiol ar Staff Modiwl 18	6.30-8.00
17/06/2021	Dydd Iau	Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol Estynedig Modiwl 21	6.30-8.00

17/06/2021	Dydd Iau	Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol Modiwl 6	6.30-8.00
21/06/2021	Dydd Llun	Y Cyngor Modiwl 1	6.30-8.00
22/06/2021	Dydd Mawrth	Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol Estynedig Modiwl 21	6.30-8.00
23/06/2021	Dydd Mercher	Dealltwriaeth o'r Gyfraith Modiwl 4	6.30-8.00
23/06/2021	Dydd Mercher	Cyfarfod Y Cyngor Modiwl 5	6.30-8.00
23/06/2021	Dydd Mercher	Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol Modiwl 6	

[Information and Data Protection Policy](#)

Minutes of the Special Meeting of Mumbles Community Council held on 3 December 2021 at 1 pm by videoconference (Zoom)

Members Present: Rebecca Fogarty (Chair), Tim Bull, Rebecca Child, Pam Erasmus, Adam Gilbert, Richard Jarvis, Sara Keeton, Rob Marshall, Martin O'Neill, Ian Scott, Louise Thomas, Carrie Townsend Jones & Linda Tyler-Lloyd

Officers Present: Paul Beynon & Steve Heydon

C02111.S2-01 Apologies for Absence: Gareth Ford, Myles Langstone, Rebecca Singh & Will Thomas

C02111.S2-02 Declarations of Interest

Rob Marshall declared a personal interest in item C02111.S2-01 – Skate Park as he is a close friend of one of the people who called for the judicial review

Louise Thomas declared a personal interest in item C02111.S2-01 – Skate Park as she is a close friend of the sister of leading skate park campaigners

C02111.S2-03 Exclusion of the Press & Public

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential and commercially sensitive nature of the business to be transacted.

C02111.S2-04 Skate Park

Using the earmarked reserve for the Skate Park and £13,678 from the reserves

RESOLVED that following the decision of Swansea Council to approve the community asset transfer of land at Llwynderw

- i. We note that we have already instructed our solicitor to negotiate the lease with Swansea Council for a fee of no more than £2,500.
- ii. We instruct our solicitor to either draft a suitable letter or contract in respect of stage one build of the skate park. The fee for this to be no more than £1,500.

- iii. We authorise the signing the said letter or contract confirming our stage one order to Maverick to complete phase one of the skate park build at a cost of £124,090 plus £6,205 contingency fund
- iv. We authorise the second stage application to the National Lottery for a grant of £271,579 to cover stage two of the skate park build.
- v. We engage Hurley and Davies to undertake project management of phase one of the skate park build at a cost of £5,953 plus principal designers role at a cost of £930.

As part of our budget plans for 2022/23:

- vi. We commit to funding for annual maintenance at a cost of £6,000
- vii. We commit to an annual sinking fund contribution of £7,822 per annum.

Meeting closed at 1.55 pm

Minutes of Meeting of the Mumbles Community Council held on 14 December 2021 at 6 pm by videoconference (Zoom)

Members Present: Martin O'Neill (Chair), Rebecca Fogarty (Vice-Chair), Rebecca Child, Pam Erasmus, Adam Gilbert, Richard Jarvis, Sara Keeton, Rob Marshall, Ian Scott, Louise Thomas, Will Thomas & Carrie Townsend Jones

Officer Present: Steve Heydon

C02111-01 Apologies for Absence: Tim Bull, Gareth Ford, Myles Langstone & Pip Reason

C02111-02 Declarations of Interest

Rebecca Fogarty declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item C02111-08 Financial Report as she was in receipt of a payment

C02111-03 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 9 November 2021

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2021 as a true record.

C02111-04 Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 24 November 2021

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on 24 November 2021 as a true record.

C02111-05 Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 3 December 2021

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on 3 December 2021 as a true record.

C02111-06 Clerk's Report

The Clerk wished everyone a happy Christmas.

C02111-07 Chair's Report

Chair read his report.

RESOLVED to note the Chair's thanks to Claire Anderson and Pip Reason for all their work on the Newsletter and Website.

C02111-08 Financial Report

RECOMMEND that the electronic payments be retrospectively approved, and the rest of the report be noted.

C02111-09 Outturn Report 2020/21

RECOMMEND that Council approves the Outturn 2020/21

RECOMMEND that Council approves the end of year virement shown in Appendix 2 of the report.

RECOMMEND that Council approve the movements to and from reserves for 2020/21 detailed in Appendix 3 of the report.

RESOLVED to note the Vice-Chairs thanks to Paul Beynon (RFO) for his hard work in compiling these reports.

Recommendations from the Community & Social Development Committee

C02111-10 Newton Park Basketball Hoop

RESOLVED that

- i. MCC accept Swansea Council's quote to Supply & Install 1 basketball post, ring, a high-quality backboard for noise cancelling and net, plus thermoplastic line markings for a half court on existing tarmac area which will be re-covered at a total cost of no more than £5,000.
- ii. Cllr Louise Thomas to draw up an ongoing, users' and residents' engagement programme to include six-monthly liaison with the relevant PSO's.

C02111-11 Questions to the Chair of the Community & Social Development Committee

Questions were answered by the Chair of the committee.

Recommendations from the Finance & Compliance Committee

C02111-12 Sculpture by the Sea Grant Application

Grant application for £3,000 towards their annual festival.

RESOLVED that a grant of £3,000 be made.

CO2111-13 Mumbles Traders Grant Application

Grant application for £1,650 towards the costs of the Annual Christmas Lights & Parade Events being held on Thursday, 25 November 2021.

RESOLVED that a grant of £1,650 be made.

CO2111-14 Questions to the Chair of the Finance & Compliance Committee

No questions were asked.

Recommendations from the Environmental Committee**CO2111-15 Climate Pledge**

RESOLVED that MCC sign Swansea Council's climate pledge

CO2111-16 Questions to the Chair of the Environmental Committee

No questions were asked.

CO2111-17 Questions to the Chair of the Culture, Tourism & Communications Committee

No questions were asked.

Exclusion of the Press & Public

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential and commercially sensitive nature of the business to be transacted.

CO2111-18 Underhill

Mumbles Community Association (MCA) have informed us that, due to the unprecedented increase in building costs, a further £365,000 is needed for the build

RESOLVED that to meet the shortfall of £365,000

1. MCA make all reasonable efforts to secure maximum lottery funding available
2. The grant agreement be amended as follows: Section 1.1. (a)(ii) be deleted and the £325,000 currently committed to the All-Weather Pitch (AWP) be used in connection with the building works
3. Up to £40,000 is taken from the contingency fund
4. We apply for an increase in loan approval of up to £365,000 from Welsh Government.

5. MCC reaffirm our commitment to exploring future options for the funding of an AWP.
6. The Chair and Vice-Chair sign a Deed of Variation to the formal grant agreement, accordingly.

Meeting closed at 7.23 pm

Appendix

Electronic Payments Approved

	£	£	£	
05/11/21	HMRC – Payroll Deductions Mth 7	1,018.65	0.00	1,018.65
05/11/21	OCA – Coffee Morning Hall Hire	68.00	0.00	68.00
05/11/21	CIlr Rebecca Fogarty – Child Care	138.00	0.00	138.00
05/11/21	Red Community Project – Grant	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
05/11/21	Virgin Media – Phone and Broadband November 2021	75.44	15.09	90.53
05/11/21	Claire Anderson – Telephone October 2021	10.00	0.00	10.00
05/11/21	1 st Mumbles Scout Group – Grant	19,578.00	0.00	19,578.00
05/11/21	Swansea Council – West Cross Xmas Tree Rent	100.00	0.00	100.00
05/11/21	Royal British Legion – Wreath	18.00	0.00	18.00
05/11/21	Ennea Smith – PFM Hoodies	42.97	0.00	42.97
05/11/21	Mumbles Centurion – Grant	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
05/11/21	SA1 Solutions – IT Support	22.50	4.50	27.00
09/11/21	AO Landscaping – SMUGS Work	3,310.00	0.00	3,310.00
12/11/21	Npower – Electricity West Cross Xmas Tree May – Oct '21	197.92	9.90	207.82
12/11/21	Mumbles Traders Association – Grant	1,261.20	0.00	1,261.20
15/11/21	Mumbles Yacht Club – Grant	400.00	0.00	400.00
15/11/21	Swansea Council – Pension Contributions October 2021	1,933.37	0.00	1,933.37
15/11/21	Swansea Council – Amended Pension Contributions Sept	138.82	0.00	138.82
22/11/21	Barclaycard November 2021 – see below	1,633.38	0.00	1,633.38
25/11/21	Staff Salaries – November 2021	5,243.00	0.00	5,243.00
26/11/21	DWJ Group – Family Fun Day Vinyl's and Posters	207.00	41.40	248.40
26/11/21	DWJ Group – Family Fun Day Posters	28.00	5.60	33.60
26/11/21	DWJ Group – Mumbles Fest Staff Inserts	25.00	5.00	30.00
26/11/21	AO Landscaping – SMUGS Work	5,860.00	0.00	5,860.00
01/12/21	OCA – Ostreme Rent December 2021	800.00	0.00	800.00
	Total	50,109.25	81.49	50,190.74

Barclaycard Purchases – November 2021 Statement

Shred-It – Confidential Waste Refund	-107.89
Reach Publishing – Evening Post Subscription	21.58

Creative Cloud – Adobe Creative	49.94
Catalyst2 Services – Website Hosting	15.59
Giff Gaff – RFO Mobile Phone	6.00
PPL PRS – Music Licence	107.07
ICO – Annual Registration Fee	40.00
Microsoft – Online Services	135.36
Microsoft – Online Services	68.40
Apple – External Hard Drive	144.75
Wild Native Bulbs – SMUGS Bulbs and Seed	21.48
Wild Wales Barry – SMUGS Bulbs and Seeds	16.98
Wild Wales Barry – SMUGS Bulbs and Seeds	6.98
Wild Native Bulbs – SMUGS Bulbs and Seeds	20.64
Primrose – SMUGS Log Border Rolls	107.97
Wild Garden Seeds – SMUGS Bulbs and Seeds	12.50
Naturescape – SMUGS Bulbs and Seeds	12.49
Zoom – Monthly Fee	14.39
Water Gardening Direct – SMUGS Pond	219.98
Pondkeeper – SMUGS Pond Liner	128.24
CJ Wildlife – SMUGD Hedgehog House, Seed Feeder and Food	138.95
Viovet – SMUGS Barley Straw	5.08
Wild Native Bulbs – SMUGS Bulbs and Seed	66.30
Plant World – SMUGS Bulbs and Seeds	4.05
Wildflower Shop – SMUGS Bulbs and Seeds	134.95
RSPB – SMUGS Hedgehog Home, Bee House, Bird Bath, Bird Table, Bird Feeding Station	241.60
Total	1,633.38

Appendix

Electronic Payments Approved

		£	£	£
06/10/21	HMRC – Payroll Deductions Mth 6	1,137.48	0.00	1,137.48
06/10/21	South Wales Audio – Mumbles Fest 2020	81.00	0.00	81.00
06/10/21	St John Ambulance – Mumbles Fest	181.33	36.27	217.60
06/10/21	Gower Dough – Mumbles Fest Food Vouchers Refund	40.00	0.00	40.00
06/10/21	Picseli – NHS Day Slate Sign	188.12	37.63	225.75
06/10/21	Board Riding Development – Family Fun Days	150.00	0.00	150.00
06/10/21	Mumbles Development Trust – Grant	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
06/10/21	Swansea Council – Trial Holes Langland Tennis Courts	480.61	96.12	576.73
07/10/21	Tuckers – Mumbles Fest Food Vouchers Refund	60.00	0.00	60.00
07/10/21	Joe’s Ice Cream – Mumbles Fest Food Vouchers Refund	1.50	0.00	1.50
07/10/21	Village Creperie – Mumbles Fest Food Vouchers Refund	20.70	0.00	20.70
15/10/21	Jamjar Print – Coffee Loyalty Cards	38.50	7.70	46.20
21/10/21	Picseli – Multimedia Consultant October 2021	416.67	83.33	500.00
21/10/21	OCA – EEO Hall Hire	156.00	0.00	156.00
21/10/21	Atkins Accountants – Payroll Q2	50.00	10.00	60.00
21/10/21	Hurley& Davies – Project Manager Langland Tennis Courts	360.00	72.00	432.00
21/10/21	Phillips Services (Wales) Festoon Lighting Repairs	89.50	17.90	107.40
21/10/21	Paul Beynon – Stationery and Postage Reimbursement	34.78	0.00	34.78
21/10/21	Claire Anderson – Telephone Aug and Sept 2021	20.00	0.00	20.00
21/10/21	Claire Anderson – Mumbles Fest Reimbursement	23.98	0.00	23.98
21/10/21	Claire Anderson – Mumbles Fest Reimbursement	20.00	0.00	20.00
21/10/21	Virgin Media – Broadband and Phone October 2021	73.50	14.70	88.20
21/10/21	Swansea Council – Floral Decorations	9,338.33	1,867.67	11,206.00
21/10/21	Goggi’s – Mumbles Fest Food Vouchers Refund	62.20	0.00	62.20
21/10/21	Urban Foundry – Ostreme Consultation	2,800.00	560.00	3,360.00
21/10/21	Swansea Council – Pension Contributions September 21	1,908.11	0.00	1,908.11
21/10/21	Barclaycard October 2021 – see below	760.74	0.00	760.74
22/10/21	Claire Anderson – Coffee Morning Reimbursement	24.80	0.00	24.80
22/10/21	Claire Anderson – Stationery& Postage Reimbursement	7.98	0.00	7.98
22/10/21	Claire Anderson – Mumbles Fest Reimbursement	90.00	0.00	90.00
25/10/21	Staff Salaries – October 2021	5,145.57	0.00	5,145.57
01/11/21	OCA – Ostreme Rent November 2021	800.00	0.00	800.00

Total	25,561.40	2,803.32	28,364.72
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Barclaycard Purchases – October 2021 Statement

Amazon – Mumbles Fest Hula Hoops	21.49
Brandon Hire – Mumbles Fest Fencing	408.00
Creative Cloud – Adobe for EEO	49.94
Catalyst2 Services – Website Hosting	15.59
Giff Gaff – RFO Mobile Phone	6.00
Reach Publishing – Evening Post Subscription	21.58
Microsoft – Online Services	135.36
Microsoft – Online Services	68.40
Zoom – Monthly Fee	14.39
Amazon –	19.99
Total	760.74

APPENDIX 7

From: [Tracey Meredith](#)
To: [caseinfo](#)
Subject: IN - MO - Further Information
Date: 16 February 2022 15:48:38
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image004.jpg](#)

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: 202106524 & 202106588

I write further to your email of 1 February in relation to the above two complaints and respond as follows:

1. Code of Conduct training was undertaken by myself at Community/Town Council Forums on 24 July 2017 and 28 September 2020. That training was open to all community/town councillors. There is no record of the former Councillor having attended either of the training events.
2. The former Councillor has not approached myself for guidance on making code of conduct complaints against fellow members. I should add that on 4 October 2021 she did email myself and the Chief Executive wanting to make an official complaint against a CCS Councillor and by way of response I advised her of the 2 stage PSOW test and referred her to the Guidance on your website. My response was dated 4 October 2021.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact myself.

Regards

Tracey Meredith
Prif Swyddog Cyfreithiol a Swyddog
Monitro
Chief Legal Officer and Monitoring Officer
[REDACTED]

✉ Tracey.meredith@swansea.gov.uk

✉ Tracey.meredith@abertawe.gov.uk

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymdrin â gohebiaeth Gymraeg a Saesneg i'r un safonau ac amserlenni.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and will deal with Welsh and English correspondence to the same standards and timescales.



Mae'r e-bost hwn ac unrhyw ffeiliau a drosglwyddir gydag ef yn gyfrinachol ac at ddefnydd yr unigolyn neu'r corff y cyfeiriwyd hwy atynt yn unig. Os ydych wedi derbyn yr e-bost hwn drwy gamgymeriad, dylech hysbysu'r gweinyddydd yn y cyfeiriad canlynol: gweinyddydd@abertawe.gov.uk

APPENDIX 8

WITNESS STATEMENT

Statement of: Councillor Dr. Martin O'Neill
Address: [REDACTED]
Age if under 18: Over 18
Occupation/Position: Chair, Mumbles Community Council

-
1. I, Councillor Dr. Martin O'Neill of [REDACTED] make this statement in connection with a complaint made to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales that Former Councillor Louise Thomas of Mumbles Community Council has breached the Code of Conduct for elected members. The facts in this statement come from my personal knowledge.
 2. I have been a Member of Mumbles Community Council for over 4 years and have been Chair of the Council for the past 2 years.
 3. Former Councillor Thomas was elected to the Council last May. Following her very first Full Council meeting, she made a complaint to the Ombudsman, which she told me about herself. The Clerk informed me about the complaints which followed. To be honest, I have lost track of the number of complaints which Former Councillor Thomas has made.
 4. I have tried to maintain a very 'hands off' approach because I feel that my role as Chair is to co-ordinate and facilitate, and not to become involved in the complaints. Former Councillor Thomas approached me about the complaints, I made it quite clear that I didn't want to become involved. It was an issue between her and the Ombudsman.
 5. I also had to be careful as I am a member of the same political group as the members who were targeted (Labour Party) while Former Councillor Thomas was a member of another political group (Conservative Party), so I did not want to be seen as partisan.
 6. The main 3 Councillors who Former Councillor Thomas complained about to the Ombudsman were Councillor Sara Keeton, Councillor Pam Erasmus, and Councillor Carrie Townsend-Jones.

7. I didn't want to become involved in these disputes, however, I felt that the complaints which went in just before Christmas 2021 tipped the point and were particularly pernicious, as I felt they were aimed at causing worry and distress to the individual members. The repeated complaints caused Councillor Keeton in particular a lot of stress.
8. I feel that the complaints were vexatious and being used as intimidation against the members. It was also affecting the work of the Council, which I was concerned about. The complaints were not contributing to a collegial attitude between Councillors and people were reticent to speak and to communicate. It was putting individual members under personal duress and distress.
9. These complaints have not just been made to the Ombudsman, but also broadcast on social media. People who have been complained about have been blocked on social media so they cannot answer the charges. It has also been raised on social media that I have made these complaints against Former Councillor Thomas.
10. I understand that Former Councillor Thomas has also made complaints about other Councillors to the Ombudsman, and none of the complaints have been taken forward. This gives weight to my belief that there is no credibility to the complaints.
11. As Chair of the Council, I did offer on a number of occasions to sit down with Former Councillor Thomas. We have got a local resolution process and I was keen to resolve the disputes, but nothing was forthcoming from Former Councillor Thomas.
12. I am a big fan of Community Councils. It is difficult to get people to become Community Councillors and, when you have situations like this, it is no surprise.
13. The Council proposed to build a skate park in the Llwynderw area of Mumbles. It has been an ongoing, contentious issue as there are some people who are supportive of it, and some people aren't supportive.
14. The Council meeting held on 4 December 2021 was to discuss moving forward on the plan to implement the development of the skate park. Because we were talking about the contract and the tender from a particular company (Maverick), we went into closed session.
15. There is sensitivity about the project anyway, but we went into closed session as we were discussing the ins and outs of the contract, awarding the contract, and moving forward.
16. We were waiting for the lease to be released by Swansea Council, so we agreed to pay a sum of money (£36,000) to Maverick, if the lease was to be released, to continue with the work. If the lease wasn't to be released, obviously we wouldn't pay the money as we couldn't continue with the work.


17. As is our practice, although we went into closed session, minutes were produced stating what was decided in closed session. I append to my statement a written breakdown of what was discussed at the meeting.
18. Following the meeting, I had an email from Former Councillor Thomas outlining her concerns about what had been decided in the meeting. From my reading of her email, she had completely misunderstood what had been decided. I replied to her offering to sit down with her and the Council's Responsible Financial Officer ("the RFO") to explain what had actually been decided and why I was not worried that we had broken any rules. We had done everything with the guidance of the Clerk and the RFO.
19. I didn't lay out all the reasons in the email I sent to her, as I thought it would be better to explain to her face-to-face why she had misunderstood what had been decided. Former Councillor Thomas did not take up that offer.
20. Due to other allegations which she had made on social media, and the negative press she had encountered because of that, I think that is when she decided to resign from the Council. I do not think the matters I have complained about were the reasons for her resignation.
21. It was only after she had resigned that I was approached by another Councillor who informed me that a representative of the Mumbles Skatepark Association ("the Association"), Mr Jason Williams, had been approached by Former Councillor Thomas and had been offered to be played a video recording of the confidential part of the meeting. I asked that Councillor to ask Mr Williams to contact me directly, and I have provided his contact details to the Ombudsman.
22. Mr Williams is Chair of the Association, who are an interested party in regard to the development of the skate park.
23. There is a long history in Mumbles of skateboarding and surfing. In the area there is a half-pipe on the seafront and there have been skate facilities in other areas, and this was a way of bringing all of this together and developing a state-of-the-art skate park facility. We have worked closely with the skateboarding community in Mumbles and the surrounding areas, and the Association came about to bring together the interests of the local skateboard community. They have been a great help, for example advising us on facilities for disabled access, and for scooter and BMX bike users.
24. Why Former Councillor Thomas wanted to play Mr Williams the recording, I do not know.
25. I was also approached by another Councillor who told me that Former Councillor Thomas had played the recording of that video to a member of the public. However, I said to that Councillor that there was no evidence of this.

26. A Councillor from a different ward mentioned in passing to me that they had heard that the recording was being made available to people. The Councillor was not able to provide me with proof of this, it was just hearsay. This is why I provided the evidence forwarded to me by Mr Williams.
27. Audit Wales have been in contact with me to tell me that Former Councillor Thomas has also provided the recordings to them, but they are unsure about the legal position is in relation to them accessing the recordings.
28. I've sought advice and, as I understand it, there is nothing wrong with Former Councillor Thomas recording the closed sessions, but where she has breached the Code of Conduct and possibly the law is in making the recordings available to people who were not in the meeting.
29. Whilst Former Councillor Thomas has resigned, she has put herself forward for election to Swansea Council in May 2022. I care about local democracy and that the people involved in local democracy maintain certain standards. This is not a political complaint, but I do have doubts that someone who treats standards with such abandon and contempt is suitable for public office.

Statement of truth:

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

Signed:



Dated:

19-01-2022

On 3rd December 2021, Mumbles Community Council met to consider the Skatepark project.

The project had been seriously delayed, including by a judicial review. The issues raised in that judicial review had been addressed and we wanted to minimise any further delay.

To secure as early a build date as possible and avoid increasing build costs, the Council considered the potential risks associated with signing a contract for the build prior to completion of the lease. At this time it was unknown if there would be any further legal challenge to the decision to lease the land.

If MCC signed a contract and there was further delay, we would incur up to £68,000 of costs. This sum covered money due for work that the contractor had already completed. It also covered building materials that could be stored in the event of delay. Even in the worst case scenario, the money would not be "lost". The risk was therefore considered manageable, and mitigated by an early build date which would avoid increasing build cost.

MCC took the decision to sign the contract with the contractor. However, due to circumstances beyond our control, we have been unable to enact this decision.

Louise Thomas (ex Councillor) alleges £68,000 has already been paid to the contractor and that the decision to sign the contract was taken in the knowledge that a legal challenge was on the horizon. This allegation is completely untrue, as has been confirmed to her by MCC officers. Sadly, it demonstrates a total lack of understanding of what was discussed at the Full Council meeting in which she took part and where she voted in favour of signing the contract. Prior to her resignation, she refused the offer to meet with the Chair and Responsible Financial Officer to go through these points.

The Ex-councillor for Mayals Ward claims that these decisions have been made 'in secret', by a handful of councillors. This allegation is again untrue. All decisions relating to the Skatepark have been made by Full Council.

At times, meetings of Council are closed to the press and public, this is lawful and is done to protect commercially sensitive information, or in some cases employment / HR matters. Press and public were excluded on 3rd December due to the discussion of such information - no video recordings were made but the decisions are fully minuted and these minutes have been available on the MCC website for some time.

Lastly, the ex-councillor alleges MCC does not have the funding secured for the skatepark, again this is false.

It has always been MCC's intention to apply for a Lottery grant to cover as much of the cost of the skatepark as possible. MCC submitted the application for £271,000 of funding in June 2021.

Last week, due to the false allegations made by Louise Thomas, the National Lottery was forced to delay the application. Completely baseless accusations have been made on social media, to the press and to the police, jeopardising over a quarter of a million pounds worth of funding, undermining the positive reputation of MCC with the Lottery, and placing blame on hard working councillors that have championed and remained dedicated to the project.

MCC recognises the overwhelming public support for the skatepark and are committed to delivering it as a priority. At our recent budget meeting, other projects were identified that would have to be deprioritised should the Lottery application be unsuccessful. These were tough decisions, which should not have been necessary and are a direct result of the delays and false accusations. Following the Lottery's investigation of the baseless allegations, MCC are confident the application will be considered and hope for a successful outcome.

From: [Martin O'Neill](#)
To: [Leigh McAndrew](#)
Subject: Fw: Full Council Meeting
Date: 21 April 2022 11:51:07
Attachments: [Outlook-fx5vm0f.jpg](#)

Dear Mr. McAndrew,
Here is another exchange of email referring to the friction between Cllr. Erasmus and former Cllr. Thomas where I offer to pass it on to the dispute resolution process.

Martin O'Neill

Cllr. Dr. Martin O'Neill,
Chair,
Mumbles Community Council,



From: Louise Thomas [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 June 2021 15:52
To: Pam Erasmus <pam.erasmus@mumbles.gov.uk>
Cc: Mumbles Community Council <council@mumbles.gov.uk>; Tim Bull <tim.bull@mumbles.gov.uk>; Gareth Ford <gareth.ford@mumbles.gov.uk>; Adam Gilbert <adam.gilbert@mumbles.gov.uk>; Richard Jarvis <richard.jarvis@mumbles.gov.uk>; Sara Keeton <sara.keeton@mumbles.gov.uk>; Myles Langstone <myles.langstone@mumbles.gov.uk>; Cllr Langstone (C&CS) <cllr.myles.langstone@swansea.gov.uk>; Rob Marshall <rob.marshall@mumbles.gov.uk>; Martin O'Neill <martin.oneill@mumbles.gov.uk>; Philip Reason <philip.reason@mumbles.gov.uk>; Ian Scott <ian.scott@mumbles.gov.uk>; Rebecca Singh <rebecca.singh@mumbles.gov.uk>; William Thomas <william.thomas@mumbles.gov.uk>; Carrie Townsend Jones <carrie.townsendjones@mumbles.gov.uk>; Linda Tyler-Lloyd <linda.tyler-lloyd@mumbles.gov.uk>; Cllr Tyler-Lloyd <cllr.linda.tyler-lloyd@swansea.gov.uk>; Steve Heydon [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Rebecca Fogarty <rebecca.fogarty@mumbles.gov.uk>; Cllr Rebecca Child [REDACTED]; Paul Beynon <paul.beynon@mumbles.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Full Council Meeting

I am not going to tolerate this kind of bullish behaviour by someone who frankly should know better!

1. The ombudsman did NOT throw out my first complaint they gave me another organisation to direct that complaint to. I have the correspondence to confirm this and this is now being investigated.
2. I never lie, and have all the facts at hand.
3. Cllr Erasmus stated she is allowed to say there has been a complaint, but not discuss this?, However, by sending this email she has tried to discredit me, and basically call me a liar. That is called bullying!

I am asking all councillors if they are happy with this kind of rhetoric and are happy to stand by while this behaviour takes place? If so please can you let me know so this can go on record.

I am requesting that the Chair and Vice chair keep a copy of this email, please.

Finally I am a new councillor, but I am not naïve. I especially now how to treat people fairly and with respect.

Yours respectively

Cllr Louise Thomas

I am using this email to contact all councillors.

Usually, I would ask to make a statement at the start of a meeting, but, I will not do that in front of any public observer.

After attending one meeting as a new councillor, Louise Thomas made a complaint against me to the Ombudsman. There were 9? complaints which were blatant misrepresentations and untruths. The Ombudsman took a matter of days to throw out the complaint against me and several others.

I have just received and replied to her second round of complaints.

I am allowed to say that there has been a complaint but am not allowed to discuss it until it is resolved.

On Tue, Jun 8, 2021 at 12:04 AM Pam Erasmus <pam.erasmus@mumbles.gov.uk> wrote:

I am using this email to contact all councillors

Usually, I would ask to make a statement at the start of a meeting, but, I will not do that in front of any public observer

After attending one meeting as a new councillor, Louise Thomas made a complaint against me to the Ombudsman. There were 9? complaints which were blatant misrepresentations and untruths. The Ombudsman took a matter of days to throw out the complaint against me and several others.

I have just received and replied to her second round of complaints

I am allowed to say that there has been a complaint but am not allowed to discuss it until it is resolved

Pamela

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Mumbles Community Council <council@mumbles.gov.uk>
Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 6:56:34 PM
To: Tim Bull <tim.bull@mumbles.gov.uk>; Pam Erasmus <pam.erasmus@mumbles.gov.uk>; Gareth Ford <gareth.ford@mumbles.gov.uk>; Adam Gilbert <adam.gilbert@mumbles.gov.uk>; Richard Jarvis <richard.jarvis@mumbles.gov.uk>; Sara Keeton <sara.keeton@mumbles.gov.uk>; Myles Langstone <myles.langstone@mumbles.gov.uk>; Cllr Langstone (C&CS) <cllr.myles.langstone@swansea.gov.uk>; Rob Marshall <rob.marshall@mumbles.gov.uk>; Martin O'Neill <martin.oneill@mumbles.gov.uk>; Philip Reason <philip.reason@mumbles.gov.uk>; Ian Scott <ian.scott@mumbles.gov.uk>; Rebecca Singh <rebecca.singh@mumbles.gov.uk>; William Thomas <william.thomas@mumbles.gov.uk>; Carrie Townsend Jones <carrie.townsendjones@mumbles.gov.uk>; Linda Tyler-Lloyd <linda.tyler-lloyd@mumbles.gov.uk>; Cllr Tyler-Lloyd <cllr.linda.tyler-lloyd@swansea.gov.uk>; Steve Heydon [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Rebecca Fogarty <rebecca.fogarty@mumbles.gov.uk>; Cllr Louise Thomas [REDACTED]; Cllr Rebecca Child [REDACTED]; Paul Beynon <paul.beynon@mumbles.gov.uk>
Subject: Full Council Meeting
When: 08 June 2021 18:00-20:00
Where: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82550467799?pwd=N2s2WTRHRWE1Q2ZQQTJwTWlrV0hUT09>
Steve HEYDON is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting

Topic: Full Council Meeting
Time: Jun 8, 2021 06 00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us02web zoom us/j/82550467799?pwd=N2s2WTRHRWE1Q2ZQOTJwTWJrV0FhUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82550467799?pwd=N2s2WTRHRWE1Q2ZQOTJwTWJrV0FhUT09)

Meeting ID: 825 5046 7799
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Information and Data Protection Policy<<https://www.mumbles.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Information-Data-Protection-Policy-2018-v11June2018.pdf>>
[Information and Data Protection Policy](#)
[Information and Data Protection Policy](#)
[Information and Data Protection Policy](#)

From: [Martin O'Neill](#)
To: [Leigh McAndrew](#)
Subject: Fw: Full Council Meeting
Date: 21 April 2022 11:51:30
Attachments: [Outlook-qsz53hzw.jpg](#)

Cllr. Dr. Martin O'Neill,
Chair,
Mumbles Community Council,



From: Martin O'Neill
Sent: 08 June 2021 16:44
To: Louise Thomas [redacted]; Pam Erasmus <pam.erasmus@mumbles.gov.uk>
Cc: Mumbles Community Council <council@mumbles.gov.uk>; Tim Bull <tim.bull@mumbles.gov.uk>; Gareth Ford <gareth.ford@mumbles.gov.uk>; Adam Gilbert <adam.gilbert@mumbles.gov.uk>; Richard Jarvis <richard.jarvis@mumbles.gov.uk>; Sara Keeton <sara.keeton@mumbles.gov.uk>; Myles Langstone <myles.langstone@mumbles.gov.uk>; Cllr Langstone (C&CS) <cllr.myles.langstone@swansea.gov.uk>; Rob Marshall <rob.marshall@mumbles.gov.uk>; Philip Reason <philip.reason@mumbles.gov.uk>; Ian Scott <ian.scott@mumbles.gov.uk>; Rebecca Singh <rebecca.singh@mumbles.gov.uk>; William Thomas <william.thomas@mumbles.gov.uk>; Carrie Townsend Jones <carrie.townsendjones@mumbles.gov.uk>; Linda Tyler-Lloyd <linda.tyler-lloyd@mumbles.gov.uk>; Cllr Tyler-Lloyd <cllr.linda.tyler-lloyd@swansea.gov.uk>; Steve Heydon [redacted]; [redacted]; Rebecca Fogarty <rebecca.fogarty@mumbles.gov.uk>; Cllr Rebecca Child [redacted]; Paul Beynon <paul.beynon@mumbles.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Full Council Meeting

Dear All,
Can I respectfully remind all councillors that we have a dispute resolution procedure within the council and can I suggest that rather than an extended and acrimonious exchange of emails involving all councillors that this matter, with the consent of those involved, be referred to this process in the first instance with the aim of finding a suitable resolution.

Martin
Cllr. Dr. Martin O'Neill,
Chair,
Mumbles Community Council.

From: Louise Thomas [redacted]
Sent: 08 June 2021 15:52
To: Pam Erasmus <pam.erasmus@mumbles.gov.uk>
Cc: Mumbles Community Council <council@mumbles.gov.uk>; Tim Bull <tim.bull@mumbles.gov.uk>; Gareth Ford <gareth.ford@mumbles.gov.uk>; Adam Gilbert

<adam.gilbert@mumbles.gov.uk>; Richard Jarvis <richard.jarvis@mumbles.gov.uk>; Sara Keeton <sara.keeton@mumbles.gov.uk>; Myles Langstone <myles.langstone@mumbles.gov.uk>; Cllr Langstone (C&CS) <cldr.myles.langstone@swansea.gov.uk>; Rob Marshall <rob.marshall@mumbles.gov.uk>; Martin O'Neill <martin.oneill@mumbles.gov.uk>; Philip Reason <philip.reason@mumbles.gov.uk>; Ian Scott <ian.scott@mumbles.gov.uk>; Rebecca Singh <rebecca.singh@mumbles.gov.uk>; William Thomas <william.thomas@mumbles.gov.uk>; Carrie Townsend Jones <carrie.townsendjones@mumbles.gov.uk>; Linda Tyler-Lloyd <linda.tyler-lloyd@mumbles.gov.uk>; Cllr Tyler-Lloyd <cldr.linda.tyler-lloyd@swansea.gov.uk>; Steve Heydon <steve.heydon@mumbles.gov.uk>; Rebecca Fogarty <rebecca.fogarty@mumbles.gov.uk>; Cllr Rebecca Child <rebecca.child@mumbles.gov.uk>; Paul Beynon <paul.beynon@mumbles.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Full Council Meeting

I am not going to tolerate this kind of bullish behaviour by someone who frankly should know better!

1. The ombudsman did NOT throw out my first complaint they gave me another organisation to direct that complaint to. I have the correspondence to confirm this and this is now being investigated.
2. I never lie, and have all the facts at hand.
3. Cllr Erasmus stated she is allowed to say there has been a complaint, but not discuss this?, However, by sending this email she has tried to discredit me, and basically call me a liar. That is called bullying!

I am asking all councillors if they are happy with this kind of rhetoric and are happy to stand by while this behaviour takes place? If so please can you let me know so this can go on record.

I am requesting that the Chair and Vice chair keep a copy of this email, please. Finally I am a new councillor, but I am not naïve. I especially now how to treat people fairly and with respect.

Yours respectively
Cllr Louise Thomas

I am using this email to contact all councillors.

Usually, I would ask to make a statement at the start of a meeting, but, I will not do that in front of any public observer.

After attending one meeting as a new councillor, Louise Thomas made a complaint against me to the Ombudsman. There were 9? complaints which were blatant misrepresentations and untruths. The Ombudsman took a matter of days to throw out the complaint against me and several others.

I have just received and replied to her second round of complaints.

I am allowed to say that there has been a complaint but am not allowed to discuss it until it is resolved.

On Tue, Jun 8, 2021 at 12:04 AM Pam Erasmus <pam.erasmus@mumbles.gov.uk> wrote:

I am using this email to contact all councillors.

Usually, I would ask to make a statement at the start of a meeting, but, I will not do that in front of any public observer.

After attending one meeting as a new councillor, Louise Thomas made a complaint against me to the Ombudsman. There were 9? complaints which were blatant misrepresentations and untruths. The Ombudsman took a matter of days to throw out the complaint against me and several others.

I have just received and replied to her second round of complaints.

I am allowed to say that there has been a complaint but am not allowed to discuss it until it is

resolved.

Pamela

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Mumbles Community Council <council@mumbles.gov.uk>

Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 6:56:34 PM

To: Tim Bull <tim.bull@mumbles.gov.uk>; Pam Erasmus <pam.erasmus@mumbles.gov.uk>; Gareth Ford <gareth.ford@mumbles.gov.uk>; Adam Gilbert <adam.gilbert@mumbles.gov.uk>; Richard Jarvis <richard.jarvis@mumbles.gov.uk>; Sara Keeton <sara.keeton@mumbles.gov.uk>; Myles Langstone <myles.langstone@mumbles.gov.uk>; Cllr Langstone (C&CS) <cllr.myles.langstone@swansea.gov.uk>; Rob Marshall <rob.marshall@mumbles.gov.uk>; Martin O'Neill <martin.oneill@mumbles.gov.uk>; Philip Reason <philip.reason@mumbles.gov.uk>; Ian Scott <ian.scott@mumbles.gov.uk>; Rebecca Singh <rebecca.singh@mumbles.gov.uk>; William Thomas <william.thomas@mumbles.gov.uk>; Carrie Townsend Jones <carrie.townsendjones@mumbles.gov.uk>; Linda Tyler-Lloyd <linda.tyler-lloyd@mumbles.gov.uk>; Cllr Tyler-Lloyd <cllr.linda.tyler-lloyd@swansea.gov.uk>; Steve Heydon [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Rebecca Fogarty <rebecca.fogarty@mumbles.gov.uk>; Cllr Lousie Thomas [REDACTED]; Cllr Rebecca Child [REDACTED]; Paul Beynon <paul.beynon@mumbles.gov.uk>

Subject: Full Council Meeting

When: 08 June 2021 18:00-20:00.

Where: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82550467799?pwd=N2s2WTRHRWE1Q2ZQQTJwTWlrV0FhUT09>

Steve HEYDON is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Full Council Meeting

Time: Jun 8, 2021 06:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82550467799?pwd=N2s2WTRHRWE1Q2ZQQTJwTWlrV0FhUT09>

Meeting ID: 825 5046 7799

Passcode: 848873

One tap mobile

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Dial by your location

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+44 330 088 5830 United Kingdom

+44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom

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+44 203 901 7895 United Kingdom

+44 208 080 6591 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 825 5046 7799

Passcode: 848873

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kkZri3xc>

Information and Data Protection Policy <<https://www.mumbles.gov.uk/wp->

[content/uploads/2018/07/Information-Data-Protection-Policy-2018-v11June2018.pdf](#)>
[Information and Data Protection Policy](#)

[Information and Data Protection Policy](#)
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APPENDIX 9

WITNESS STATEMENT

Statement of: Councillor Carrie Townsend-Jones

Address: [REDACTED]

Age if under 18: Over 18

Occupation/Position: Mumbles Community Councillor

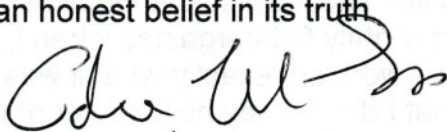
-
1. I, Councillor Carrie Townsend-Jones of [REDACTED] make this statement in connection with a complaint made to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales that Councillor Louise Thomas of Mumbles Community Council has breached the Code of Conduct for elected members. The facts in this statement come from my personal knowledge.
 2. I have been a Member of Mumbles Community Council since 2017.
 3. I had not had any prior contact with Councillor Thomas before the vote count in May 2021.
 4. Councillor Thomas made a complaint to the Ombudsman about me in May 2021 (ref: 202100941). The complaint was about a Personnel Committee decision which was discussed at a full Council meeting. It was the job of the Personnel Committee to discuss employment decisions and the decision was put to full Council. We did not offer employment without consulting other Council Members as Councillor Thomas alleged. We put the recommendation to full Council, who then chose not to follow through with the recommendation.
 5. I was taken aback by the complaint as it was made within days of her having been appointed to the Council. The complaint referred to things which had happened prior to her becoming a Mumbles Councillor and, therefore, she was quite likely not party to all the actual information related to that matter. There was significant information which, it was fairly clear from the comments made in the complaint, Councillor Thomas didn't actually know.
 6. Councillor Thomas made a second complaint about me to the Ombudsman later in May 2021 (ref: 202101379). I was slightly flabbergasted when I received the complaint. I just couldn't quite work out exactly what it was that she was trying to say. She complained that I did not say hello to her at the count.

7. I had never met Councillor Thomas before in my life, I had no idea who she was, and I wasn't there as a social event. I was there as a counting agent, and the purpose of being accounting agent is that you're focusing on what you're there to do.
8. I assume that Councillor Thomas has been encouraged to me complaints about me. In 2017 there was an audit report which found unlawful expenditure by two Councillors. As Chair of the Council at that time, I took responsibility for making a complaint to the Ombudsman regarding the unlawful finding made by Audit Wales. I know that Councillor Thomas is friends or a colleague of this other Councillor, and my impression is certainly from things she said, which tend to duplicate things that he has said, that it was almost like an encouragement, as a sort of revenge for the fact that I had made that complaint about him, which had in fact been upheld.
9. Councillor Thomas resigned from the Council in January 2022. At that point, I had been selected as a candidate for the City Council elections in May. Councillor Thomas began an absolute torrent of abuse on Facebook. Constant posts accusing me and other Councillors of lying and illegally spending money. It was really quite difficult to deal with.
10. At one point I was seriously thinking of stepping back and not standing for election because I felt that I was jeopardising my fellow two candidates, because people were seeing the posts and thinking it was true. And as we had learnt with Councillor Thomas, there is absolutely no point in trying to refute anything because she will just twist it to make it into another lie.
11. Councillor Thomas has also reported me and others to the Police. She has also reported the Council to Audit Wales.
12. She has created massive problems for the Council (for example, the Skate Park). As a result of her complaints the National Lottery delayed payment of a grant, as a result of which we lost, we've lost our slot with the contractors to get it built and the price, of course, has rocketed because of the increased cost of building materials and they guaranteed the price for us until December.
13. There has been a catalogue of problems caused by Councillor Thomas.

Statement of truth:

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

Signed:



Dated:

10/7/2022

Case reference number: 202106524

Page 2 of 2

APPENDIX 10

WITNESS STATEMENT

Statement of: Councillor Sara Keeton
Address: [REDACTED]
Age if under 18: Over 18
Occupation/Position: Mumbles Community Councillor and
Swansea City Councillor


1. I, Councillor Sara Keeton of [REDACTED], make this statement in connection with a complaint made to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales that Councillor Louise Thomas of Mumbles Community Council has breached the Code of Conduct for elected members. The facts in this statement come from my personal knowledge.
2. I have been a Member of Mumbles Community Council since 2017. I am a member of the Labour group and Councillor Thomas is a member of the Conservative group.
3. I first became aware of Councillor Thomas at the vote count in 2021. Prior to that I did not know her.
4. Councillor Thomas made a spurious complaint about me to the Ombudsman in May 2021 (ref: 202100944). We'd had an interview process for an Environment Officer position, and we had 2 candidates that were excellent. When we were discussing it, we were torn as we wanted both. We had enough money in the budget to have both. We took advice from the Clerk and the full Council was asked about the employment before the next Council meeting. Former Councillor O'Neill spoke to the Tories as he had a good relationship with them, and Councillor Townsend-Jones spoke to the Labour group.
5. I was surprised when the complaint came through because as far as we were concerned, we had asked everybody, and they were okay with it. We eventually only got 1 of the candidates as Environment Officer.
6. Councillor Thomas also complained at the time that Councillor Erasmus had been involved in the interview, which was a surprise as Councillor Erasmus was not on the interview panel. The interviews were conducted before Councillor Thomas became a Member of the Council.

7. Councillor Thomas made a further complaint against me later in May 2021, in which she complained that I didn't speak to her at the vote count and that I ignored her (ref: 202101378). At the count, you are supposed to be very quiet as people are counting and observe the count. I was aware that Councillor Thomas had come in halfway through (I didn't know her at the time) and she talked to my husband, who was the other candidate. When the count was finished, I went over to greet Councillor Thomas and say hello and congratulate her. We had to go elsewhere, so said goodbye and left. I was really surprised to get a complaint about that.
8. Councillor Thomas targeted Councillor Erasmus again at the same time and complained she had ignored her at the count. She was meant to be one of my husband's counting agents, but the day before the count she had taken a fall whilst out leafleting and couldn't make it to the count.
9. I think Councillor Thomas must have looked at a list of names at the count as she would not have known me that well either. I had not ignored her, and Councillor Erasmus wasn't even there. Even if I had ignored her, I don't think it would be something to complain to the Ombudsman about.
10. In July 2021 Councillor Thomas made a further complaint against me (ref: 202102893). I had said that it was difficult to trust somebody that behaved like her all the time. In regard to "excluding" her, another Councillor was on maternity leave and had taken time to arrange funding to put on parties in the park. When the funding was granted, she had emailed everyone to ask for support. Councillor Thomas' response was to complain bitterly that it was always the same people doing everything and that it wasn't fair that she was being excluded. I sent her an email to say it's very hard to trust someone like her and that the reason it was the same people doing all of the work was because no one else was doing it.
11. Councillor Thomas made another complaint to the Ombudsman against me on 20 December 2021 (ref: 202106478). I felt this complaint was particularly hurtful and I felt targeted as it was made at a time when I could not get any support or help due to the Christmas period. I remember that I was expecting my family for Christmas, and I received the complaint and there was nothing I could do about it. It was really upsetting, but I knew that it was nonsense.
12. That complaint related to a Council decision but was made personally against me. It was ridiculous. We have a very professional financial person who deals with financial issues. The complaint was targeted at me which was irrational as I do not deal with the paperwork relating to the skate park. I feel that it was a slur and politically motivated.
13. I feel that the complaints have been politically motivated. It was isolating receiving the complaints and I spoke to Former Councillor O'Neill and the Clerk for support and advice.

14. The Council has a local resolution procedure in place. Former Councillor O'Neill asked the Clerk to consider issues with Councillor Thomas under the procedure but, with Covid, the Clerk has been working from home and I don't think we've been as effective as we could normally have been.
15. Councillor Thomas has been really difficult. Until she joined the Council, we hadn't had problems with the Tories, apart from the usual banter. The Labour and Tory groups worked together on projects. Councillor Thomas has caused so much anger, bitterness, and nastiness that I am absolutely dreading the next 5 years. Council Members have become more guarded, both Tory and Labour. It has become polarised.
16. When I saw the Ombudsman's request to interview for this investigation, I was concerned that it was another complaint relating to the May 2022 count as we had cheered the Green Party candidate who had beaten her for the Mayals County Council ward.
17. Councillor Thomas has also made complaints to Audit Wales, and I believe has complained to the Police about me 3 times. Firstly, I believe that Councillor Thomas was the "Community Councillor" who alleged that I had started the campaign of people beeping when driving in Mumbles in relation to the skate park – this is totally untrue, I did not start or support that action. I received a call from the Police. She has later complained because of a comment I made online, in support of Councillor Erasmus and said I had broken Purdah laws. She named Police Chiefs that she had complained to, but I did not hear anything from the Police about that.
18. I am also led to believe that she made accusations about me, Councillor Erasmus, and Councillor Townsend-Jones of throwing rats in her garden and accused Former Councillor O'Neill of poisoning her dog on the beach.
19. The amount of work that Councillor Thomas has created for the Ombudsman is also unacceptable.
20. Personally, the complaints have caused me a lot of stress and have had a significant negative impact on me. It has been constant bullying.

Statement of truth:

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

Signed: 

Dated: 11/7/22

APPENDIX 11

WITNESS STATEMENT

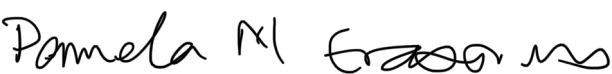
Statement of: Councillor Pamela Erasmus
Address: [REDACTED]
Age if under 18: Over 18
Occupation/Position: Mumbles Community Councillor

1. I, Councillor Pamela Erasmus of [REDACTED], make this statement in connection with a complaint made to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales that Councillor Louise Thomas of Mumbles Community Council has breached the Code of Conduct for elected members. The facts in this statement come from my personal knowledge.
2. I have been a Member of Mumbles Community Council for about 10 years.
3. I did not know who Councillor Thomas was prior to her joining the Council in May 2021.
4. Councillor Thomas made a complaint about me to the Ombudsman in May 2021 (ref: 202100942). The complaint related to a committee which I was not on. Councillor Thomas lied from start to finish. I was absolutely furious.
5. If she had misinterpreted or misunderstood a situation or issue then I would have reluctantly understood the complaint, but she did not misinterpret, she quite deliberately lied to make a case against me. I thought that she's very dangerous and that I needed to be careful as she had made a complaint about me when I wasn't even on the committee.
6. I was bewildered and shocked, and then I needed to respond to the complaint and hope that the Ombudsman could see through all of the shenanigans.
7. Councillor Thomas complained to the Ombudsman again in June 2021 (ref: 202101380). The complaint related to bullying but there were no specifics for me to know what I was supposed to have done and nothing for me to respond to. It was all hypothetical. I didn't recognise any bullying on my part and the complaint made by Councillor Thomas was a bullying and harassing tactic and there is gaslighting going on there.

8. In July 2021 Councillor Thomas made a third complaint about me to the Ombudsman (ref: 202102880) about an email I had sent. I thought that other Councillors needed to be warned about what was going on with complaints being made to the Ombudsman and I said what I was legally allowed to say.
9. We had a new Council, and it was lovely. There were positive ideas, and it was a new start for the Council, and then the Ombudsman complaints came along, which was a shock.
10. I think Councillor Thomas' complaints were politically motivated. It wasn't personal as she didn't know me, and the complaints were not factual. They were not legitimate. I think it's now gone past that and it's very personal and abusive.
11. The Ombudsman is not the only line of attack she's got, and she has reported Councillor Keeton, Councillor Townsend-Jones, and I to the Police. She complained we had thrown dead rats into her garden and poisoned her dog. I didn't even know where she lived at the time. Just before the May 2022 elections, Councillor Thomas said she was reporting us to 2 Police Chief Superintendents. It is bullying behaviour and she is supposed to be an ex-Police Officer and a magistrate.
12. She has also complained to Audit Wales and to the National Lottery, who stopped our funding application for the skate park until they sorted that out. Councillor Thomas has also targeted us on social media.
13. Councillor Thomas made a complaint about Councillor Keeton just before Christmas 2021. Councillor Keeton was distraught and couldn't get any help. I think that complaint was driven by spite.
14. The complaints have had a huge impact on me. They create a huge range of emotions and take over your life. I've tried to keep my family out of it and haven't been able to get support from them as I don't want them worrying about me. It's affected my life in the village because I'm being questioned about my integrity and my honesty. It's distressing because she is so dishonest, and it is time consuming responding to the complaints and being interviewed by the Ombudsman because of Councillor Thomas.

Statement of truth:

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

Signed: 

Dated: 19.7.22

APPENDIX 12

WITNESS STATEMENT

Statement of: Mr Jason Williams
Address: [REDACTED]
Age if under 18: Over 18
Occupation/Position: Chair, Mumbles Skatepark Association

1. I, Mr Jason Williams of [REDACTED], make this statement in connection with a complaint made to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales that Former Councillor Louise Thomas of Mumbles Community Council has breached the Code of Conduct for elected members. The facts in this statement come from my personal knowledge.
2. I am the Chair of the Mumbles Skatepark Association, which was set up to support the redevelopment of the skatepark site at Llwynderw. We set it up after some work that Mumbles Community Council had done in terms of outreach to schools to see what the kids wanted, and the response was a skatepark.
3. We are a special interest group and we've all got experience. We've been working with and lobbying Mumbles Community Council and Swansea Council in terms of progressing and achieving development of the skatepark.
4. We work quite closely with some of the Mumbles Community Councillors who are working on the project. We were co-opted into the Community and Environment meetings, so we were co-opted members for a period.
5. More recently, as things have developed, we are no longer co-opted, but we are recognised as special interest specialists. When there are meeting items relating to the skatepark development we tend to get invited to those items.
6. We have continued to lobby and work with Swansea Council and various Mumbles Community Councillors in an attempt to expedite the redevelopment and, more recently, we have started to work with Swansea Council about a broader development project as well.

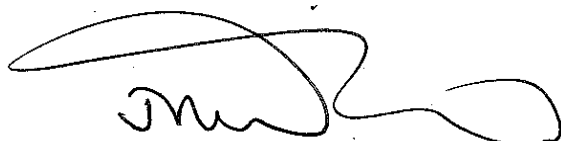
7. My Facebook Messenger conversation with Former Councillor Thomas, which Councillor Dr. O'Neill provided screenshots of to the Ombudsman, was held on Monday 20 December 2021.
8. Former Councillor Thomas had contacted us a few times prior to that conversation. We met with her initially while she was a Councillor as she had voiced interest in what we were doing and wanted to know more about us and what our aims were. She has also contacted us for updates and to give her views on the skatepark.
9. On 11 January 2022 Former Councillor Thomas contacted us again to let us know that she had resigned from the Council and can talk. I responded saying that our goal is to support the redevelopment of the site, that we continue to lobby, that we noted the responses to questions at the Council meeting (as Former Councillor Thomas had attended the Council meeting the evening before as a member of the public), that I was mindful of allegations made against Mumbles Community Council on social media (which she has been very vocal about) and of referral of the matter to the Ombudsman.
10. I said that, because of the Association's transparency and being mindful of potential investigations, we are doing everything via formal routes with Swansea Council.
11. I had another long Facebook Message from Former Councillor Thomas on 12 January 2022 which did not add anything new to the conversation. We've had a couple more emails from her, but we don't tend to respond to them.
12. In regard to the content of Former Councillor Thomas' messages to me on 20 December 2021, my concern is the Association. We need to be seen to be squeaky clean as we are representing a community and it's a community we feel very strongly about. I was concerned about the recording issue.
13. To give added context, I work in the HR Department of Swansea University and one of the things we were looking at, at that time, and have since developed and embedded with our Trade Unions is a policy on recording meetings. Covert recordings of meetings are a concern and we do not think they are appropriate, and, in terms of transparency, I don't think anyone should be covertly recording meetings.
14. Based on that, I was really concerned about Former Councillor Thomas' messages. The Council would have been holding a meeting behind closed doors for very good reasons. A big part of what the Association is doing is about relations, so I didn't want to get dragged into issues relating to covert recordings of Council meetings or issues between parties. I wanted to be very upfront and, as Councillor Martin O'Neill is Chair of the Council and Councillor Rebecca Fogarty is the Chair of the Committee we were co-opted on to, I let them know and let Former Councillor Thomas know that I would do that, which she said was fine.

15. Former Councillor Thomas did not send me a copy of the recording, and she did not play it to me.

Statement of truth:

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping loop at the top, followed by several smaller, connected loops and a final horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Dated: 19 August 2022

APPENDIX 13

Public Services Ombudsman Wales
Interview Record

Date: 21 September 2022 Venue: Microsoft Teams

Interviewing Officer: Leigh McAndrew ("LM")

Accused Member: Louise Thomas ("LT")

LM: So, you should have had the message on your end, to let you know that the recording has started.

LT: Yes, that's fine.

LM: Okay, you'll have to bear with me, I've got lots to read through before we get to any questions. Um, I've got a scripted section I need to read to you, okay?

LT: Okay.

LM: Er, so the date is the 21st of September 2022, the time is 12:07 pm, this is an interview in relation to 2 complaints made by Dr Martin O'Neill, against Former Councillor Louise Thomas, er, I'll refer to you as Mrs Thomas, going forward ...

LT: Okay.

LM ... Which alleges breaches of the Code of Conduct for Members, of Mumbles Community Council. I'm Leigh McAndrew, Assistant Investigation Manager for the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales, and being interviewed is Mrs Thomas.

When I invited you to interview, you were offered the opportunity to ... to have a friend at this interview with you, but you have chosen to attend alone. Please confirm for the record that you are happy for the interview to be er, conducted without a friend present.

LT: Yes that's fine.

LM: Okay, and do you agree to proceed with a Microsoft Teams interview as the most practical way for the interview to be conducted?

LT: Yes.

Accused Member's Name: Louise Thomas

LM: Please confirm for the record you're happy for the interview to take place via Microsoft Teams?

LT: Yes I'm happy, via Microsoft Teams.

LM: Right. So, this Microsoft Teams interview is being recorded. Before making her final recommendations, the Ombudsman will provide you with a written copy of the interview, written transcript copy of the interview.

LT: Yeah.

LM: If you have any other legal representative or friend acting for you who requires a copy of the recording, it may be provided, although the Ombudsman does reserve the right to charge. Requests for an additional copy should be made to the Ombudsman's Information Governance Manager. The interview is listed to last a maximum of 90 minutes, although it may be longer, based on how much information you want to provide to me, um, in response to my questions.

LT: Yeah.

LM: Can you confirm you've allowed enough time to complete the interview today?

LT: Yes I have.

LM: Can you confirm that you are well enough to attend and answer my questions today?

LT: Yes I am.

LM: Can you confirm that you have anything with you that you might need, during the course of the interview, such as reading glasses, medication or anything else?

LT: No.

LM: Okay. Um, can I ask that any mobile phones or other electronic devices, which might interrupt us are either switched off or turned to silent mode?

LT: Yeah, I'll do that now.

LM: Thank you.

LT: That's fine.

Accused Member's Name: Louise Thomas

LM: Okay. In the event you feel er, in the event you feel you need a comfort break or a break for any other reason as any stage, please let me know and we can pause the recording and then resume.

LT: Okay.

LM: For the benefit of the recording, could you please confirm that prior to the recording being switched on, we've not discussed the case or any other matter, subject of this interview, in any way?

LT: No, we haven't.

LM: Could you confirm that you received the evidence bundle which was enclosed with my letter to you, on the 1st September 2022, which comprised of 200 pages of text?

LT: Yes.

LM: Have you had the opportunity to familiarise yourself with the contents?

LT: Yes I have.

LM: Do you have it available with you today?

LT: Yes I can, I haven't got it actually on me, but I can get that, um, I can download it now.

LM: Right, um, because I might refer to you to particular pages, so ...

LT: That's fine.

LM: ... so if you have the PDF open that would be really helpful.

LT: Okay, no problem.

LM: I'm going to tell you a bit about the allegations which were made against you, and then I'll pose a series of questions relating to them.

LT: Okay.

LM: I'd ask that you listen to my questions carefully, and answer them as fully as you can. My questions are my opportunity to cover the issues I need to, and your answers are your opportunity to respond to the allegations made, and provide the Ombudsman with any information which may assist her in reaching her conclusions. Please be aware that any information or evidence that you give to me today is likely to be detailed in, or appended to any report that the Ombudsman may produce on her findings.

Any such report may, depending on the finding made by the Ombudsman, be shared with the Standards Committee of Swansea Council, or the Adjudication Panel for Wales, who may hold any hearing in public, and may also publish the report and appendices in the public domain.

LT: Yes that's fine.

LM: Okay, so you've been asked to attend an interview today, because allegations have been made that you may have breached the Code of Conduct for Members, by making vexatious, malicious or frivolous complaints and by recording a private session of a Council meeting and offering to play that recording to a member of the public.

LT: Okay.

LM: The allegations suggest, and the Ombudsman's investigation is considering, whether you may have breached the following paragraph of the Code of Conduct:

5(a) - you must not disclose confidential information or information which might ... which should reasonably be regarded as being of a confidential nature, without the express consent of a person authorised to give such consent, or unless required by law to do so.

6(1)(a) - you must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute.

6(1)(d) - you must not make vexatious, malicious or frivolous complaints against other members or anyone who works for or on behalf of your authority.

Do you understand the allegations as they've been made?

LT: Yes I do.

LM: Okay, I'll now proceed to the formal questions. The first couple are just general questions about um, your time on the Council, so when did you first become a member of Mumbles Community Council?

LT: Er, May 2021.

LM: Okay, and were you elected or co-opted onto the Council?

LT: I was elected.

LM: Okay, could you turn to ... have you got the PDF open now?

Accused Member's Name: Louise Thomas

LT: Yes.

LM: Could you turn to page 40 of the PDF, and confirm that it contains a copy of a form dated 10th of May 2021, confirming your acceptance of the office of member and undertaking to observe the Code?

LT: Yes.

LM: And that bears your signature?

LT: Yes it does.

LM: Okay, so you subsequently resigned from the Council, can you recall what date you resigned, during that term of office?

LT: I ... I don't, I'm sorry.

LM: That's okay, I can probably ...

LT: I can check, bear with me, I'll just ...

LM: I believe it's Appendix 5.

LT: Yeah, yeah, okay. It wasn't long, I can't ... I'm sorry Leigh, I can't get into this, I'm so sorry.

LM: You're not able to open it?

LT: No.

LM: Okay, if um, needs be I ... it might be possible for me to share my screen with you, if I want you to see anything in particular. So you were ... I can see that you resigned on the 6th of January 2022.

LT: Yes.

LM: And then you subsequently stood in the May 2022 elections, is that right?

LT: Yes, yeah.

LM: Um, so you were re-elected in May 2022?

LT: Yeah.

LM: Um, so let's see if I can share this with you, bear with me.

LT: Thank you.

Accused Member's Name: Louise Thomas

LM: So is ... can you confirm that that is your signature for the Declaration of Acceptance of Office ...

LT: Yes.

LM: ... and undertaking to observe the Code on the 10th of May 2022?

LT: Yes it is.

LM: Great, I'll ... if I need to you refer you to anything, I'll do that then, if that worked, okay? When you were a member of the Council, just to confirm actually, you've since resigned from the council ...

LT: Yes, I think I've broken the record actually, I don't think there's ever been any Community Councillor that's ever done it in a year, so um, I think I've um, done something a little bit special there (laughs).

LM: Okay, well let's double check, I'm not sure if I included your subsequent resignation email in this.

LT: Ah right, okay.

LM: In this ... oh no, 18th of July, so it's page 197 of the bundle...

LT: Thank you.

LM: ... 18th July 2022. During your time on the Council did you undertake any training on the Code?

LT: No.

LM: Is there any reason why you didn't?

LT: Just work, I work fulltime, I just didn't have the capacity to ... to go on these courses, it's been you know, I'm ... I'm quite busy at work.

LM: Okay, um, I read the 3 paragraphs of the Code that we're focusing on, so if you could ... I'll re-read them to you, I'll read 1 at a time, and if you could give me your sort of broad understanding of what ... what your obligations would be under each paragraph, so ...

LT: Of course.

LM: So firstly, then, 5(a) - you must not disclose confidential information or information which should reasonably ... reason ... I'll slow down, should reasonably be regarded as being of a confidential nature, without the express consent of a person authorised to give such consent, or unless

required by law to do so, so what's your understanding of your obligations under that section?

LT: I totally understand not to divulge confidential um ... confidential information.

LM: Okay, and then the next one is 61(a), you must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute.

LT: Yeah, I totally understand that.

LM: Okay, and then finally, the sec ... the last one, er, that we're considering is 6(1)(d), you must not make vexatious, malicious or frivolous complaints against other members, or anyone who works for on behalf of your authority.

LT: Absolutely, yeah, I totally get that as well.

LM: Okay, I want to turn initially, then, I wanted to discuss the ... the complaints you made to us, so, um, you made 3 complaints to us in May, 2021, um, could you explain why you ... why you felt it necessary to complain to us at that time, about those Members?

LT: Because I'd already complained to the Chair about the treatment I was receiving from 3 said Councillors, um, I'm an ex-police officer, so I understand how to conduct yourself in a ... in a public office, and I regarded what they were like towards me as bullying. And I mentioned it to Steve Haydon, um, the Chair, the Clerk sorry, and he was very supportive, er, but it just carried on. I was completely ostracised by these people, um, and if you need confirmation of this, then obviously speak to other Councillors. It's not ... it's not a first in Mumbles Community Council and it's happening now, so there is bullying going on in that Community Council, and I am willing to give evidence to say that that is happening. And I can get information over to the Ombudsman, to show that that is happening, it is totally unacceptable.

LM: Okay, so with those 3 ... 3 complaints in particular, then, focusing on those, did ... did ... you said you raised um, you spoke to the Chair and the ... and the Clerk, so was that ... what ... what was their guidance or advice to you prior to making the complaint to us?

LT: Oh, it's just the way they are, um, yeah, they ... they've got very strong opinions, and there are a few Councillors that find them hard work, um, and that's it, that's just the way it is. It's incredible to be in that ... that environment.

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LM: I'm going to share with you the decision letters on those ones, let me just get them a second. They're all quite similar so I just wanted to ...

LT: They are, yeah.

LM: ... um, so I responded to these initially on 26th May last year, and you can see that um, I signposted you to Audit Wales, for any concerns about er, financial um, matters.

LT: Yeah.

LM: I also signposted you to the Ombudsman's Guidance for Members of Local Authorities in Wales. Did you ... did you consider the ... that guidance at all, following my decision?

LT: What, to Audit Wales?

LM: Not the Audit Wales, did you ... did you have a look at the Ombudsman's guidance and did you consider the Ombudsman's guidance to Members?

LT: Oh yeah, yeah, I considered it all, absolutely.

LM: Okay, um, so prior to making ... you made subsequent complaints and they're all ... they're all available at Appendix 7 of the bundle I sent to you. So prior to making any of the subsequent complaints, after those initial 3, did you seek any further guidance from the Clerk, or from the Monitoring Officer at all?

LT: I've never spoken to a Monitoring Officer, at the Council, sorry, Leigh.

LM: Okay, did you seek any further guidance from um, Steve Haydon?

LT: I didn't need to, to be honest, with my background, um, I know how it works, and um, I've seen how it works actually, in ... in ... in the other Councils as well, so um, yeah, I don't need to seek guidance, I know exactly what's going on, and I know that I'm going to be made a scapegoat for something that should have been addressed, so it's fine.

LM: When you say ... with reference to other Councils, what do you mean by that?

LT: Oh, just Swansea Council, one of the, um, information that you receive back from the legal department is that I'd only made 1 contact with Tracey Meredith. Well, that's actually not true, um, er, so there's so many facets to this, I mean, it's not even your fault, at the end of the day, I'm just absolutely livid, that this is the way that the Ombudsman responds to somebody that's done everything to prove, to get evidence, to see, to show

exactly what it going on, and I get treated like this. I just ... yeah, it's pretty disheartening, really.

LM: Okay. Do you know if Mumbles Community Council has a Local Resolution Procedure in place?

LT: Oh, don't bother. I ... I know they've got a so-called resolution in place, but given that the fact that the ... the Chair um, is ... I think he was railroaded by these Councillors, it doesn't ... it's just a little tick exercise, it means nothing. When ... when I've complained about bullying that's gone on, with Steve ... and also that Steve Haydon is bullied, and I've told them time and time and again that it's totally unacceptable, and I've been ignored, where are you supposed to go with that complaint? Nowhere.

I complained to the legal officer at Swansea Council, and she directed me back to Mumbles Community Council. It is pointless.

LM: Okay, so my colleague, Sinead ... I'll share this, this letter with you as well.

LT: Yeah.

LM: Bear with me.

LT: Okay, thank you.

LM: So my colleague er, Sinead wrote to you on the 25th August 2021.

LT: Yeah.

LM: She noted at point that, at that point, that was the eighth complaint we'd received from you.

LT: Yeah.

LM: And she referenced paragraph 6(1)(d) of the Code there.

LT: Yeah.

LM: Um, she pointed you again to ... to our guidance and to seek advice from the Clerk or the Monitoring Officer, so you subsequently then made ... made this complaint on the 20th of December, about Council Sara Keeton.

LT: Yes.

LM: Could you ... could you explain your rationale for me, for that complaint, to us?

LT: Um, because over the last year, er, these Councillors have been on social media, basically using er, cartoons that have got very, very disgusting, profound and quite revolting words, which I didn't think was acceptable for a Community Councillor to actually have on their Facebook.

I was part of a campaign, um, active campaign, against a road that was um, created, a cycle path, which is really dangerous, so I've actively got involved in that, and we've got our own Facebook page, and you know, carrying on calling the Council out really, calling them to task, um, to the point that the leader of Swansea Council has been to the newspaper, 4 times about me. Um, it's crazy, it's an absolutely crazy world to be in. I have ... yeah.

LM: The complaint that I'm referencing in, in particular, is ... is against Councillor Sara Keeton, it was made on the 20th December, and it's about the Finance meeting where the vote was put to vote on the contract with Mavericks, the company er ...

LT: That's right.

LM: So, why was that ... that complaint was about the Council's decision, so ... so if you could explain your rationale for specifically why you made the complaint about the individual, Sara Keeton?

LT: Sorry, so er, there was a vote, um, against ... a financial vote actually, where they ... the Committee decided that they were looking at a way to pay Mavericks before the lease, and at that point, um, after the meeting, I decided there's no way that I want to put my name against anything like that, because I'd really got concerned that you are using taxpayers' money, to pay for a company before the lease is agreed with Swansea Council.

That is a risk, it was called a risk in the meeting, and afterwards I spoke to Ian Scott, Councillor Ian Scott, who didn't vote for it, and I said what is going on, is this the ... is this a good idea going down this road? I then spoke to a lawyer, um, a really good friend of mine, who basically said do not put your name to that, because if it comes back, and the public are aware that that was ... that there was a risk, and there was a possibility that that money could have been lost, lost, we're talking £125,000, if there was another judicial review, Mumbles Council would have lost that money.

I mean, I ... I absolutely cannot believe that we are working to these (laughs), I ... honestly, I just find it deplorable, I've got to the stage now where I just think I've made a complaint to the police, to the Audit Wales, to the Lottery, to the Councils, both Councils, that that is not acceptable. That we should not be risking this kind of money.

I put it on social media, I want the general public to know what is being um, what public money is being spent. We all should be accountable for every action that we take as a Community Councillor. And we shouldn't be having these planned inside, private meetings, that don't need to be private, they didn't discuss the ... the contract, um, with Mavericks at all, all they said is that they needed to pay a specific amount of money to Mavericks, before the lease was agreed.

That is not acceptable, um, and that's why I resigned, because I was very concerned about the financial mismanagement and the irony, they've come back now and said, well there was ... Audit Wales said there was no offence committed. No, that's right, because Mavericks would not um, accept that money. So, there wasn't an offence committed because they didn't get to that stage.

LM: Okay, I ... what ... what I'm asking though, is what ... you know, I've noted everything you've said, but why ... why was the complaint made against Sara Keeton as an individual, following that ... following that meeting?

LT: Because er, Sara Keeton was the one that was asking everybody to vote, and she's very much involved in the skatepark project.

LM: Right.

LT: And to be absolutely honest, it was one individual Councillor at that point, but I've complained about them all as you know, um, and as far as I'm concerned it's a complete waste of time, I don't know why I've ... because it's ... I don't know why ... why it's there, because I don't think anyone's listened to me, I think I've been completely railroaded, and I'm a very, very upstanding member of the community, and I do not feel that this is a fair way of dealing with someone that has massive concerns about this Community Council.

LM: Okay, so you've had um, had time to look at the witness statements of the Dr O'Neill?

LT: Oh yeah.

LM: Er, Councillor Keeton, Councillor Erasmus, um, focusing again on this complaint against Sara Keeton, Dr O'Neill said that the timing of the complaint against Sara Keeton on the 20th of December was ... he described it as pernicious.

LT: Oh God.

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LM: Councillor Erasmus said that she should that the complaint was driven by spite, and ... and Councillor Keeton said that the complaint was made at a time when she couldn't get support, because it was made ... due to the ... couldn't get support because of the Christmas period, and she felt targeted and said that it was um, hurtful and really upsetting. So what ... what's your ... what's your view on their comments?

LT: Absolutely not. I cannot emphasise how much um, that these Councillors conduct themselves, you need to go back and have a look at the meetings online, and you will see how things are run there. The ... the reason that they didn't like me, is because I do ... I do ask questions, I do raise my head above the parapet, they know what I'm standing for, in terms of the campaign that I'm involved in, and it's ... it's just literally a way of discrediting me, to make me out to be a liar.

And it's happening at a very senior level, and it's totally unacceptable. I've had, as you know, Leigh, I've had the police um, patrolling my house, we have now literally just sold our house, so we're moving from the area. My neighbours can verify what's happened to me, I have done nothing out of spite, nothing.

And the very fact that some of the statements were referring to the fact that I have directed it to them, and said that they were part of this hate campaign, I have never, ever said that Sara Keeton was responsible for the things that have happened round my property. I have never said that, I ... I am absolutely down the line.

LM: Okay, um, so in general then, with ... with the comments made by Councillors Keeton, Erasmus and Townsend-Jones, what ... what are your views on the comments they made about the impact that ... that the complaints that you had made to the Ombudsman had had on them, um, personally?

LT: Oh, I'm ... there's no doubt about it, they would have been worried, of course they would be, um, because you know, they ... they don't like to be scrutinised, let's ... let's be absolutely honest here, I mean, I'm the only one that scrutinised them, I'm the only one asking questions along with, actually, Ian Scott, and they don't like it, it's as simple as that. I am not going down that line with them, I'm asking the most pertinent questions, that need to be asked.

And then you know, you've seen the email trail, what I did afterwards, I gave them a chance to be open and honest, and make sure that the general public, actually why not put a vote out there, let's ... let's do that, have ... have the general public make their own mind up whether or not they were willing to risk that kind of money.

So it's not personal, it's professional, there's a completely different strategy that've involved in this, and what I'm finding very, very upsetting is that they're they saying that I'm connected to all the people that are involved, the judicial 7, that's absolutely rubbish.

I was the Mayals Councillor for that area, so um, I was there because a lot of these people were being absolutely bullied, it was ... it was ... it was in the press what was happening to them, what am I supposed to do, as a Community Councillor, turn my back on them?

It's very, very unfair, and they did not remain impartial. On social media they supported the bullying that was going on towards Mr Bailey, and the other um, 7 that made that um, you know the complaints, and obviously went to judicial review.

LM: So just to clarify that's the judicial review relating to the skatepark, yes?

LT: Yes, indeed.

LM: Okay, that's fine, in ... in retrospect then, would ... would you have done any ... anything differently in regard to the complaints you made to the Ombudsman?

LT: With retrospect, they should have actually listened to what I've said, without attacking me, and being so derogatory, that every time I tried to speak in the meeting, they overtalked me, they actually blocked out my microphone. So what more ... what more can you do? If ... if they are not listening to a very, very serious concern I had, where do I go with that?

So what do I do, I use social media as a platform, to get the word out, that this is happening, because that is my defence here, in all of this, make it public, make them ... okay, call me a whistle blower, you can say whatever, that I've breached the Code of Conduct, but a defence for doing that is to make the public aware of what is going on behind closed doors. That is not acceptable, that is why I did what I did.

And do you know what, the very first time it went to the Ombudsman, and they said that ... that Pam Erasmus wasn't in the County Hall that day, and she had a ... a swollen ankle or something wrong with her foot, that's absolutely lies, because I rung Adam Gilbert, one of the Councillors, and he said yes, Pam was there, but I hadn't seen her.

And I've asked Adam to give a statement, and he said I'm not getting involved. So this is how it started, the very ... the very start of my ... my road to being a ... a Community Councillor, those 3 women, completely and utterly ignored me. I said hello to them, and the only person that

spoke to me was Sara Keeton's husband, and I thought oh, well okay, perhaps it's going to be a little bit unusual when I get into the Council. Perhaps it's because I'm Conservative, they're Labour, surely it's not going to be like that.

From the minute I started, they completely ostracised me, to the point, silly little things. I wanted a key to a cabinet, that we had on the Mayals Road, to put information for my residents. They told me that they didn't have the key.

And it went on for ages and it was little, tiny little things like that, that made me feel well, what the heck is the point of me being a Councillor here, in my own ward, if this is the way it's going to be?

And I refer back to Linda Tyler-Lloyd, Community Councillor, and ... and actually Councillor for Swansea, she set me aside, and she said they will not bother with you Louise, they're going to ... they're literally ... it's the way they roll, and she was absolutely right.

LM: Okay, um, did you ... did you make any complaints to the police specifically, about Dr O'Neil, Councillor Keeton, Councillor Erasmus, or ...?

LT: Yes I did.

LM: Because I .. as you can see in the bundle, I asked the police this, and they don't have any record of it, do you have reference numbers or anything?

LT: Yes, I've got reference ... I've got records for it, yes I have.

LM: Can you send me that after the interview, because ...

LT: I'm pretty sure I have, I've sent the um, the email with all of the um, reports on there, where it says ... I mentioned Martin O'Neill, because um, Martin O'Neill um, told Councillor Will Thomas, and this is ... and I will quote what he said, bearing in mind I'm a woman, that he's coming for me hard.

Now I am a pretty tough cookie, and I can handle myself, but any other person might have taken that completely in the wrong way, considering at that time I was getting all of the harassment, I was getting people ringing me at random times in the morning, and having dead rats thrown into my garden, um, I took that completely as a threat.

And it was all during the election process, how weird is that? It was absolutely a way to scare me off, because what they didn't want is someone like me being in the County Hall, absolutely did not want that, because I asked questions, and I scrutinise, and that is ... this is what it's

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all about, so there's no doubt, it's going to go the County Hall, they're going to make a ... um, an example of me, and it'll be in the press again. And I just think it's just crazy, it's absolutely crazy.

LM: Just to go back, so it's the emails you sent me on the 1st of September, relating to ... so the ... how many ... how many ... how many reports have you made to the police about these Councillors, is it just this one?

LT: 2.

LM: 2.

LT: So one against the personal um, message, which was relayed from um, Will Thomas, Councillor Will Thomas, and um, I took that very seriously. Um, given all of the things that were going on in my life at that time, um, yeah, I didn't like that at all, I think it's outrageous. Um, and then the other one was about the financial mismanagement.

LM: Yeah, I can see that one in the emails you've sent me, but have you sent me ... have you sent me ... I'll have a look later, if there's any of them not there, I'll come back to you, if that's okay.

LT: Thank you.

LM: Because what ... the police didn't have a record of it, but perhaps I can go back to them, with a reference number.

LT: Yeah, it's definitely there.

LM: No, no problem, um, right, I want to turn to the second complaint, which relates to the recording of the ... the private part of the meeting, which was held on the 4th of December last year. Obviously, you've provided me with a copy of the recording, so it's ... so you did record the private part of the meeting?

LT: Yes, yes.

LM: Did you play that recording to any person who was not in attendance at that part of the meeting?

LT: So did I ... did I share that?

LM: Yeah.

LT: Well yeah, to the police, um, to, I've got to think now, um, Audit Wales, shared ... I gave it to you.

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LM: Yeah. I ... did you share it with any members of the public?

LT: I didn't put it out in the public domain, no.

LM: No?

LT: No, definitely not.

LM: Okay, you can see that Mr Jason Williams has provided a witness statement as well?

LT: Yeah.

LM: Um, because you ... you ... did you offer to play the recording to ... to Mr Williams?

LT: Oh, um yes, I um ... because he's part of the um, group, and he wasn't there, um, of course yeah, I ... I gave it ... I gave it to him.

LM: Di ... is there anyone else that you gave it to?

LT: I can't think, no.

LM: Okay, so what was the reason that you ... that you provided that recording to ... to Mr Williams?

LT: Because I wanted evidence, I wanted evidence to show exactly what was going on, um, I received an agenda um, a few days before that meeting, and ... and part of that agenda was where it said there was a risk, and I thought, well, these Councillors lie. They absolutely lie, and if I need to prove evidence, and you know, what they say, throw yourself on the sword, I had to do it, because there was only that ... that was the only time that I knew that I was going to be able to prove ... because what they've said about me is outrageous.

They said ... they called me a liar, I've been called a liar in the press, I mean, it's absolutely ... it's beyond the pale to be fair. So yeah, I did ... did do that, and I wanted to have that as evidential um, reasons, so there was a reason behind it. And I knew I was breaking the Code of Conduct, so I've ... I'm totally aware of that, so um, if that's going to be what um ... well, I know that I've done that, so it's only worded that I've done that, well that's what I have, so ...

LM: So when you shared ... when you offered to share that with him, you were aware at the time that that might be a breach of the Code?

LT: Oh, I knew it was a breach. Of course, absolutely, I know what I've done.

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LM: Do ... you've, um, had an opportunity to look at er, Mr Williams' witness statement, do you understand the concerns he's raised about the offer to share the recording?

LT: Yeah.

LM: Okay, I don't have any further questions for you, is there anything you wanted to add, at this stage?

LT: Um, yeah, really, if the Ombudsman are going to choose to do what they want to do, um, bearing in mind I've contacted all the relevant authorities, including Audit Wales, who I might add, are still investigating the tender process, that is still open. Um, and heavens to Betsy, if it comes back and they realise that the tender process wasn't actually carried out correctly, through the right ... the correct procedures, what does that tell you about the way that this Community Council is run?

Surely there are alarm bells going off in ... or maybe they're not, I don't know, at the end of the day, they've got, you know, they've got me here, saying what ... I'm not even a Community Councillor, so you know, I've resigned, I don't really know what's going to happen at the end of this, I have no idea, um, it'll most probably be I won't be able to be a Councillor for the next 10 years, um, but I can ...

LM: That won't be an outcome, that's not an outcome that's er, that's available. I'll go ... I can go through those with you. Um, is there anything else you want to add, and I can give you a bit more information on what ... what the process is, um, at the end then?

LT: Um, yeah, just you know, how ... how is it okay for these Councillors to get away with things, when I've done things through the correct channels at the beginning, was totally ignored, and their word is more ... because there's more of them, you know, it's just like a gang, it's like ... it's like being in school, it's a form of bullying.

Um, and I just find it incredible, I just ... I really do find it incredible, so yeah, I don't know really what ... what more I can say.

LM: Okay, well, I've got no further questions for you.

LT: Okay.

LM: Um, is there anything else you wish to say about the complaints against you, or the events, that you've not already covered, or is there anything else you'd like to clarify about any of the evidence that you've given today?

LT: Um, no, er, obviously I've proved that that decision was going to go ahead, during that secret meeting, they were going to, um, it was going to be a risk, they admitted it, I'm glad they did that actually. Um, and as awful as it sounds, and obviously I did record the meeting, but without that recording, um, it would be another letter saying I've been vexatious, um, and I've got a real gripe against these Councillors.

That is absolutely not true, I want to do things correctly, that is all, through the right procedures, and um, anybody, anybody, any member of the public that knew what was going on behind closed doors, and what I've said on social media has been that, that there ... there was a risk to public money, do you think that's okay, does the Ombudsman think that's okay? Because I certain don't.

And ... and I'm pretty sure if the legal department of Swansea Council, because wherever this is going to go, or I don't know where it's going, um, also think that that's okay, then I really do question people in authority in this area. I really do question it.

LM: Okay.

LT: So there's been a lot of lies being said about this whole project, and um, yeah, absolutely disgraceful.

LM: Okay, are you content you've had a fair opportunity to say everything that you want to say about the subject of the complaints against you?

LT: Yeah, I'm content.

LM: Okay, that concludes the interview, other than I need to go through a few things with you, just to let you know what the process is.

LT: Yeah.

LM: So I'll send the recording of this interview away to be transcribed. Once I've got that back I'll um, check it for accuracy, and I'll send you a copy of it. I can also send you a copy of the recording, if ... if you ... if you want me to. Um, what ... what I'll need to do next is decide whether that completes the investigation or whether there's any further evidence required.

Once I'm satisfied that the investigation is completed it will be considered in detail, and a finding made by the Ombudsman. If we conclude that there is evidence of a breach, the Ombudsman has ... has the option to determine that no action is required, or to make a referral to the Standards Committee of Swansea Council or the Adjudication Panel of Wales.

LT: I know where it's going, I know exactly where it's going.

LM: So the Standards ... based on your question earlier, the Standards Committee, um, if someone is no longer a member of an authority, um, if they determine that there is evidence of a breach, um, they can either determine that no action is necessary, or issue a written censure. Um, the Adjudication Panel for Wales er, can ... if they determine that there's been a breach, um, can either determine er, no action is necessary, or um, disqualify for a period of up to 5 years. Disqualification for 5 years is for the most serious cases, um, so that's what their remits are.

If the Ombudsman determines that a referral is considered appropriate, a draft report will be shared with you, and you'll be given an opportunity to comment on the analysis of the evidence, and to the finding proposed. If she concludes that there's no evidence that a breach of the Code has occurred, or that no action is required, then the report would bring an end to it.

In closing this interview, then, I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that the Ombudsman's investigations are conducted in private. I'd therefore ask you not to discuss the evidence received, or that you have shared with me today, with anyone other than your legal representative or legal adviser.

LT: Yeah.

LM: And that extends to the transcript of the interview, and any draft report which may be issued to you also. It's particularly important that you do not discuss matter relating to the complaint and investigation with anyone who may be a witness, or involved in the matter. You should be aware that any such disclosure or interference may prejudice the Ombudsman's investigation, and um, has the potential to amount to contempt of court as well.

LT: Yeah, yeah of course. Can I ask you Leigh, when um, a Community Councillor like myself makes a complaint, and um, well, let's just say that er, obviously the um, the response back from the people I've complained at, um, is lies, what do I do then? How ...

LM: What do you mean?

LT: How do I prove that the response that was given back to the Ombudsman are true, how do I prove it? Knowing that these Councillors have lied to you, you tell me how I prove that?

LM: Well, you'd have to provide evidence er, to the contrary.

Accused Member's Name: Louise Thomas

LT: Thank you, absolutely. Because I'm guaranteed if I didn't record that, that's exactly what would have happened. They would have said I'm lying, you cannot get meeting notes from the ... from Mumbles Community Council, they do not put their meetings online, for months, Steven Haydon said he had an issue with uploading the videos and the recordings.

So for months and months and months, I would have been known as a liar, like ... like what's been going on for the last year, in the press. It's absolutely one sided, and I'm telling you now, it's because I'm from one political party, I can't un ... I can't emphasise enough why I've done what I've done, and I know ... and I know what I've done, but it is what it is, isn't it? So their word against mine, that's all it will always be.

LM: Okay, well, if that's everything, and there's nothing else that you want to add?

LT: No.

LM: I can conclude the interview at 12:48.

LT: Thanks, Leigh.

LM: So thank you for your time today.

LT: No problem at all.

LM: I'll write to you once I've had an opportunity ... once the transcript is received and I've had the opportunity to check it for accuracy, I'll send you a copy, and if you want me to send you a copy of the recording, just let me know as well.

LT: Thank you very much.

LM: All right, thank you for your time.

LT: You take care, bye, bye.

LM: Thanks, bye.

LT: Bye.

APPENDIX 14

Disclosing confidential information See paragraph 5(a)



2.25 You must not disclose confidential information, or information which should be reasonably regarded to be of a confidential nature, except in any of the following circumstances:

- **you have the consent of the person authorised to give it**
- **you are required by law to do so.**

2.26 The Information Commissioner has issued helpful guidance on the Freedom of Information Act and Data Protection Act which is available on the Commissioner's website at www.ico.org.uk or by calling 0303 123 1113. As a community councillor you may have sight of information of a confidential or sensitive nature, such as personal or commercially sensitive information. You must also be mindful that, as a councillor, you hold a position of trust and you may find that members of the public will provide you with information that should be regarded as confidential. You should always confirm (where possible obtain an agreement in writing) that you have the person's permission to disclose such information before doing so. As a general rule, you should treat items discussed in the confidential sections of meetings ('exempt' items) as confidential. Similarly, legal advice is almost always covered by legal privilege and should not be disclosed.

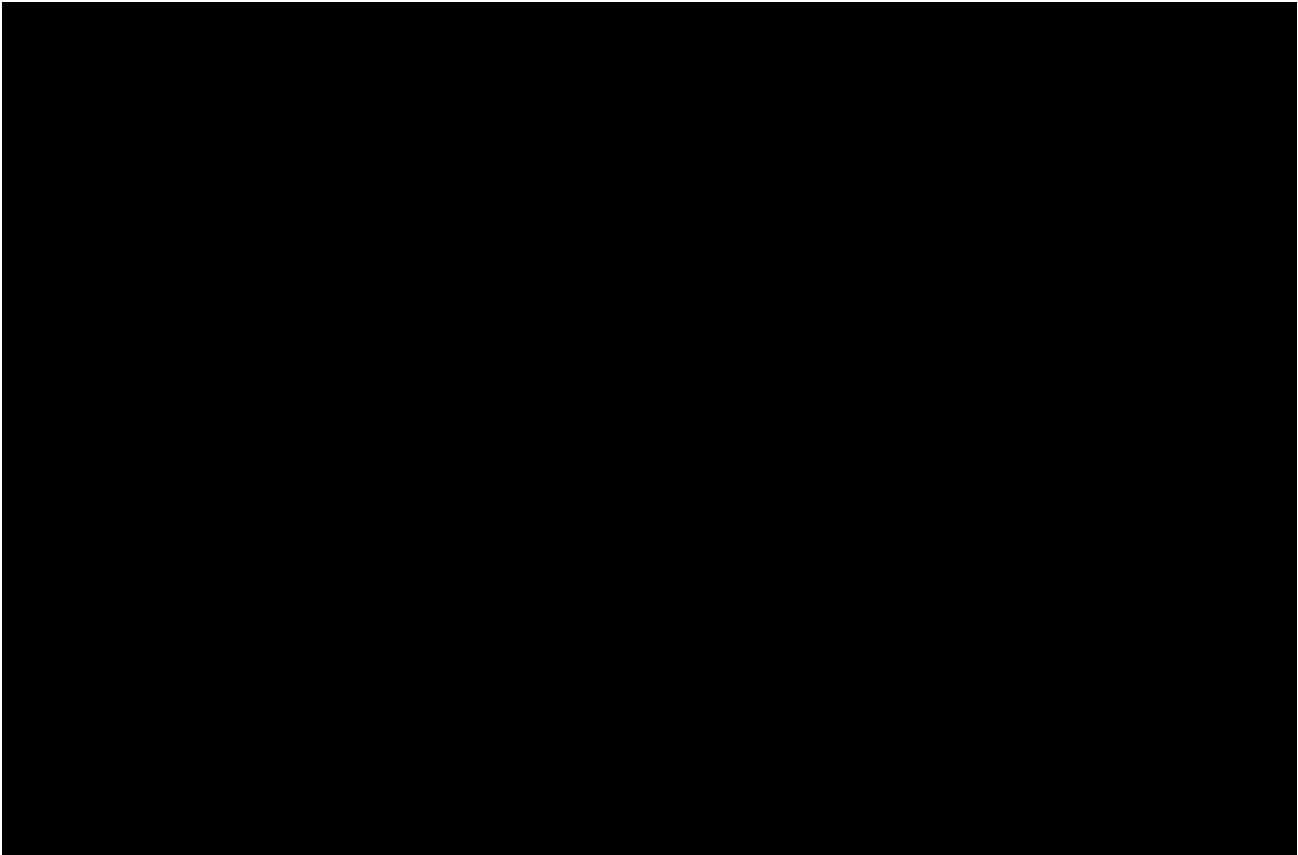
Example 15

Community Councillor S received an email from another councillor regarding the employment of the caretaker, which was marked 'confidential'. Councillor S disclosed the email to the caretaker's wife and information in the email was subsequently used against the Council in a tribunal hearing relating to the caretaker's employment. I concluded that this was indicative of a breach of paragraph 5(a) of the Code by Councillor S.

Example 16

A member of a County Borough Council circulated information about an officer's medical condition to other members of the Council, a local headteacher and another person with whom he was acquainted. In the judgment of the Adjudication Panel, the member had disclosed information about the officer's health which should reasonably be regarded as being of a confidential nature and without the consent of the officer, in breach of paragraph 5(a).

2.27 I expect information provided to a member during the course of an investigation by my office to be treated in the strictest of confidence and it should not be disclosed to anyone other than the member's legal or other adviser. If the information is disclosed to other persons, I may consider this to be a breach of this paragraph of the Code. In addition, members should not discuss the complaint with any of the witnesses, whether directly or indirectly, as such contact may also be construed to be a breach of the Code.



Disrepute
See paragraph 6(1)(a)

 Any conduct unbecoming of a member can constitute disrepute

2.31 You must not behave in a way which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute at any time. As a member, your actions and behaviour are subject to greater scrutiny than those of ordinary members of the public. You should be aware that your actions in both your public and private life might have an adverse impact on the public perception of your office as a member, or your Council as a whole.

2.32 When considering whether a member's conduct is indicative of bringing their office or their authority into disrepute, I will consider their actions from the viewpoint of a reasonable member of the public. It is likely that the actions of those members in more senior positions, such as the Chair of a Council, will attract higher public expectations and greater scrutiny than ordinary members. It is more likely, therefore, that inappropriate behaviour

by such members will damage public confidence and be seen as bringing both their office and their Council into disrepute. This does not mean that inappropriate behaviour by ordinary members can never bring their council into disrepute.

2.33 Dishonest and deceitful behaviour will bring your Council into disrepute, as may conduct which results in a criminal conviction, especially if it involves dishonest, threatening or violent behaviour, even if the behaviour happens in your private life.

2.34 Whilst you have the right to freedom of expression, making unfair or inaccurate criticism of your Council in a public arena might be regarded as bringing your Council into disrepute. Similarly, inappropriate emails to constituents or careless or irresponsible use of social media might bring the office of member into disrepute, bearing in mind the community leadership role of members. Cases considered by the Adjudication Panel have shown that such behaviour will often be viewed as a serious breach of the Code.

Example 18

A Community Councillor attempted to obtain a discount on a private purchase from a shop by saying it was being bought on behalf of the Community Council. When his request for a discount was refused, he was abusive to the proprietor and two members of her staff and made threats against the business. The Adjudication Panel found that the member attempted to gain an improper advantage for himself, by misrepresenting the purchase as being on behalf of the Council, and his abusive behaviour towards the staff had brought the office of member into disrepute.

Example 19

A member of a County Borough Council who regularly wrote an article for a local monthly publication referred in his article to a recent road traffic accident in which a 10 year-old boy was injured. The complainant was the mother of the boy who was with the injured child. After the article was published, she telephoned the Councillor who she said was abusive towards her during the call. In a subsequent email exchange, the Councillor told her that she had “[failed] to take ANY responsibility for

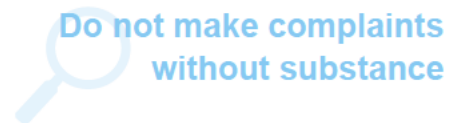
allowing your 10yr old child out alone”, that her “ill-educated in the highway code son” was to blame and said “don’t you dare try and shift your inadequacies as a parent upon me”.

The Adjudication Panel found the member had failed to show respect and consideration to the complainant through the use of inappropriate language and by making unfounded and serious allegations based his limited knowledge of the facts, in breach of paragraph 4(b). Through its aggressive tone, threatening nature and serious allegations contained in the email, the member has also brought the office of member into disrepute, in breach of paragraph 6(1)(a).

Example 20

Whilst acting in a private capacity, a member of a County Borough Council received a criminal conviction for common assault as a consequence of the unsolicited touching of the leg of a female, which caused her distress. The Adjudication Panel heard that the member accepted his behaviour was unacceptable and had pleaded guilty to the offence in the Courts. The Panel found that the conviction and negative publicity that surrounded the case had brought the member’s office into disrepute, in breach of paragraph 6(1)(a) of the Code.

Vexatious complaints
See paragraph 6(1)(d)



2.42 You must not make vexatious, malicious or frivolous complaints against other members or anyone who works for, or on behalf of, your Council.

2.43 You must not make complaints against other members, your Council's officers or people working on behalf of your Council which are not founded in fact and which are motivated by malice (a desire to do them harm) or by political rivalry. Unfortunately, there have been instances where members have sought to bring complaints about rivals which are designed to disadvantage them, sometimes in the run-up to elections, and where the evidence of any breach is weak or non-existent. I consider that in the first instance such conduct should be considered under the Council's local resolution process, if there is one in place.

2.44 Where specific details of such complaints are passed to local press and media, this may prejudice an investigation and may also be a breach of the Code. You must report well-founded alleged breaches to the Monitoring Officer of the principal council - not to your local newspaper or radio station. The press will properly cover the business of any subsequent hearings and their outcomes, and members making allegations should not generate publicity in advance of these.

2.45 The Code should not be used by members to pursue their political or private differences. You should also avoid making complaints which have little or no substance (frivolous complaints) which are designed mainly to annoy the person complained about.

Example 21

A member of a County Borough Council alleged that the Leader of the Council had offered to provide another councillor and his group of members with office facilities, if that other councillor supported the Leader's preferred candidate for the post of Chief Executive. The Adjudication Panel found that the allegation was without foundation and was designed to cause damage to the Leader of the Council. As such, it was both a vexatious and malicious complaint, contrary to paragraph 6(1)(d) of the Code. The Panel also concluded that the surrounding publicity had brought the Council into disrepute in breach of paragraph 6(1)(a).

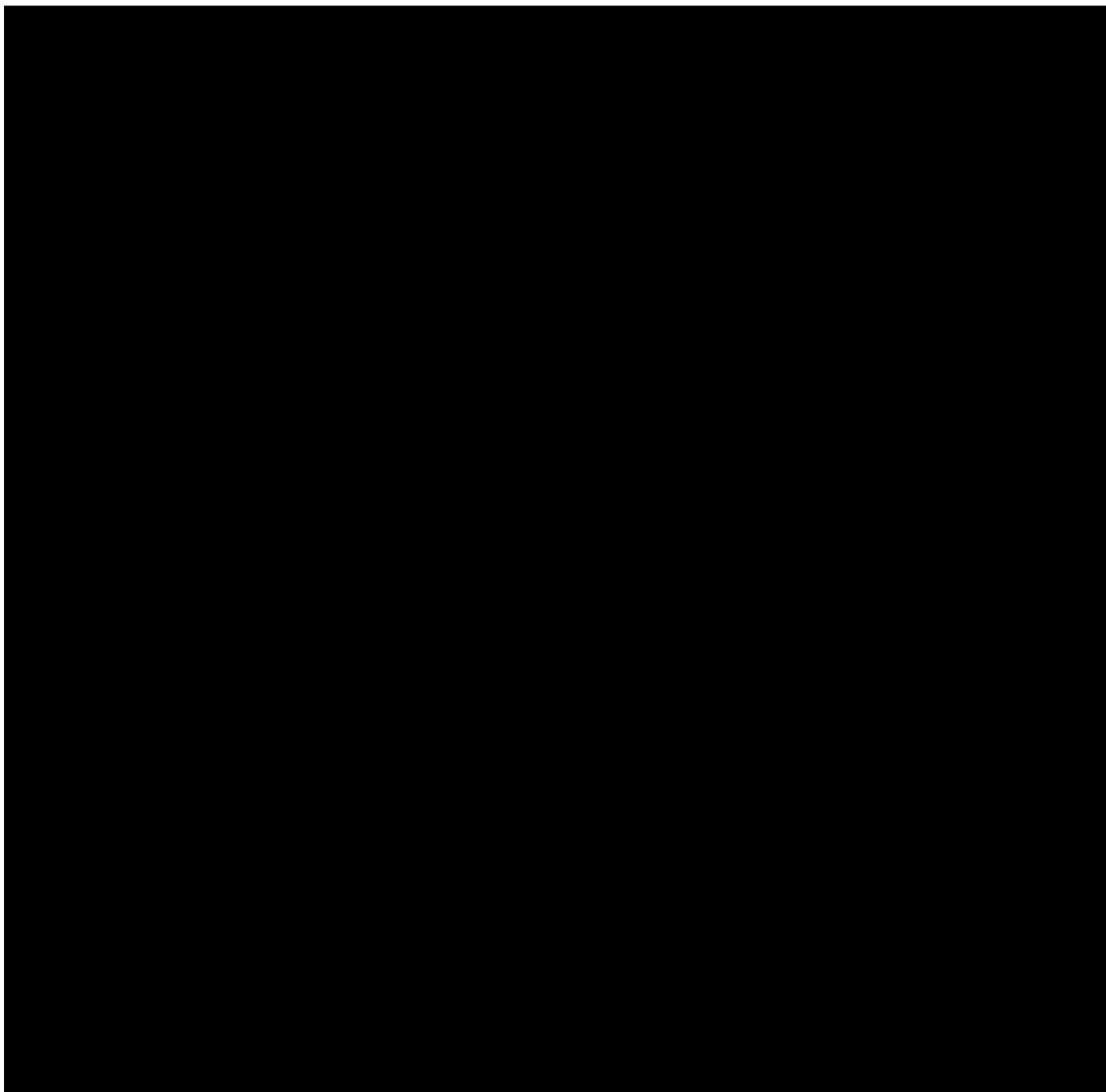
2.46 This aspect of the Code has been a particular problem within community and town councils. In the past, it has been necessary for my predecessor to correspond with the Clerk of a council in relation to their mutual concerns about the number of complaints received in respect of its members. As previously stated, I too have had concerns about the number of low-level, tit-for-tat complaints that are still being received from community councillors in particular.

2.47 Although these complaints appear to be generated by a small number of members, they can create a negative impression of those members and their councils and, more generally, can harm public confidence in our elected members. At the extreme, they can also have such an adverse impact on relations within the Council as whole as to render it incapable of conducting its business effectively. Where it becomes apparent that repeated member against member complaints are being made to my office, I would urge those councils to reflect on the culture which has resulted in these complaints and consider how this behaviour might be changed to avoid such complaints.

2.48 Where I find evidence to suggest that a complaint has been made to my office which is not founded in fact and has been motivated by malice or political rivalry, I will consider this to be a serious matter and I may investigate whether you have failed to comply with the Code in submitting the complaint. **Making vexatious, malicious or frivolous complaints is not only a breach of this paragraph, but may also be contrary to your**

other obligations under the Code, such as the requirement not to bring your position as councillor into disrepute (paragraph 6(1)(a)) or not to use your position for an improper purpose (paragraph 7(a)).

2.49 I appreciate that it can be frustrating if a member of the public makes repeated complaints against you which you consider to be vexatious or frivolous in nature. They are not subject to the Code and I am required to consider each complaint on its own merit. However, it is unlikely that such complaints would pass my two-stage test and be accepted for investigation.



APPENDIX 15

[Redacted]

Your details

Title

Mrs

Forename(s)

Louise

Surname

Thomas

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Your Complaint

Organisation

Type

Community Council

Organisation - please select from the list. If your complaint is about more than one organisation, you will need to submit a separate complaint for each one. If the body you are complaining about does not appear in the list below please telephone us on 0300 7900203 or email ask@ombudsman-wales.org.uk

Mumbles Community Council

Councillor Name

[REDACTED]

Explain how the individual has breached the Code of Conduct.

Please say which or refer to the paragraphs of the "Code" you think the member has breached.

Please also include the names and contact details of any witnesses relevant to your complaint.

The named parish councillors [REDACTED] were involved in the interview stage and subsequent gave the offer of employment of the new environment officer. This was NOT consulted with the other members of the committee. There was no

This document is available in Welsh and English. You can write to us in Welsh and we will reply in Welsh. This will not lead to a delay in responding.

job description given to the committee prior to the interview taking place.

There was no financial review or planning for this new role.

This Important decision should have involved the entire MCC and as such I believe this has not followed strict rules under THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT outlined in the Local Government Act 2019. Under sub section 1 (1) (b) In this code

(b) Is a member of, and represents the authority on, any joint committee of joint subcommittee of the authority, and who is entitled to vote on any question which falls to be decided at any meeting of that committee or subcommittee

In my opinion such a decision of employment should have been addressed by ALL members of the MCC. This did not happen and when I questioned why? I was informed that the decision had already been decided by the three mentioned councillors

[REDACTED]

So, as such I would like to think that the MCC would carry out their own enquiry as to my complaint and I would like the opportunity for all of the councillors to be shown evidence that this was carried out in accordance with the Local Government Act, Code of Conduct.

As outlined in the THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT, subsection 4(b) 'Show respect and consideration for others', is an important factor as on hearing the reasoning behind the decision not to include the whole of the committee, I think this has fallen beyond what is expected from a parish councillor.

Supporting Documents

- Letter of complaint 12.5.2021 MCC.pdf

Declaration

I wish for the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales to consider my complaint.

I understand that my complaint form and all material supplied with it (including my identity) may be disclosed in full to the member who I am making a complaint against and that this information may become public knowledge. This information will also usually be disclosed to the Monitoring Officer and Clerk (where applicable) of the appropriate Council.

I understand that I may be required to give spoken evidence in public in support of my complaint to the authority's standards committee, or any case tribunal which may be appointed to consider any report which the Ombudsman may issue if he decides to investigate my complaint.

Privacy

This document is available in Welsh and English. You can write to us in Welsh and we will reply in Welsh. This will not lead to a delay in responding.

When considering your complaint, the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales will process your personal information, which may include health or social services records if your complaint relates to one of these areas. Further information about how we process your personal information is available in the Privacy Notice for Complainants & Representatives here. A copy of this notice will also be attached to your confirmation email.

Privacy

Authorisation given

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

12.5.2021

Dear Clerk to the Council Mumbles Community Council

RE: Conduct of local parish councillors following decision to employ environment officer

Following my first meeting as a local parish councillor, I would like to make a formal complaint over the conduct of four parish councillors, this has arisen due to the circumstances in which Mumbles community council (MCC) have offered employment and have not consulted the whole committee thus asking for the decision to be made retrospectively. This was due to the fact that the offer of employment was given prior to the Annual General meeting and that the successful candidate had handed in his notice to his previous employment. MCC felt that it was obliged to honour this and that this was their decision prior to this meeting.

The following parish councillors are as follows, and I will outline in this letter why this should be investigated.

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- 3. **Carrie Townsend Jones, local parish councillor**
- [REDACTED]

All of the above named parish councillors [REDACTED] were involved in the interview stage and subsequently gave the offer of employment of the new environment officer. This was **NOT** consulted with the other members of the committee. There was no job description given to the committee prior to the interview taking place.

This important decision should have involved the entire MCC and as such I believe this has not followed strict rules under **THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT** outlined in **the Local Government Act 2019**. Under sub section 1- (1) (b) In this code-

(b) Is a member of, and represents the authority on, any joint committee of joint subcommittee of the authority, and who is entitled to vote on any question which falls to be decided at any meeting of that committee or subcommittee

In my opinion such a decision of employment should have been addressed by **ALL** members of the MCC. This did not happen and when I questioned why? I was informed that the decision had already been decided by the three mentioned councillors [REDACTED]

Myself, [REDACTED] decided to not to support the decision of retrospective approval of this, due to the way this was conducted.

There is also a question of the approval of monies being used for this purpose without the correct channels being sought. I was very concerned when Councillor Carrie Townsend Jones was questioned about the way she obtained funds from another committee for the purpose of this new

role. This was carried out without seeking consultation from [REDACTED] who was extremely upset over this.

I joined the local MCC after being voted in by my parish. I decided to offer my support and becoming the voice of the people in my parish.

I expect that when I attend every meeting at the MCC everyone must conduct themselves and remember that we all have a role to play in these big decisions.

There cannot be any reason for all of the committee to not have been fully involved in this decision, We were cited that there was "No time to speak to everyone" which related to the committee and that a decision was made given this persons talent and attributes especially to his ability in video and filming. [REDACTED] backed up this decision by stated that she had contacted 8 further people about the decision to employ this person. Who were they, and is this noted anywhere?

So, as such I would like to think that the MCC would carry out their own enquiry as to my complaint and I would like the opportunity for all of the councillors to be shown evidence that this was carried out in accordance with the **Local Government Act, Code of Conduct.**

As outlined in the **THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT, subsection 4(b)** 'Show respect and consideration for others', is an important factor as on hearing the reasoning behind the decision not to include the whole of the committee, I think this has fallen beyond what is expected from a parish councillor.


I am not in the habit of making complaints, but given this was my first meeting as a new local councillor I felt compelled to speak out. I just hope that this will be taken seriously.

Yours sincerely


Councillor Louise Thomas. Mayals Ward

Our ref: 202100941/LMC/CH

Ask for: Mr Leigh McAndrew

 01656 644216

Date: 26 May 2021

 Leigh.McAndrew
@ombudsman.wales

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Councillor Louise Thomas



By email only



Dear Councillor Thomas

**Code of Conduct complaint made against
Councillor Carrie Townsend-Jones of Mumbles Community Council**

I have considered your recent complaint against Councillor Townsend-Jones. Under the authority delegated to me by the Ombudsman, I have decided not to investigate your complaint.

The substance of your complaint was that Councillor Townsend-Jones had been disrespectful to fellow members of Mumbles Community Council (“the Council”) by making the decision to offer employment to an applicant without consulting the whole Committee or the Council. You referred to the following paragraph of the Code of Conduct (“the Code”):

- 4(b) – [Members] must show respect and consideration for others.

In determining whether to investigate a breach of the Code, the Ombudsman initially applies a 2-stage test. At the first stage, he will aim to establish whether there is direct evidence that a breach of the Code has occurred. At the second stage, the Ombudsman considers whether an investigation or a referral to a Standards Committee or the Adjudication Panel for Wales is required in the public interest. This involves the consideration of a number of public interest factors such as: whether the member has deliberately sought a personal gain at the public’s expense for themselves or others, misused a position of trust, whether an investigation is required to maintain public confidence in elected members, and whether an investigation is proportionate in the circumstances.

Your complaint relates to the recruitment process followed by members of a Committee of the Council. It appears to me that the matters which you have alleged do not in fact constitute a breach of the Code and I do not consider that they could amount to a breach of paragraph 4(b) of the Code. A failure to follow Standing Orders of the Council, for example, does not automatically equate to a breach of the Code. I note there is no suggestion or evidence that the member improperly used her position to gain an advantage for herself or someone else, or that she had a personal or prejudicial interest in the matter. Your complaint therefore appears to be about maladministration relating to the recruitment process.

It may be helpful if I explain that the Ombudsman considers Code of Conduct complaints under the Local Government Act 2000. The Ombudsman also has powers to consider complaints of maladministration or service failure on the part of public bodies which causes hardship or injustice to members of the public.

The Ombudsman's powers to investigate a complaint about maladministration are subject to certain restrictions laid down by law. These restrictions are set out in the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Act 2019 which states:

“7(1) The person entitled to make a complaint to the Ombudsman are

(a) a member of the public...who claims or claimed to have sustained injustice or hardship in consequence of a matter which the Ombudsman is entitled to investigate under sections 11 to 16...

(2) “Member of the public” means any person other than a listed authority in its capacity as such”.

Therefore, in view of the fact that you are complaining in your capacity as a member of the Council, you are a listed authority under the Act, I am sorry to tell you that you are not entitled to make a complaint to the Ombudsman about maladministration on the part of the Council. For any issues relating to events prior to you accepting office as a member of the Council, you may only complain to the Ombudsman if you have suffered a personal injustice or hardship as a result of the Council's actions.

Therefore, you should address any concerns to the Council. Alternatively, for concerns relating to financial matters, you may wish to approach Audit Wales: [Contact us | Audit Wales](#)

You may find it beneficial to consider the Ombudsman's guidance to Town and Community Councillors, a new version of which was published on 17 May 2021: [New Code of Conduct Guidance for members of local authorities in Wales \(ombudsman.wales\)](#)

You may also wish to note that it is open to you to seek guidance from the Monitoring Officer of Swansea Council (“the Monitoring Officer”) prior to submitting complaints that a member has breached the Code to the Ombudsman. I have sent a redacted copy of this letter, which constitutes a formal statement of reasons for the decision not to investigate your complaint, to Councillor Townsend-Jones, to the

Monitoring Officer and to the Clerk of the Council. The copy I have sent does not include your contact details.

The file on your complaint will now be closed. This letter is only being sent electronically. A hard copy will not be sent unless you ask for one.

If you have not already done so, I would be grateful if you could complete customer satisfaction and equality questionnaires. These can be accessed [here](#). If you would prefer paper copies, please contact us.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leigh McAndrew', written in a cursive style.

Leigh McAndrew
Swyddog Ymchwilio/Investigation Officer

[Redacted]

Your details

Title

Mrs

Forename(s)

Louise

Surname

Thomas

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

This document is available in Welsh and English. You can write to us in Welsh and we will reply in Welsh. This will not lead to a delay in responding.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Please choose your preferred language for communicating with us.

English

Your Complaint

Organisation

Type

Community Council

Organisation - please select from the list. If your complaint is about more than one organisation, you will need to submit a separate complaint for each one. If the body you are complaining about does not appear in the list below please telephone us on 0300 7900203 or email ask@ombudsman-wales.org.uk

Mumbles Community Council

Councillor Name

Cllr Pam Erasmus

Explain how the individual has breached the Code of Conduct.

Please say which or refer to the paragraphs of the "Code" you think the member has breached.

Please also include the names and contact details of any witnesses relevant to your complaint.

The named parish councillors [REDACTED] were involved in the interview stage and subsequent gave the offer of employment of the new environment officer. This was NOT consulted with the other members of the committee. There was no

This document is available in Welsh and English. You can write to us in Welsh and we will reply in Welsh. This will not lead to a delay in responding.

job description given to the committee prior to the interview taking place.

There was no financial review or planning for this new role.

This Important decision should have involved the entire MCC and as such I believe this has not followed strict rules under THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT outlined in the Local Government Act 2019. Under sub section 1 (1) (b) In this code

(b) Is a member of, and represents the authority on, any joint committee of joint subcommittee of the authority, and who is entitled to vote on any question which falls to be decided at any meeting of that committee or subcommittee

In my opinion such a decision of employment should have been addressed by ALL members of the MCC. This did not happen and when I questioned why? I was informed that the decision had already been decided by the three mentioned councillors

So, as such I would like to think that the MCC would carry out their own enquiry as to my complaint and I would like the opportunity for all of the councillors to be shown evidence that this was carried out in accordance with the Local Government Act, Code of Conduct.

As outlined in the THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT, subsection 4(b) 'Show respect and consideration for others', is an important factor as on hearing the reasoning behind the decision not to include the whole of the committee, I think this has fallen beyond what is expected from a parish councillor.

Supporting Documents

- Letter of complaint 12.5.2021 MCC.pdf

Declaration

I wish for the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales to consider my complaint.

I understand that my complaint form and all material supplied with it (including my identity) may be disclosed in full to the member who I am making a complaint against and that this information may become public knowledge. This information will also usually be disclosed to the Monitoring Officer and Clerk (where applicable) of the appropriate Council.

I understand that I may be required to give spoken evidence in public in support of my complaint to the authority's standards committee, or any case tribunal which may be appointed to consider any report which the Ombudsman may issue if he decides to investigate my complaint.

Privacy

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Privacy

Authorisation given

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

12.5.2021

Dear Clerk to the Council Mumbles Community Council

RE: Conduct of local parish councillors following decision to employ environment officer

Following my first meeting as a local parish councillor, I would like to make a formal complaint over the conduct of four parish councillors, this has arisen due to the circumstances in which Mumbles community council (MCC) have offered employment and have not consulted the whole committee thus asking for the decision to be made retrospectively. This was due to the fact that the offer of employment was given prior to the Annual General meeting and that the successful candidate had handed in his notice to his previous employment. MCC felt that it was obliged to honour this and that this was their decision prior to this meeting.

The following parish councillors are as follows, and I will outline in this letter why this should be investigated.

- [REDACTED]
- 2. Pamela Erasmus, local parish councillor
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

All of the above named parish councillors [REDACTED] were involved in the interview stage and subsequently gave the offer of employment of the new environment officer. This was **NOT** consulted with the other members of the committee. There was no job description given to the committee prior to the interview taking place.

This important decision should have involved the entire MCC and as such I believe this has not followed strict rules under **THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT** outlined in the **Local Government Act 2019**. Under sub section 1- (1) (b) In this code-

(b) Is a member of, and represents the authority on, any joint committee of joint subcommittee of the authority, and who is entitled to vote on any question which falls to be decided at any meeting of that committee or subcommittee

In my opinion such a decision of employment should have been addressed by **ALL** members of the MCC. This did not happen and when I questioned why? I was informed that the decision had already been decided by the three mentioned councillors [REDACTED]

Myself, [REDACTED] decided to not support the decision of retrospective approval of this, due to the way this was conducted.

There is also a question of the approval of monies being used for this purpose without the correct channels being sought. I was very concerned when [REDACTED] was questioned about the way she obtained funds from another committee for the purpose of this new

role. This was carried out without seeking consultation from [REDACTED] who was extremely upset over this.

I joined the local MCC after being voted in by my parish. I decided to offer my support and becoming the voice of the people in my parish.

I expect that when I attend every meeting at the MCC everyone must conduct themselves and remember that we all have a role to play in these big decisions.

There cannot be any reason for all of the committee to not have been fully involved in this decision, We were cited that there was "No time to speak to everyone" which related to the committee and that a decision was made given this persons talent and attributes especially to his ability in video and filming. Councillor Erasmus backed up this decision by stated that she had contacted 8 further people about the decision to employ this person. Who were they, and is this noted anywhere?

So, as such I would like to think that the MCC would carry out their own enquiry as to my complaint and I would like the opportunity for all of the councillors to be shown evidence that this was carried out in accordance with the **Local Government Act, Code of Conduct**.

As outlined in the **THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT, subsection 4(b)** 'Show respect and consideration for others', is an important factor as on hearing the reasoning behind the decision not to include the whole of the committee, I think this has fallen beyond what is expected from a parish councillor.


I am not in the habit of making complaints, but given this was my first meeting as a new local councillor I felt compelled to speak out. I just hope that this will be taken seriously.

Yours sincerely


Councillor Louise Thomas. Mayals Ward

Our ref: 202100942/LMC/CH

Ask for: Mr Leigh McAndrew

 01656 644216

Date: 26 May 2021

 Leigh.McAndrew
@ombudsman.wales

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Councillor Louise Thomas



By email only



Dear Councillor Thomas

Code of Conduct complaint made against Councillor Pamela Erasmus of Mumbles Community Council

I have considered your recent complaint against Councillor Erasmus. Under the authority delegated to me by the Ombudsman, I have decided not to investigate your complaint.

The substance of your complaint was that Councillor Erasmus had been disrespectful to fellow members of Mumbles Community Council (“the Council”) by making the decision to offer employment to an applicant without consulting the whole Committee or the Council. You referred to the following paragraph of the Code of Conduct (“the Code”):

- 4(b) – [Members] must show respect and consideration for others.

In determining whether to investigate a breach of the Code, the Ombudsman initially applies a 2-stage test. At the first stage, he will aim to establish whether there is direct evidence that a breach of the Code has occurred. At the second stage, the Ombudsman considers whether an investigation or a referral to a Standards Committee or the Adjudication Panel for Wales is required in the public interest. This involves the consideration of a number of public interest factors such as: whether the member has deliberately sought a personal gain at the public’s expense for themselves or others, misused a position of trust, whether an investigation is required to maintain public confidence in elected members, and whether an investigation is proportionate in the circumstances.

Your complaint relates to the recruitment process followed by members of a Committee of the Council. In responding to the complaint, Councillor Erasmus said she was not involved in the matters you have complained about. In any case, it appears to me that the matters which you have alleged do not in fact constitute a breach of the Code and I do not consider that they could amount to a breach of paragraph 4(b) of the Code. A failure to follow Standing Orders of the Council, for example, does not automatically equate to a breach of the Code. I note there is no suggestion or evidence that the member improperly used her position to gain an advantage for herself or someone else, or that she had a personal or prejudicial interest in the matter. Your complaint therefore appears to be about maladministration relating to the recruitment process.

It may be helpful if I explain that the Ombudsman considers Code of Conduct complaints under the Local Government Act 2000. The Ombudsman also has powers to consider complaints of maladministration or service failure on the part of public bodies which causes hardship or injustice to members of the public.

The Ombudsman's powers to investigate a complaint about maladministration are subject to certain restrictions laid down by law. These restrictions are set out in the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Act 2019 which states:

“7(1) The person entitled to make a complaint to the Ombudsman are

(a) a member of the public...who claims or claimed to have sustained injustice or hardship in consequence of a matter which the Ombudsman is entitled to investigate under sections 11 to 16...

(2) “Member of the public” means any person other than a listed authority in its capacity as such”.

Therefore, in view of the fact that you are complaining in your capacity as a member of the Council, you are a listed authority under the Act, I am sorry to tell you that you are not entitled to make a complaint to the Ombudsman about maladministration on the part of the Council. For any issues relating to events prior to you accepting office as a member of the Council, you may only complain to the Ombudsman if you have suffered a personal injustice or hardship as a result of the Council's actions.

Therefore, you should address any concerns to the Council. Alternatively, for concerns relating to financial matters, you may wish to approach Audit Wales: [Contact us | Audit Wales](#)

You may find it beneficial to consider the Ombudsman's guidance to Town and Community Councillors, a new version of which was published on 17 May 2021: [New Code of Conduct Guidance for members of local authorities in Wales \(ombudsman.wales\)](#)

You may also wish to note that it is open to you to seek guidance from the Monitoring Officer of Swansea Council (“the Monitoring Officer”) prior to submitting complaints that a member has breached the Code to the Ombudsman.

I have sent a redacted copy of this letter, which constitutes a formal statement of reasons for the decision not to investigate your complaint, to Councillor Erasmus, to the Monitoring Officer and to the Clerk of the Council. The copy I have sent does not include your contact details.

The file on your complaint will now be closed. This letter is only being sent electronically. A hard copy will not be sent unless you ask for one.

If you have not already done so, I would be grateful if you could complete customer satisfaction and equality questionnaires. These can be accessed [here](#). If you would prefer paper copies, please contact us.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leigh McAndrew', written in a cursive style.

Leigh McAndrew
Swyddog Ymchwilio/Investigation Officer

[Redacted]

Your details

Title

Mrs

Forename(s)

Louise

Surname

Thomas

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Your Complaint

Organisation

Type

Community Council

Organisation - please select from the list. If your complaint is about more than one organisation, you will need to submit a separate complaint for each one. If the body you are complaining about does not appear in the list below please telephone us on 0300 7900203 or email ask@ombudsman-wales.org.uk

Mumbles Community Council

Councillor Name

Cllr Sara Keeton

Explain how the individual has breached the Code of Conduct.

Please say which or refer to the paragraphs of the "Code" you think the member has breached.

Please also include the names and contact details of any witnesses relevant to your complaint.

The named parish councillors [REDACTED] were involved in the interview stage and subsequent gave the offer of employment of the new environment officer. This was NOT consulted with the other members of the committee. There was no

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job description given to the committee prior to the interview taking place.

There was no financial review or planning for this new role.

This Important decision should have involved the entire MCC and as such I believe this has not followed strict rules under THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT outlined in the Local Government Act 2019. Under sub section 1 (1) (b) In this code

(b) Is a member of, and represents the authority on, any joint committee of joint subcommittee of the authority, and who is entitled to vote on any question which falls to be decided at any meeting of that committee or subcommittee

In my opinion such a decision of employment should have been addressed by ALL members of the MCC. This did not happen and when I questioned why? I was informed that the decision had already been decided by the three mentioned councillors

[REDACTED]

So, as such I would like to think that the MCC would carry out their own enquiry as to my complaint and I would like the opportunity for all of the councillors to be shown evidence that this was carried out in accordance with the Local Government Act, Code of Conduct.

As outlined in the THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT, subsection 4(b) 'Show respect and consideration for others', is an important factor as on hearing the reasoning behind the decision not to include the whole of the committee, I think this has fallen beyond what is expected from a parish councillor.

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I wish for the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales to consider my complaint.

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I understand that I may be required to give spoken evidence in public in support of my complaint to the authority's standards committee, or any case tribunal which may be appointed to consider any report which the Ombudsman may issue if he decides to investigate my complaint.

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Privacy

Authorisation given

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

12.5.2021

Dear Clerk to the Council Mumbles Community Council

RE: Conduct of local parish councillors following decision to employ environment officer

Following my first meeting as a local parish councillor, I would like to make a formal complaint over the conduct of four parish councillors, this has arisen due to the circumstances in which Mumbles community council (MCC) have offered employment and have not consulted the whole committee thus asking for the decision to be made retrospectively. This was due to the fact that the offer of employment was given prior to the Annual General meeting and that the successful candidate had handed in his notice to his previous employment. MCC felt that it was obliged to honour this and that this was their decision prior to this meeting.

The following parish councillors are as follows, and I will outline in this letter why this should be investigated.

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

4. **Cllr Sara Keeton local parish councillor**

All of the above named parish councillors [REDACTED] were involved in the interview stage and subsequently gave the offer of employment of the new environment officer. This was **NOT** consulted with the other members of the committee. There was no job description given to the committee prior to the interview taking place.

This important decision should have involved the entire MCC and as such I believe this has not followed strict rules under **THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT** outlined in **the Local Government Act 2019**. Under sub section 1- (1) (b) in this code-

(b) Is a member of, and represents the authority on, any joint committee of joint subcommittee of the authority, and who is entitled to vote on any question which falls to be decided at any meeting of that committee or subcommittee

In my opinion such a decision of employment should have been addressed by **ALL** members of the MCC. This did not happen and when I questioned why? I was informed that the decision had already been decided by the three mentioned councillors [REDACTED]

Myself, [REDACTED] decided to not support the decision of retrospective approval of this, due to the way this was conducted.

There is also a question of the approval of monies being used for this purpose without the correct channels being sought. I was very concerned when [REDACTED] was questioned about the way she obtained funds from another committee for the purpose of this new

role. This was carried out without seeking consultation from [REDACTED] who was extremely upset over this.

I joined the local MCC after being voted in by my parish. I decided to offer my support and becoming the voice of the people in my parish.

I expect that when I attend every meeting at the MCC everyone must conduct themselves and remember that we all have a role to play in these big decisions.

There cannot be any reason for all of the committee to not have been fully involved in this decision, We were cited that there was "No time to speak to everyone" which related to the committee and that a decision was made given this persons talent and attributes especially to his ability in video and filming. [REDACTED] backed up this decision by stated that she had contacted 8 further people about the decision to employ this person. Who were they, and is this noted anywhere?

So, as such I would like to think that the MCC would carry out their own enquiry as to my complaint and I would like the opportunity for all of the councillors to be shown evidence that this was carried out in accordance with the **Local Government Act, Code of Conduct.**

As outlined in the **THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT, subsection 4(b)** 'Show respect and consideration for others', is an important factor as on hearing the reasoning behind the decision not to include the whole of the committee, I think this has fallen beyond what is expected from a parish councillor.


I am not in the habit of making complaints, but given this was my first meeting as a new local councillor I felt compelled to speak out. I just hope that this will be taken seriously.

Yours sincerely


Councillor Louise Thomas. Mayals Ward

Our ref: 202100944/LMC/CH

Ask for: Mr Leigh McAndrew

 01656 644216

Date: 26 May 2021

 Leigh.McAndrew
@ombudsman.wales

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Councillor Louise Thomas



By email only



Dear Councillor Thomas

Code of Conduct complaint made against Councillor Sara Keeton of Mumbles Community Council

I have considered your recent complaint against Councillor Keeton. Under the authority delegated to me by the Ombudsman, I have decided not to investigate your complaint.

The substance of your complaint was that Councillor Keeton had been disrespectful to fellow members of Mumbles Community Council (“the Council”) by making the decision to offer employment to an applicant without consulting the whole Committee or the Council. You referred to the following paragraph of the Code of Conduct (“the Code”):

- 4(b) – [Members] must show respect and consideration for others.

In determining whether to investigate a breach of the Code, the Ombudsman initially applies a 2-stage test. At the first stage, he will aim to establish whether there is direct evidence that a breach of the Code has occurred. At the second stage, the Ombudsman considers whether an investigation or a referral to a Standards Committee or the Adjudication Panel for Wales is required in the public interest. This involves the consideration of a number of public interest factors such as: whether the member has deliberately sought a personal gain at the public’s expense for themselves or others, misused a position of trust, whether an investigation is required to maintain public confidence in elected members, and whether an investigation is proportionate in the circumstances.

Your complaint relates to the recruitment process followed by members of a Committee of the Council. It appears to me that the matters which you have alleged do not in fact constitute a breach of the Code and I do not consider that they could amount to a breach of paragraph 4(b) of the Code. A failure to follow Standing Orders of the Council, for example, does not automatically equate to a breach of the Code. I note there is no suggestion or evidence that the member improperly used her position to gain an advantage for herself or someone else, or that she had a personal or prejudicial interest in the matter. Your complaint therefore appears to be about maladministration relating to the recruitment process.

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Therefore, in view of the fact that you are complaining in your capacity as a member of the Council, you are a listed authority under the Act, I am sorry to tell you that you are not entitled to make a complaint to the Ombudsman about maladministration on the part of the Council. For any issues relating to events prior to you accepting office as a member of the Council, you may only complain to the Ombudsman if you have suffered a personal injustice or hardship as a result of the Council's actions.

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Monitoring Officer and to the Clerk of the Council. The copy I have sent does not include your contact details.

The file on your complaint will now be closed. This letter is only being sent electronically. A hard copy will not be sent unless you ask for one.

If you have not already done so, I would be grateful if you could complete customer satisfaction and equality questionnaires. These can be accessed [here](#). If you would prefer paper copies, please contact us.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leigh McAndrew', written in a cursive style.

Leigh McAndrew
Swyddog Ymchwilio/Investigation Officer

[Redacted]

Your details

Title

Mrs

Forename(s)

Louise

Surname

Thomas

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Your Complaint

Organisation

Type

Community Council

Organisation - please select from the list. If your complaint is about more than one organisation, you will need to submit a separate complaint for each one. If the body you are complaining about does not appear in the list below please telephone us on 0300 7900203 or email ask@ombudsman-wales.org.uk

Mumbles Community Council

Councillor Name

Cllr Sara Keeton

Explain how the individual has breached the Code of Conduct.

Please say which or refer to the paragraphs of the "Code" you think the member has breached.

Please also include the names and contact details of any witnesses relevant to your complaint.

RE: Ongoing bullying behaviour by three local community Councillors:

1. Sara Keaton

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

On May 12th I contacted [REDACTED] over an issue that I thought needed raising. I discussed my concerns over the way the three councillors behaved in my first meeting and how they completely ignored me in the Brangwyn Hall during the vote count.

I am new to the Community Council and was taken aback by the way they had behaved towards me given the fact that all the other Cllrs present that day were very friendly and helpful. I introduced myself to them and they all walked away not even acknowledging me. This was my first experience of how rude they are.

On discussing the behaviour of these councillors [REDACTED], he disclosed that since 2017 he has been bullied by them and that sometimes it has been unbearable. He said that he is greatly affected by the way they shout at him. I told him that bullying of any kind is totally unacceptable and that there are procedures in place to stop this. I noticed that [REDACTED] was very nervous talking about the kind of treatment he has been subjected, so after this I felt compelled to speak to other councillors.

On ringing around I was able to establish that not only [REDACTED] is being bullied but that councillor [REDACTED] has been subjected to bullying and I was quite taken aback by some of the claims from other councillors that this is how they treat people!

[REDACTED] said that during the councils AGM an item raised about the appointment of another environmental officer without full counsel, was true and that before the meeting he had accepted this new employee on the basis of a lie. He said that the three councillors had told him they had discussed this with all the committee and as such he was happy to proceed with all the recruitment process. However it became apparent in the meeting that this wasn't the case and I witnessed [REDACTED] becoming flustered and embarrassed when he was asked about this. [REDACTED] became very heated and shouted "I told 8 people". I saw for the first time the kind of behaviour that has become acceptable by these councillors. I observed catty remarks, laughing sneering and quite frankly intimidating behaviour by the three of them. I also know that this has been recorded and as such should be used as evidence.

On May 12th [REDACTED] contacted me and asked if we could discuss my complaint. I agreed and during this meeting I was shocked to hear that [REDACTED] had also been treated badly by these women and was aware of the bullying. I told him that given my vast experience of dealing with bullying in the workplace, I was going to follow procedures and raise a formal complaint. I told him that given this was my first week of joining the local community council I was very concerned that it appeared that these councillors were acting in a very unsavoury manner and that their actions had greatly affected [REDACTED]

On May the 13th [REDACTED] sent everyone on the committee an email, titled 'Ground Rules' a revised code of conduct for their records. I was pleased as I believed that [REDACTED] had taken my complaint seriously.

I have now been included as a member of the Whatsapp group for Mumbles community council and on the 17th of May I messaged everyone in respect to being sent a zoom link for a meeting that evening. [REDACTED] replied that "the Clerk send them out, somewhat late!" [REDACTED] is also in this group and would have read this. It was clear that this kind of treatment was continuing

I am an ex police officer and worked as a Beat manager dealing with local issues and attending local council meetings I have never come across such hostility in my life. I decided to search these councillors' social media pages and was astounded to find that Sara Keaton had a cartoon which was mentioning the Tory government and the word "Cunts" was clearly visible. This is not

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what is expected from a member of a council, this is disgusting and as such I have included this with my complaint.

This has not been an easy decision given that I have recently been elected but I refuse to be complicit with his kind of behaviour and hope that the Ombudsmen investigate this matter.

Supporting Documents

- Louise Thomas Ombudsman complaint MCC 2021.pdf
- Sara Keaton rude message on Facebook.PNG

Declaration

I wish for the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales to consider my complaint.

I understand that my complaint form and all material supplied with it (including my identity) may be disclosed in full to the member who I am making a complaint against and that this information may become public knowledge. This information will also usually be disclosed to the Monitoring Officer and Clerk (where applicable) of the appropriate Council.

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Sara Keeton | Facebook
facebook.com/sara.keeton

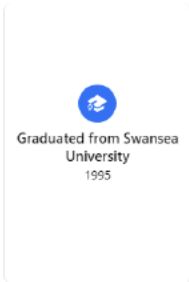
Search Facebook

Sara Keeton Message



Friends [See All Friends](#)

Life events [See all](#)



Graduated from Swansea University
1995

Did You Know [See All Answers](#)
3

"Oh, I'm wondering why people think the NHS is a charity all of a sudden when it's always been a publicly funded health service" replied Poo.

"Ah yes" said Piglet.
"That's because the Tory government will not take responsibility for the unforgivable chronic underfunding and systematic destruction of the NHS and are fooling the public, with the help of the hard right wing media, into a 'Dunkirk spirit' mindset. It's called gaslighting".

"Cunts" replied Poo.



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

26.5.21

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Ongoing bullying behaviour by three local community Councillors:-

1. Sara Keaton

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

On May 12th I contacted [REDACTED] over an issue that I thought needed raising. I discussed my concerns over the way the three councillors behaved in my first meeting and how they completely ignored me in the Brangwyn Hall during the vote count. I am new to the Community Council and was taken aback by the way they had behaved towards me given the fact that all the other Cllrs present that day were very friendly and helpful. I introduced myself to them and they all walked away not even acknowledging me. This was my first experience of how rude they are.

On discussing the behaviour of these councillors with [REDACTED] he disclosed that since 2017 he has been bullied by them and that sometimes it has been unbearable. He said that he is greatly affected by the way they shout at him. I told him that bullying of any kind is totally unacceptable and that there are procedures in place to stop this. I noticed that [REDACTED] was very nervous talking about the kind of treatment he has been subjected, so after this I felt compelled to speak to other councillors. On ringing around I was able to establish that not only [REDACTED] is being bullied but that councillor [REDACTED] has been subjected to bullying and I was quite taken aback by some of the claims from other councillors that this is how they treat people!

[REDACTED] said that during the councils AGM an item raised about the appointment of another environmental officer without full counsel, was true and that before the meeting he had accepted this new employee on the basis of a lie. He said that the three councillors had told him they had discussed this with all the committee and as such he was happy to proceed with all the recruitment process. However it became apparent in the meeting that this wasn't the case and I witnessed [REDACTED] becoming flustered and embarrassed when he was asked about this. [REDACTED] became very heated and shouted "I told 8 people". I saw for the first time the kind of behaviour that has become acceptable by these councillors. I observed catty remarks, laughing sneering and quite frankly intimidating behaviour by the three of them. I also know that this has been recorded and as such should be used as evidence.

On May 12th [REDACTED] contacted me and asked if we could discuss my complaint. I agreed and during this meeting I was shocked to hear that [REDACTED] had also been treated badly by these women and was aware of the bullying. I told him that given my vast experience of dealing with bullying in the workplace, I was going to follow procedures and raise a formal complaint. I told him that given this was my first week of joining the local community council I was very concerned that it appeared

that these councillors were acting in a very unsavoury manner and that their actions had greatly affected [REDACTED]

On May the 13th [REDACTED] sent everyone on the committee an email, titled 'Ground Rules' a revised code of conduct for their records. I was pleased as I believed that martin had taken my complaint seriously.

I have now been included as a member of the Whatsapp group for Mumbles community council and on the 17th of May I messaged everyone in respect to being sent a zoom link for a meeting that evening. [REDACTED] replied that "the Clerk send them out, somewhat late!" [REDACTED] is also in this group and would have read this. It was clear that this kind of treatment was continuing

I am an ex police officer and worked as a Beat manager dealing with local issues and attending local council meetings I have never come across such hostility in my life. I decided to search these councillors' social media pages and was astounded to find that Sara Keaton had a cartoon which was mentioning the Tory government and the word "Cunts" was clearly visible. This is not what is expected from a member of a council, this is disgusting and as such I have included this with my complaint.


This has not been an easy decision given that I have recently been elected but I refuse to be complicit with his kind of behaviour and hope that the Ombudsmen investigate this matter.

Kind regards


Cllr Louise Thomas

Our ref: 202101378/AC/CH

Ask for: Abigail Cherry

 01656 644227

Date: 9 July 2021

 Abigail.Cherry
@ombudsman-wales.org.uk

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL
Councillor Louise Thomas

Dear Councillor Thomas

**Code of Conduct complaint made against Councillor Sara Keeton of
Mumbles Community Council**

I have now been able to consider your recent complaint against Councillor Keeton. Under the authority delegated to me by the Ombudsman, I have decided not to investigate your complaint.

The substance of your complaint was that Councillor Keeton, together with 2 other Mumbles Community Councillors, had failed to show respect and consideration for others, and had shown bullying behaviour, in breach of paragraphs 4(b) and (c) of the Code of Conduct. You said that when you first met Councillor Keeton during the vote count, she was rude to you and ignored you, that a number of other people on the Council told you they had experienced bullying from Councillor Keeton, that she displayed catty behaviour during the Council's recent AGM, and that she made inappropriate posts on Facebook.

In determining whether to investigate a breach of the Code of Conduct, the Ombudsman initially applies a 2-stage test. At the first stage, he will aim to establish whether there is direct evidence that a breach of the Code has occurred. At the second stage the Ombudsman considers whether an investigation or a referral to a standards committee or the Adjudication Panel for Wales is required in the public interest. This involves the consideration of a number of public interest factors such as: whether the member has deliberately sought a personal gain at the public's expense for themselves or others, misused a position of trust, whether an

investigation is required to maintain public confidence in elected members and whether an investigation is proportionate in the circumstances.

I would like to address each of your matters of complaint in turn.

Firstly, in relation to your allegation that Councillor Keeton ignored you at the vote count, you told me when we spoke that Councillor Keeton in fact congratulated you on your win, although not perhaps, in an enthusiastic manner. Councillor Keeton advised that she introduced herself to you and congratulated you on your win but was concentrating on the ballot count and therefore was not overly friendly. Given that you accepted that Councillor Keeton did not ignore you, I do not consider that this example gives any evidence of bullying or failing to show respect and consideration.

Secondly, in relation to your allegation that a number of people on the Council have told you they have been bullied by Councillor Keeton, you have not provided sufficient evidence to substantiate your complaint, and the Ombudsman will not investigate unless there is reasonably strong evidence to suggest that the member concerned has breached the Code of Conduct. If the parties who have allegedly been bullied by Councillor Keeton wish to make complaints and provide evidence of these allegations, then this is something the Ombudsman may look at in future.

Thirdly, with regard to your contention that Councillor Keeton was rude and “catty” during the AGM, I carefully considered the recordings of the AGM which are available on the Council’s website (via YouTube). The second recording ends abruptly, probably because employment matters are discussed. However, in the lengthy meeting that I watched (over 2 hours) I did not see any evidence of bullying, harassment or failing to show respect displayed by Councillor Keeton. I do consider that the meeting was bad tempered in parts, and that all members should bear in mind their duty to show respect and consideration to one another.

Fourthly, with regard to your complaint about the post on Councillor Keeton’s Facebook page, I note that the language used was very strong. However, there is no indication on that page that Councillor Keeton used the page in her capacity as a councillor, and in fact there is no reference to her councillor role at all. Therefore, it appears that at the time of the conduct you complain of, Councillor Keeton was not acting as a councillor but as a private individual. The Code of Conduct usually only applies when a member of a council is performing functions as a councillor or seeking in some way to rely upon their status as a councillor. The Code of Conduct only applies when a councillor is acting as a private individual in very specific circumstances, which do not appear to apply in this case.

Finally in relation to your allegation that Councillor Keeton posted inappropriate comments on Facebook, I have considered the copies of posts by Councillor Keeton that you provided. The Facebook posts to “Skate Park Mumbles” are requests from Councillor Keeton that people stop blaring their horns on the Mumbles Road, requests that people “keep calm and carry on”, and that people are patient and wait for the outcome of the judicial review. These are, in my view, entirely appropriate

posts. Some of Councillor Keeton's comments suggested that she was frustrated, but I do not consider this to be unreasonable. I note however, that she "liked" a number of comments by other parties which may not be considered to be in the best taste. However, as with the explanation above, the "likes" were made from Councillor Keeton's personal Facebook page, and it appears that she was acting in her private capacity at the time.

I have sent a redacted copy of this letter, which constitutes a formal statement of reasons for the decision not to investigate your complaint, to Councillor Keeton, to the Monitoring Officer of Mumbles Community Council and to the Clerk of Mumbles Community Council. The copy I have sent does not include your contact details.

The file on your complaint will now be closed. This letter is only being sent electronically. A hard copy will not be sent unless you ask for one.

If you have not already done so, I would be grateful if you could complete customer satisfaction and equality questionnaires. These can be accessed at www.ombudsman.wales/customerstatisfaction If you would prefer paper copies please contact us.

Yours sincerely



Abigail Cherry
Swyddog Ymchwilio/Investigation Officer

[Redacted]

Your details

Title

Mrs

Forename(s)

Louise

Surname

Thomas

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

This document is available in Welsh and English. You can write to us in Welsh and we will reply in Welsh. This will not lead to a delay in responding.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Your Complaint

Organisation

Type

Community Council

Organisation - please select from the list. If your complaint is about more than one organisation, you will need to submit a separate complaint for each one. If the body you are complaining about does not appear in the list below please telephone us on 0300 7900203 or email ask@ombudsman-wales.org.uk

Mumbles Community Council

Councillor Name

Cllr Carrie Townsend Jones

Explain how the individual has breached the Code of Conduct.

Please say which or refer to the paragraphs of the "Code" you think the member has breached.

Please also include the names and contact details of any witnesses relevant to your complaint.

RE: Ongoing bullying behaviour by three local community Councillors:

[REDACTED]

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2. Carrie Townsend Jones

[REDACTED]

On May 12th I contacted [REDACTED] over an issue that I thought needed raising. I discussed my concerns over the way the three councillors behaved in my first meeting and how they completely ignored me in the Brangwyn Hall during the vote count.

I am new to the Community Council and was taken aback by the way they had behaved towards me given the fact that all the other Cllrs present that day were very friendly and helpful. I introduced myself to them and they all walked away not even acknowledging me. This was my first experience of how rude they are.

On discussing the behaviour of these councillors with [REDACTED], he disclosed that since 2017 he has been bullied by them and that sometimes it has been unbearable. He said that he is greatly affected by the way they shout at him. I told him that bullying of any kind is totally unacceptable and that there are procedures in place to stop this. I noticed that [REDACTED] was very nervous talking about the kind of treatment he has been subjected, so after this I felt compelled to speak to other councillors.

On ringing around I was able to establish that not only [REDACTED] is being bullied but that [REDACTED] has been subjected to bullying and I was quite taken aback by some of the claims from other councillors that this is how they treat people!

[REDACTED] said that during the councils AGM an item raised about the appointment of another environmental officer without full counsel, was true and that before the meeting he had accepted this new employee on the basis of a lie. He said that the three councillors had told him they had discussed this with all the committee and as such he was happy to proceed with all the recruitment process. However it became apparent in the meeting that this wasn't the case and I witnessed [REDACTED] becoming flustered and embarrassed when he was asked about this. Carrie Townsend Jones became very heated and shouted "I told 8 people". I saw for the first time the kind of behaviour that has become acceptable by these councillors. I observed catty remarks, laughing sneering and quite frankly intimidating behaviour by the three of them. I also know that this has been recorded and as such should be used as evidence.

On May 12th [REDACTED] contacted me and asked if we could discuss my complaint. I agreed and during this meeting I was shocked to hear that [REDACTED] had also been treated badly by these women and was aware of the bullying. I told him that given my vast experience of dealing with bullying in the workplace, I was going to follow procedures and raise a formal complaint. I told him that given this was my first week of joining the local community council I was very concerned that it appeared that these councillors were acting in a very unsavoury manner and that their actions had greatly affected [REDACTED]

On May the 13th [REDACTED] sent everyone on the committee an email, titled 'Ground Rules' a revised code of conduct for their records. I was pleased as I believed that Martin had taken my complaint seriously.

I have now been included as a member of the Whatsapp group for Mumbles community council and on the 17th of May I messaged everyone in respect to being sent a zoom link for a meeting that evening. [REDACTED] replied that "the Clerk send them out, somewhat late!" [REDACTED] is also in this group and would have read this. It was clear that this kind of treatment was continuing

I am an ex police officer and worked as a Beat manager dealing with local issues and attending local council meetings I have never come across such hostility in my life. I decided to search these councillors' social media pages and was astounded to find that [REDACTED] had a cartoon which was mentioning the Tory government and the word "Cunts" was clearly visible. This is not

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what is expected from a member of a council, this is disgusting and as such I have included this with my complaint.

This has not been an easy decision given that I have recently been elected but I refuse to be complicit with his kind of behaviour and hope that the Ombudsmen investigate this matter.

Supporting Documents

Declaration

I wish for the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales to consider my complaint.

I understand that my complaint form and all material supplied with it (including my identity) may be disclosed in full to the member who I am making a complaint against and that this information may become public knowledge. This information will also usually be disclosed to the Monitoring Officer and Clerk (where applicable) of the appropriate Council.

I understand that I may be required to give spoken evidence in public in support of my complaint to the authority's standards committee, or any case tribunal which may be appointed to consider any report which the Ombudsman may issue if he decides to investigate my complaint.

Privacy


When considering your complaint, the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales will process your personal information, which may include health or social services records if your complaint relates to one of these areas. Further information about how we process your personal information is available in the Privacy Notice for Complainants & Representatives here. A copy of this notice will also be attached to your confirmation email.

Privacy


Authorisation given

Our ref: 202101379/AC/CH

Ask for: Abigail Cherry

 01656 644227

Date: 9 July 2021

 Abigail.Cherry
@ombudsman-wales.org.uk

Councillor Louise Thomas

Dear Councillor Thomas

Code of Conduct complaint made against Councillor Carrie Townsend-Jones of Mumbles Community Council

I have now been able to consider your recent complaint against Councillor Townsend-Jones. Under the authority delegated to me by the Ombudsman, I have decided not to investigate your complaint.

The substance of your complaint was that Councillor Townsend-Jones, together with 2 other Mumbles Community Councillors, had failed to show respect and consideration for others, and had shown bullying behaviour, in breach of paragraphs 4(b) and (c) of the Code of Conduct. You said that when you first met Councillor Townsend-Jones during the vote count, she was rude to you and ignored you, that a number of other people on the Council told you they had experienced bullying from Councillor Townsend-Jones, that she displayed catty behaviour during the Council's recent AGM, and that she made inappropriate posts on Facebook. You also told me over the telephone that recently, Councillor Townsend-Jones had failed to invite you to a meeting and when you attended (via Zoom), she tutted and turned her camera off. You said that you were not concerned about this issue, but I have nonetheless considered it below.

In determining whether to investigate a breach of the Code of Conduct, the Ombudsman initially applies a 2-stage test. At the first stage, he will aim to establish whether there is direct evidence that a breach of the Code has occurred. At the second stage the Ombudsman considers whether an investigation or a referral to a standards committee or the Adjudication Panel for Wales is required in the public interest. This involves the consideration of a number of public interest factors such

Page 1 of 3

as: whether the member has deliberately sought a personal gain at the public's expense for themselves or others, misused a position of trust, whether an investigation is required to maintain public confidence in elected members and whether an investigation is proportionate in the circumstances.

I would like to address each of your matters of complaint in turn.

Firstly, in relation to your allegation that Councillor Townsend-Jones ignored you at the vote count. Councillor Townsend-Jones said that she introduced herself to you and congratulated you on your win briefly but was concentrating on the ballot count and therefore was not overly friendly. She said she then had to go on to a different vote count at a different location so had to "dash off". Even if I accept that Councillor Townsend-Jones did not speak to you at the vote count, I do not consider that this would necessarily amount to evidence of bullying or failing to show you proper respect and consideration, because Councillor Townsend-Jones was undertaking a function as counting agent and had to devote her attention to that task.

Secondly, in relation to your allegation that a number of people on the Council have told you they have been bullied by Councillor Townsend-Jones, you have not provided sufficient evidence to substantiate your complaint, and the Ombudsman will not investigate unless there is reasonably strong evidence to suggest that the member concerned has breached the Code of Conduct. If the parties who have allegedly been bullied by Councillor Townsend-Jones wish to make complaints and provide evidence of these allegations, then this is something the Ombudsman may look at in future.

Thirdly, with regard to your contention that Councillor Townsend-Jones was rude and "catty" during the AGM, I carefully considered the recordings of the AGM which are available on the Council's website (via YouTube). The second recording ends abruptly, probably because employment matters are discussed after it cuts off. However, in the lengthy meeting that I watched (over 2 hours) I did not see any evidence of bullying, harassment or failing to show respect displayed by Councillor Townsend-Jones. I do consider that the meeting was bad tempered in parts, and that all members should bear in mind their duty to show respect and consideration to one another.

Fourthly, with regard to allegation that Councillor Townsend-Jones published inappropriate posts on Facebook. I carefully considered the screenshots that you have provided, but the only comment that I could see was a comment from Councillor Townsend-Jones saying "if that is true it is fantastic news" about the suggestion that a contentious local judicial review application had been withdrawn. I do not consider this to breach the Code of Conduct. Further, there is no indication on that page that Councillor Townsend-Jones used the page in her capacity as a councillor, and in fact there is no reference to her councillor role at all. Therefore, it appears that at the time of the conduct you complain of, Councillor Townsend-Jones was not acting as a councillor but as a private individual. The Code of Conduct usually only applies when a member of a council is performing functions as a

councillor or seeking in some way to rely upon their status as a councillor. The Code of Conduct only applies when a councillor is acting as a private individual in very specific circumstances, which do not appear to apply in this case.

Finally, with regard to your more recent contention that Councillor Townsend-Jones had failed to invite you to a meeting and when you attended (via Zoom), she tutted and turned her camera off, it appears to me that this matter is open to interpretation, and could be down to an oversight or error. In any event, even if it were deliberate, it appears to me that the breach of the Code which you have alleged is not sufficiently serious to warrant investigation.

I have sent a redacted copy of this letter, which constitutes a formal statement of reasons for the decision not to investigate your complaint, to Councillor Townsend-Jones, to the Monitoring Officer of Mumbles Community Council and to the Clerk of Mumbles Community Council. The copy I have sent does not include your contact details.

This letter is only being sent electronically. A hard copy will not be sent unless you ask for one. The file on your complaint will now be closed.

If you have not already done so, I would be grateful if you could complete customer satisfaction and equality questionnaires. These can be accessed at www.ombudsman.wales/customersatisfaction If you would prefer paper copies please contact us.

Yours sincerely



Abigail Cherry
Swyddog Ymchwilio/Investigation Officer

[Redacted]

Your details

Title

Mrs

Forename(s)

Louise

Surname

Thomas

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Your Complaint

Organisation

Type

Community Council

Organisation - please select from the list. If your complaint is about more than one organisation, you will need to submit a separate complaint for each one. If the body you are complaining about does not appear in the list below please telephone us on 0300 7900203 or email ask@ombudsman-wales.org.uk

Mumbles Community Council

Councillor Name

Cllr Pam Erasmus

Explain how the individual has breached the Code of Conduct.

Please say which or refer to the paragraphs of the "Code" you think the member has breached.

Please also include the names and contact details of any witnesses relevant to your complaint.

RE: Ongoing bullying behaviour by three local community Councillors:

[REDACTED]

3. Pamela Erasmus

On May 12th I contacted [REDACTED] over an issue that I thought needed raising. I discussed my concerns over the way the three councillors behaved in my first meeting and how they completely ignored me in the Brangwyn Hall during the vote count.

I am new to the Community Council and was taken aback by the way they had behaved towards me given the fact that all the other Cllrs present that day were very friendly and helpful. I introduced myself to them and they all walked away not even acknowledging me. This was my first experience of how rude they are.

On discussing the behaviour of these councillors with [REDACTED], he disclosed that since 2017 he has been bullied by them and that sometimes it has been unbearable. He said that he is greatly affected by the way they shout at him. I told him that bullying of any kind is totally unacceptable and that there are procedures in place to stop this. I noticed that [REDACTED] was very nervous talking about the kind of treatment he has been subjected, so after this I felt compelled to speak to other councillors.

On ringing around I was able to establish that not only [REDACTED] is being bullied but that [REDACTED] has been subjected to bullying and I was quite taken aback by some of the claims from other councillors that this is how they treat people!

[REDACTED] said that during the councils AGM an item raised about the appointment of another environmental officer without full counsel, was true and that before the meeting he had accepted this new employee on the basis of a lie. He said that the three councillors had told him they had discussed this with all the committee and as such he was happy to proceed with all the recruitment process. However it became apparent in the meeting that this wasn't the case and I witnessed [REDACTED] becoming flustered and embarrassed when he was asked about this. [REDACTED] became very heated and shouted "I told 8 people". I saw for the first time the kind of behaviour that has become acceptable by these councillors. I observed catty remarks, laughing sneering and quite frankly intimidating behaviour by the three of them. I also know that this has been recorded and as such should be used as evidence.

On May 12th [REDACTED] contacted me and asked if we could discuss my complaint. I agreed and during this meeting I was shocked to hear that [REDACTED] had also been treated badly by these women and was aware of the bullying. I told him that given my vast experience of dealing with bullying in the workplace, I was going to follow procedures and raise a formal complaint. I told him that given this was my first week of joining the local community council I was very concerned that it appeared that these councillors were acting in a very unsavoury manner and that their actions had greatly affected [REDACTED]

On May the 13th [REDACTED] sent everyone on the committee an email, titled 'Ground Rules' a revised code of conduct for their records. I was pleased as I believed that Martin had taken my complaint seriously.

I have now been included as a member of the Whatsapp group for Mumbles community council and on the 17th of May I messaged everyone in respect to being sent a zoom link for a meeting that evening. Cllr Erasmus replied that "the Clerk send them out, somewhat late!" [REDACTED] is also in this group and would have read this. It was clear that this kind of treatment was continuing

I am an ex police officer and worked as a Beat manager dealing with local issues and attending local council meetings I have never come across such hostility in my life. I decided to search these councillors' social media pages and was astounded to find that Sara Keaton had a cartoon which was mentioning the Tory government and the word "Cunts" was clearly visible. This is not

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what is expected from a member of a council, this is disgusting and as such I have included this with my complaint.

This has not been an easy decision given that I have recently been elected but I refuse to be complicit with his kind of behaviour and hope that the Ombudsmen investigate this matter.

Supporting Documents

Declaration

I wish for the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales to consider my complaint.

I understand that my complaint form and all material supplied with it (including my identity) may be disclosed in full to the member who I am making a complaint against and that this information may become public knowledge. This information will also usually be disclosed to the Monitoring Officer and Clerk (where applicable) of the appropriate Council.

I understand that I may be required to give spoken evidence in public in support of my complaint to the authority's standards committee, or any case tribunal which may be appointed to consider any report which the Ombudsman may issue if he decides to investigate my complaint.

Privacy


When considering your complaint, the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales will process your personal information, which may include health or social services records if your complaint relates to one of these areas. Further information about how we process your personal information is available in the Privacy Notice for Complainants & Representatives here. A copy of this notice will also be attached to your confirmation email.

Privacy


Authorisation given

Our ref: 202101380/AC/CH

Ask for: Abigail Cherry

 01656 644227

Date: 9 July 2021

 Abigail.Cherry
@ombudsman-wales.org.uk

Councillor Louise Thomas

Dear Councillor Thomas

Code of Conduct complaint made against Councillor Pamela Erasmus of Mumbles Community Council

I have now been able to consider your recent complaint against Councillor Erasmus. Under the authority delegated to me by the Ombudsman, I have decided not to investigate your complaint.

The substance of your complaint was that Councillor Erasmus, together with 2 other Mumbles Community Councillors, had failed to show respect and consideration for others, and had shown bullying behaviour, in breach of paragraphs 4(b) and (c) of the Code of Conduct. You said that when you first met Councillor Erasmus during the vote count, she was rude to you and ignored you, that a number of other people on the Council told you they had experienced bullying from Councillor Erasmus, that she displayed catty behaviour during the Council's recent AGM, and that she made inappropriate comments on the Council's WhatsApp group, including saying the Clerk had sent out invitations to meetings "somewhat late". You also provided me with an email sent by Councillor Erasmus to all members of the Community Council following her receipt of your complaint, in which you are named as the complainant.

In determining whether to investigate a breach of the Code of Conduct, the Ombudsman initially applies a 2-stage test. At the first stage, he will aim to establish whether there is direct evidence that a breach of the Code has occurred. At the second stage the Ombudsman considers whether an investigation or a referral to a standards committee or the Adjudication Panel for Wales is required in the public interest. This involves the consideration of a number of public interest factors such

Page 1 of 3

as: whether the member has deliberately sought a personal gain at the public's expense for themselves or others, misused a position of trust, whether an investigation is required to maintain public confidence in elected members and whether an investigation is proportionate in the circumstances.

I would like to address each of your matters of complaint in turn.

Firstly, in relation to your allegation that Councillor Erasmus ignored you at the vote count. Councillor Erasmus said that she was not at the vote count and therefore could not have ignored you. She provided clear evidence that she had injured her ankle the night before and was not present at the vote count, therefore she could not have ignored you at that meeting.

I would like to remind you of paragraph 6(1)(d) of the model Code of Conduct, which states that you must not make vexatious, malicious or frivolous complaints against other members or anyone who works for, or on behalf of, your authority.

Secondly, in relation to your allegation that a number of people on the Council have told you they have been bullied by Councillor Erasmus, you have not provided sufficient evidence to substantiate your complaint, and the Ombudsman will not investigate unless there is reasonably strong evidence to suggest that the member concerned has breached the Code of Conduct. If the parties who have allegedly been bullied by Councillor Erasmus wish to make complaints and provide evidence of these allegations, then this is something the Ombudsman may look at in future.

Thirdly, with regard to your contention that Councillor Erasmus was rude and "catty" during the AGM, I carefully considered the recordings of the AGM which are available on the Council's website (via YouTube). The second recording ends abruptly, probably because employment matters are discussed after it cuts off. However, in the lengthy meeting that I watched (over 2 hours) I did not see any evidence of bullying, harassment or failing to show respect displayed by Councillor Erasmus. I do consider that the meeting was bad tempered in parts, and that all members should bear in mind their duty to show respect and consideration to one another.

Fourthly, in relation to your contention that Councillor Erasmus posted an inappropriate comment on the Council's WhatsApp group, I have carefully considered the screenshot of the group chat that you provided, and in particular the comment you highlighted in your complaint. The comment actually reads "The Clerk sends it out. Somwtquite kate". While this could be interpreted as "somewhat late" or "sometimes quite late", it is not clear that this was what was typed. There are further posts on the chat saying that participants will "ask Mr X to do it" (referring to the Clerk) indicating that the Clerk is not in fact a member of the chat group. I do not consider that one councillor advising another councillor that a link may be sent out late (if indeed, that is what was intended) on a group that does not include the sender of the link could amount to bullying.

Finally, with regard to the email Councillor Erasmus sent to all members of the Community Council following her receipt of your complaint, I consider that advising that a complaint has been made does not breach the Code of Conduct. Councillors are advised not to discuss the details of the complaint with any persons involved in the matter. I consider that naming a complainant and referring to previous complaints goes further than this but does not amount to discussing the details of the complaint. While I do not consider this to have been a breach of the Code because the substance of the complaints was not discussed, I have written to Councillor Erasmus to advise her of her obligations under the Code of Conduct to ensure no further issues of this nature arise.

I have sent a redacted copy of this letter, which constitutes a formal statement of reasons for the decision not to investigate your complaint, to Councillor Erasmus, to the Monitoring Officer of Mumbles Community Council and to the Clerk of Mumbles Community Council. The copy I have sent does not include your contact details.

The file on your complaint will now be closed.

If you have not already done so, I would be grateful if you could complete customer satisfaction and equality questionnaires. These can be accessed at www.ombudsman.wales/customersatisfaction If you would prefer paper copies please contact us.

Yours sincerely



Abigail Cherry
Swyddog Ymchwilio/Investigation Officer

[REDACTED]

Your details

Title

Cllr

Forename(s)

Louise

Surname

Thomas

House name/number and Street

[REDACTED]

Address Line

2

[REDACTED]

Address Line

3

Town

[REDACTED]

County

Postcode

[REDACTED]

Country

[REDACTED]

Phone

[REDACTED]

This document is available in Welsh and English. You can write to us in Welsh and we will reply in Welsh. This will not lead to a delay in responding.

Mobile

Email

How would you prefer us to contact you?

Email

Are you filling this form out on behalf of someone else?

No

Please choose your preferred language for communicating with us.

English

Your Complaint

Organisation

Type

Community Council

Organisation - please select from the list. If your complaint is about more than one organisation, you will need to submit a separate complaint for each one. If the body you are complaining about does not appear in the list below please telephone us on 0300 7900203 or email ask@ombudsman-wales.org.uk

Mumbles Community Council

Councillor Name

Pam Erasmus

Explain how the individual has breached the Code of Conduct.

Please say which or refer to the paragraphs of the "Code" you think the member has breached.

Please also include the names and contact details of any witnesses relevant to your complaint.

I am been having issues with a councillor, who has been warned already about mentioning myself as a person that went to the ombudsman about her. Today at 2.30 I received this, please see attached. This has been viewed by the whole council.

This document is available in Welsh and English. You can write to us in Welsh and we will reply in Welsh. This will not lead to a delay in responding.

I would like this to be addressed please. I have notified the chair and clerk
many thanks Cllr Thomas

Supporting Documents

- email
28.7.21.PNG

Declaration

I wish for the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales to consider my complaint.

I understand that my complaint form and all material supplied with it (including my identity) may be disclosed in full to the member who I am making a complaint against and that this information may become public knowledge. This information will also usually be disclosed to the Monitoring Officer and Clerk (where applicable) of the appropriate Council.

I understand that I may be required to give spoken evidence in public in support of my complaint to the authority's standards committee, or any case tribunal which may be appointed to consider any report which the Ombudsman may issue if he decides to investigate my complaint.

Privacy

When considering your complaint, the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales will process your personal information, which may include health or social services records if your complaint relates to one of these areas. Further information about how we process your personal information is available in the Privacy Notice for Complainants & Representatives here. A copy of this notice will also be attached to your confirmation email.

Privacy

Authorisation given

Re: Special meeting request



Pam Erasmus

To Louise Thomas; [REDACTED]

Cc [REDACTED]

[Reply](#) [Reply All](#) [Forward](#) [...](#)

Wed 28/07/2021 14:30

You forwarded this message on 28/07/2021 14:54.

Louise,

Thankyou for replying.

I am afraid that I cannot send a personal response.

You have already reported me to the Ombudsman twice, using communications which I thought were confidential.

It does not matter that both ended the same way. Rebuttals and sourcing and sending evidence is so time consuming.

I simply cannot trust that you won't do the same again.


The offer of a zoom call would have been, of course, with others present.

Pamela




Our ref: 202102880/SC/LS

Ask for: Sinead Cook

 01656 641195

Date: 6 August 2021

 Sinead.Cook
@ombudsman-wales.org.uk

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Louise Thomas

By email only

Dear Cllr Thomas

Code of Conduct complaint made against Councillor Pamela Erasmus of Mumbles Community Council

I have now been able to consider your recent complaint against Councillor Erasmus. Under the authority delegated to me by the Ombudsman, I have decided not to investigate your complaint.

The substance of your complaint was that Councillor Erasmus told other members of the Council that you made a complaint about her to this office.

In determining whether to investigate a breach of the Code of Conduct, the Ombudsman initially applies a two-stage test. At the first stage, he will aim to establish whether there is direct evidence that a breach of the Code has occurred. At the second stage the Ombudsman considers whether an investigation or a referral to a standards committee or the Adjudication Panel for Wales is required in the public interest. This involves the consideration of a number of public interest factors such as: whether the member has deliberately sought a personal gain at the public's expense for themselves or others, misused a position of trust, whether an investigation is required to maintain public confidence in elected members and whether an investigation is proportionate in the circumstances.

Page 1 of 2

It appears to me that the matters which you have alleged do not in fact constitute a breach of the Code. While the Ombudsman's investigations take place in private and members are not to discuss investigations while they are ongoing, this is to avoid any risk of prejudice to our investigation. Once the matter is concluded it is a matter for the member to determine whether it is appropriate to discuss the complaint and its outcome. Doing so is unlikely to amount to a breach of the Code of Conduct, unless information is shared which should reasonably be regarded as confidential. Given that you are a fellow member, I do not consider that the information in Councillor Erasmus's email was so sensitive in nature that it should reasonably be regarded as confidential.

I have sent a redacted copy of this letter, which constitutes a formal statement of reasons for the decision not to investigate your complaint, to Councillor Erasmus, to the Monitoring Officer of Swansea County Council and to the Clerk of Mumbles Community Council. The copy I have sent does not include your contact details.

The file on your complaint will now be closed.

If you have not already done so, I would be grateful if you could complete customer satisfaction and equality questionnaires. These can be accessed at www.ombudsman.wales/customersatisfaction If you would prefer paper copies please contact us.

Yours sincerely



Sinead Cook

Rheolwr Ymchwilio Cynorthwyol/Assistant Investigation Manager

[REDACTED]

Your details

Title

Cllr

Forename(s)

Louise

Surname

Thomas

House name/number and Street

[REDACTED]

Address Line

2

[REDACTED]

Address Line

3

Town

[REDACTED]

County

Postcode

[REDACTED]

Country

United Kingdom

Phone

[REDACTED]

This document is available in Welsh and English. You can write to us in Welsh and we will reply in Welsh. This will not lead to a delay in responding.

Mobile

Email

louise.thomas@mumbles.gov.uk

How would you prefer us to contact you?

Email

Are you filling this form out on behalf of someone else?

No

Please choose your preferred language for communicating with us.

English

Your Complaint

Organisation

Type

Community Council

Organisation - please select from the list. If your complaint is about more than one organisation, you will need to submit a separate complaint for each one. If the body you are complaining about does not appear in the list below please telephone us on 0300 7900203 or email ask@ombudsman-wales.org.uk

Mumbles Community Council

Councillor Name

Sara Keaton

Explain how the individual has breached the Code of Conduct.

Please say which or refer to the paragraphs of the "Code" you think the member has breached.

Please also include the names and contact details of any witnesses relevant to your complaint.

I am not being asked to get involved and feel very excluded. family days have been arranged for a period of 4 days in the summer and one of these was in my ward. I had no idea this was happening and have not been asked to get involved. Today on

This document is available in Welsh and English. You can write to us in Welsh and we will reply in Welsh. This will not lead to a delay in responding.

asking Rebecca Fogarty why the same people are monopolising these events, I receive an email from Sara Keaton stating she does not trust me and this went to full council, Its been like this since I joined and I dont think this is at all fair.

Supporting Documents

- RE Family Fun
Days.msg

Declaration

I wish for the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales to consider my complaint.

I understand that my complaint form and all material supplied with it (including my identity) may be disclosed in full to the member who I am making a complaint against and that this information may become public knowledge. This information will also usually be disclosed to the Monitoring Officer and Clerk (where applicable) of the appropriate Council.

I understand that I may be required to give spoken evidence in public in support of my complaint to the authority's standards committee, or any case tribunal which may be appointed to consider any report which the Ombudsman may issue if he decides to investigate my complaint.

Privacy

When considering your complaint, the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales will process your personal information, which may include health or social services records if your complaint relates to one of these areas. Further information about how we process your personal information is available in the Privacy Notice for Complainants & Representatives here. A copy of this notice will also be attached to your confirmation email.

Privacy

Authorisation given

From: Louise Thomas
Sent: Wed, 28 Jul 2021 15:38:17 +0000
To: Sara Keeton; [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Family Fun Days

Dear Sara

I personally think its rich you and the same councillor's monopolising everything. Why didn't you include others on this?

Times are a changing Sara and for the better. I think MCC has a lot to offer and I for one will continue working hard as I can.

I am very proud of what I have achieved to date, but this is due to myself and Linda just getting on with it. I don't need a tap on the back or a thank you.

All I know is that I have a lot to offer and bring a wealth of experience and going forward I will ensure I carry on regardless.

Hopefully you will be at the special meeting, I know that you are very much involved with the Skatepark project and can offer a further insight into where we are now and going forward.

Regards

Louise

From: Sara Keeton <sara.keeton@mumbles.gov.uk>
Sent: 28 July 2021 16:25
To: Louise Thomas <Louise.Thomas@mumbles.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Family Fun Days

Dear Louise,

Cc:

Sara Keeton <sara.keeton@mumbles.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Family Fun Days

Hi all,

Colleagues appear to have answered the questions raised here.

Yes, we're aiming for lesser used parks as that put us in a) a better position to be awarded the grant funding and b) better able to promote the whole range of outdoor spaces in our area.

And yes, Highmead is moving into Newton ward and many of its users are Newton residents. And yes, half of Fairwood is in Mayals – in fact several residents who have been in touch about it call it Mayals Park.

All our officers have put in a lot of work behind the scenes, as well as [REDACTED] and Sara, so thanks to them. If I can just reiterate that we will need volunteers on the day so if you are available for any of the dates and would like to help out, that would be really appreciated.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 28 July 2021 13:25

To: [REDACTED]

Sara Keeton <sara.keeton@mumbles.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Family Fun Days

Part of the purpose of these events is to encourage people, particularly families, to use less well known and well-used parks and open spaces. As you say, Clyne is already very well used and already has lots of activities going on throughout the summer through the Swansea Council summer activity programme.

[REDACTED]

█

█ - Newton Ward
Chairman Cultural and Tourism Well-being Committee

Tel █

On 28 Jul 2021, at 12:52, Louise Thomas <Louise.Thomas@mumbles.gov.uk> wrote:

Hi █, and the Mayals ward?

From: █
Sent: 28 July 2021 12:39
To: █
Cc: █
█ Louise Thomas <Louise.Thomas@mumbles.gov.uk>; █
█ Sara Keeton <sara.keeton@mumbles.gov.uk>; █
█
Subject: Re: Family Fun Days

Hi █,

High mead is now officially in the Newton ward, which has been extended to include the 'new' houses (even though they have been there for nearly 40 years)

█

█ - Newton Ward
Chairman Cultural and Tourism Well-being Committee

Tel █

On 28 Jul 2021, at 12:34, █ > wrote:

Hello Rebecca. as previously stated at Full Council I was fully in agreement with the Fun Days. However, what about the Mayals and Newton Wards.

Regards

Cllr [REDACTED]
Mumbles Community Council
[REDACTED]

From [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 6:05:25 PM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Louise Thomas
<Louise.Thomas@mumbles.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Sara Keeton
<sara.keeton@mumbles.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Cc: Mumbles Community Council <council@mumbles.gov.uk>
Subject: Family Fun Days

Dear all,

Hope this finds you enjoying the sun!

I'm pleased to say MCC has been successful in securing a grant of £2000 from Swansea Council's Summer of Fun scheme to put on four family fun days across our wards. This grant opportunity was a very quick turnaround, so I'm grateful to Paul for his support in getting the application in. These events were initially planned using Community Parties budget, but I'm glad we'll now be able to keep that budget for the winter as originally planned.

The events are as follows:

- Monday 2nd August, 10am-12pm – Fairwood Park
- Wednesday 4th August, 10am-12pm – Highmead Park
- Monday 9th August, 10am-12pm – Mumbles Hill
- Wednesday 11th August, 10am-12pm – Castle Acre

Details are in the attached poster and additional, more detailed posters with what activities are going to be at which event are being designed now. Information will go out on our social media this week and the events are also being promoted through other channels. Please share far and wide!

In addition, we will need volunteers on the day. If you can volunteer your time for any or all of the events, please let me know. Help with setting up, presence during the event, and/or support clearing up will all be gratefully received. If you are either DBS checked or first aid trained, please also let me know.

This is a great opportunity to be part of something really positive after such a difficult time, I know our residents are going to really appreciate it. Thanks in advance!



<image001.jpg>


Vice Chair
Mumbles Community Council
Mobile 
Web mumbles.gov.uk
Email 

[Information and Data Protection Policy](#)

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[Information and Data Protection Policy](#)

[Information and Data Protection Policy](#)

[Information and Data Protection Policy](#)

[Information and Data Protection Policy](#)

Our ref: 202102893/SC/JW

Ask for: Sinead Cook



01656 641195

Date: 25 August 2021



Sinead.Cook

@ombudsman-wales.org.uk

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Councillor Louise Thomas



By Email Only



Dear Councillor Thomas

Code of Conduct complaint made against Councillor Sara Keeton of Mumbles Community Council

I have now been able to consider your recent complaint against Councillor Keeton. Under the authority delegated to me by the Ombudsman, I have decided not to investigate your complaint.

The substance of your complaint was that you felt you were being excluded because your colleagues had not directly asked you to be involved. You also said that Councillor Keeton had said she did not trust you.

In determining whether to investigate a breach of the Code of Conduct, the Ombudsman initially applies a two-stage test. At the first stage, he will aim to establish whether there is direct evidence that a breach of the Code has occurred. At the second stage the Ombudsman considers whether an investigation or a referral to a standards committee or the Adjudication Panel for Wales is required in the public interest. This involves the consideration of a number of public interest factors such as: whether the member has deliberately sought a personal gain at the public's expense for themselves or others, misused a position of trust, whether an investigation is required to maintain public confidence in elected members and whether an investigation is proportionate in the circumstances.

It appears to me that the matters which you have alleged do not in fact constitute a breach of the Code.

Page 1 of 2

I cannot see any evidence that members of the Council have sought to exclude you. If you were not involved in decisions taken about events, either because you were not present at a meeting or they predate you joining the Council, they would usually feature in Council minutes, which should be publicly available. In any event, the email from Councillor Fogarty dated 27 July, clearly seeks volunteers to assist with the event and I can see that you were included in that email, therefore your complaint that you have not been included does not follow. I do not consider this to be evidence of failing to show consideration for you, neither is it evidence of bullying or harassing behaviour.

I have considered Councillor Keeton's email of 28 July. I cannot see that she has said she does not trust you. I note that she has voiced her concern about the number of complaints you have made to this office and the impact that this might have on your future working relationship. This is an opinion Councillor Keeton is entitled to hold and is not evidence of a breach of the Code of Conduct.

This is the eighth complaint that the Ombudsman has now considered from you. None have been taken forward for investigation and largely have related to personal issues between you and other members of the Council. It should also be noted that the Code of Conduct specifically states that members must not make vexatious, malicious or frivolous complaints against other members, or anyone who works for, or on behalf of your authority (Paragraph 6(1)(d)). I recognise that you are new to your role, therefore, before you consider submitting any further complaints, it may be helpful to you to familiarise yourself with the Code of Conduct (your Clerk should be able to provide you with a copy) and the Ombudsman's Code of Conduct guidance, available on our website [here](#). It is open to you to take advice from your Clerk, the Monitoring Officer of Swansea County Council, or One Voice Wales (if your Council is a member) about whether behaviour you have encountered is likely to amount to a breach of the Code and whether an investigation might be in the public interest. You may also be able to obtain training on Code of Conduct matters from those sources.

I have sent an anonymised copy of this letter, which constitutes a formal statement of reasons for the decision not to investigate your complaint, to Councillor Keeton, to the Monitoring Officer of Swansea County Council and to the Clerk of Mumbles Community Council. The copy I have sent does not include your contact details.

The file on your complaint will now be closed.

If you have not already done so, I would be grateful if you could complete customer satisfaction and equality questionnaires. These can be accessed at www.ombudsman.wales/customersatisfaction If you would prefer paper copies, please contact us.

Yours sincerely



Sinead Cook

Rheolwr Ymchwilio Cynorthwyol/Assistant Investigation Manager

[Redacted]

Your details

Title

Cllr

Forename(s)

Louise

Surname

Thomas

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

This document is available in Welsh and English. You can write to us in Welsh and we will reply in Welsh. This will not lead to a delay in responding.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Your Complaint

Organisation

Type

Community Council

Organisation - please select from the list. If your complaint is about more than one organisation, you will need to submit a separate complaint for each one. If the body you are complaining about does not appear in the list below please telephone us on 0300 7900203 or email ask@ombudsman-wales.org.uk

Mumbles Community Council

Councillor Name

Sara Keaton

Explain how the individual has breached the Code of Conduct.

Please say which or refer to the paragraphs of the "Code" you think the member has breached.

Please also include the names and contact details of any witnesses relevant to your complaint.

If you are interested I have just made an official complaint to the legal department over a secret finance meeting I attended where we were asked to vote on a large amount of money (65,000) being paid upfront to Mavericks the company constructing

This document is available in Welsh and English. You can write to us in Welsh and we will reply in Welsh. This will not lead to a delay in responding.

the skate park before the lease had been approved.

I have consulted a lawyer who stated this highly inappropriate and even illegal, as such have made an official complaint which I can prove. The reason for this some labour councillors want to say the skatepark will be underway, when we don't have the funds yet. They want this to advertised before the May elections, which is so unethical and risking tax payers money. I have nothing but awful dealings at Mumble community council and this must be made public, as we are accountable as such.

Supporting Documents

- Louise Thomas
email.JPG

Declaration

I wish for the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales to consider my complaint.

I understand that my complaint form and all material supplied with it (including my identity) may be disclosed in full to the member who I am making a complaint against and that this information may become public knowledge. This information will also usually be disclosed to the Monitoring Officer and Clerk (where applicable) of the appropriate Council.

I understand that I may be required to give spoken evidence in public in support of my complaint to the authority's standards committee, or any case tribunal which may be appointed to consider any report which the Ombudsman may issue if he decides to investigate my complaint.

Privacy

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Privacy

Authorisation given

This document is available in Welsh and English. You can write to us in Welsh and we will reply in Welsh. This will not lead to a delay in responding.

This document is available in Welsh and English. You can write to us in Welsh and we will reply in Welsh. This will not lead to a delay in responding.

Legal concerns over down payment to Maverick pre lease.

 Louise Thomas
To: Martin O'Neill; Steve Heydon; William Thomas; Linda Tyler-Lloyd; Ian Scott; Philip Reason; Carrie Townsend Jones; Rebecca Fogarty; Rebecca Child; Rebecca Singh; Pam Erasmus; Sara Keeton; Tim Bull; Gareth Ford; Richard Jarvis; Rob Marshall
Wed 15/12/2021 09:17
You forwarded this message on 15/12/2021 09:37

Dear all

Following my email, I have heard back from Tracey Meredith, she has stated this:-

"Unfortunately, I am unable to give you or MCC legal advice. Furthermore, I am constrained by my duties under the SRA"

I have spoken to a solicitor who has stated that MCC would be not conducting themselves lawfully, as is set out in the guidance from one voice Wales (see below)

It is not acceptable to financially commit taxpayers' money to pay this large amount of money before we possess the lease. I am requested that we seek legal advice. If we pay Maverick £65,000 now, would be if least foolhardy at worse illegal. This is very concerning given the fact that I am also a magistrate, so I do not want to be implicated in any impropriety, I also do not want to turn a blind eye on this kind of involvement.

If anyone wants to criticise my decision, ask yourself this "-", are we being transparent and accountable in this decision?

This will not ever stop the work going ahead, it will just ensure we do everything without finding ourselves on dodgy ground.

I hope you understand my concerns, and to that affect I will not be supporting paying Mavericks before we have the lease.

Kind regards
Louise


<http://www.onevoicewales.org.uk/OVWeb/UserFiles/Files/Front%20Page/Governance%20and%20Accountability%20A%20Practitioners%20Guide%20Wales%202019.pdf>

Guidance


- What is the governance and accountability framework for councils in Wales?
1. Good governance, accountability and transparency are essential to local councils and are a cornerstone of the Welsh government's approach to improving public services.
 2. Public bodies' members and officers are responsible for the conduct of public business and for spending public money. By law, they are accountable for ensuring they conduct public business in accordance with the law and proper standards. They also need to ensure they safeguard, properly account for and use economically, efficiently and effectively, the council's public money.
 3. They are also responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of their affairs and the stewardship of the resources at their disposal. They report on these arrangements in a published Annual Governance Statement.

Our ref: 202106478/EF/CH

Ask for: Emily Fletcher

 01656 641183

Date: 29 January 2022

 Emily.Fletcher
@ombudsman-wales.org.uk

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Ms Louise Thomas

Dear Ms Thomas

Code of Conduct complaint made against Councillor Sara Keeton of Mumbles Community Council

I have now been able to consider your recent complaint against Councillor Keeton. Under the authority delegated to me by the Ombudsman, I have decided not to investigate your complaint.

The substance of your complaint was that you attended a meeting of Mumbles Community Council where members were asked to vote on a sum of money being paid to a construction company. You said that you believed that this was highly inappropriate and potentially illegal, and also was unethical and risked taxpayers' money.

In determining whether to investigate a breach of the Code of Conduct, the Ombudsman initially applies a 2-stage test. At the first stage, he will aim to establish whether there is direct evidence that a breach of the Code has occurred. At the second stage the Ombudsman considers whether an investigation or a referral to a standards committee or the Adjudication Panel for Wales is required in the public interest. This involves the consideration of a number of public interest factors such as: whether the member has deliberately sought a personal gain at the public's expense for themselves or others, misused a position of trust, whether an investigation is required to maintain public confidence in elected members and whether an investigation is proportionate in the circumstances.

Page 1 of 2

I have carefully considered the evidence you provided in support of your complaint. It appears to me that most of the matters which you have alleged could not in fact constitute a breach of the Code. The matters which you alleged in your complaint relate to the actions of the Mumbles Community Council (as a whole). I am not persuaded that you have provided evidence that Councillor Keeton has breached the Code of Conduct and the Ombudsman will not investigate unless there is reasonably strong evidence to suggest that the member concerned has breached the Code of Conduct. The actions of the whole of Mumbles Community Council cannot be attributed to Councillor Keeton's individual conduct. I must also explain that your complaint is about the financial conduct of Mumbles Community Council and the financial decisions of the Council and its use of public funds. Such matters fall within the remit of the Council's auditors and/or Audit Wales, and you may wish to raise the matter via such channels. Accordingly, I do not propose to investigate your complaint.

This letter is only being sent electronically. A hard copy will not be sent unless you ask for one.

I have sent a redacted copy of this letter, which constitutes a formal statement of reasons for the decision not to investigate your complaint, to Councillor Keeton, to the Monitoring Officer of Mumbles Community Council and to the Clerk of Mumbles Community Council. The copy I have sent does not include your contact details.

The file on your complaint will now be closed.

If you have not already done so, I would be grateful if you could complete customer satisfaction and equality questionnaires. These can be accessed at www.ombudsman.wales/customerstatisfaction If you would prefer paper copies please contact us.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Fletcher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Emily Fletcher
Swyddog Ymchwilio/Investigation Officer

APPENDIX 16

Subject: My resignation
Date: Thursday, 6 January 2022 at 13:58:58 Greenwich Mean Time
From: Louise Thomas
To: Martin O'Neill, Steve Heydon
CC: Ian Scott, William Thomas, Linda Tyler-Lloyd, Rebecca Fogarty, Rebecca Singh
Attachments: image001.jpg

FYI

My resignation as a councillor

After taking some thought on this, and after the accident today I have decided to resign from MCC. I have never in my life see such a toxic and volatile world that are in the council. As you know I have been part of a fantastic campaign which has highlighted at every turn the serious safety issues with the design at Mayals road. The council have ignored and will no doubt continue to ignore what is without doubt an accident waiting to happen.

CCoS and MCC are run by a group of councillors who believe they have the strength in numbers to simply ignore the real issues that mean everything to the real people of Swansea. All they care about is the labour party and socialism, they have too much control in Swansea and this is obvious by the ridiculous waste of money. Especially on the Mayals cycle path. Consultation or should I say 'engagement' with the public is woeful and on a daily basis I am reminded what the council have done to such a beautiful road. Its hideous and this clearly shows the hatred the council have for our area. I have checked other cycle paths in Swansea and there is not one that resembles the Mayals road, why? There is without doubt a deep rooted jealousy of people that are wealthy and actually work hard to live here. Its nothing about being 'lucky' as stated by Mr Stewart.

I stupidly thought that being a ward councillor would be a great way of supporting the residents. Wow... did I get this wrong. At every turn these councillors made my life difficult and ostracised me, they are known to be very instrumental in ensuring projects that support their political leanings are funded. i.e. schools where they are governors, seem to get more funding. These councillors are as follows:-

Carrie Townsend Jones
Pam Erasmus
Sara Keaton

These councillors hold secret meetings and have been informing the MSA that everything is going ahead with the skatepark, when like I said before this is not a done deal and we should not be paying £68,000 up front to the contractors before we are in possession of the lease. This lease is still not agreed and there is still an issue, which again the local people have been misinformed and even may not go ahead yet. It could take years. What is shocking is that this could have been built by now, as there was money being offered, and a CCoS councillor had been privy to this, but somehow forgot about this conversation. How strange? The whole thing stinks! What was very hard to stomach was how the local public attacked a local business man, without actually realising that had things been dealt with above board they would be using a skatepark now and no doubt would be an asset to the local area. This should have been built near the foot golf, it made perfect sense. But again these councillors completed ignored this location citing it was not in MCC area. How much has this cost us to date?

So, last night Rob Stewart decided to publicly state that I am basically lying, which I take umbrage with. A report from 2018 and 2020 clearly show that congestions charges are being considered in Swansea. Mr Stewart claims in June 2020 that there will not be congestion charges, September 2020 Gordon Gibson who's company works with the council on Highway and street projects, states that he is discussing the congestions charges around the Gower. In November 2020 a report to the Welsh government states that proposals are being made at the local authority. And once I had exposed this a plethora of Labour

supporters including Cllr Adam Gilbert bombarded me with abuse, which is a clear indicator they are worried that this will affect their ratings, which is quite frankly pathetic. How about being honest for once?

As for my dealings with both councils I feel I have been fully transparent and honest, and given my background and other involvement I have committed to, it is an essential quality. As for being a councillor I hate the way things are run in Swansea, and would like to see full scrutiny at every level. In respect to the Mayals designers, the word guidance is used too loosely, we need to ensure full legislation in order to protect anyone that could be injured on the cycle path.

Finally I feel a sense of relief with my decision, we have another local resident on here called Chris Evans, and I for one will vote for someone who is there for our community and not helicoptered in just for a vote. Good luck Chris you are a very lovely guy and also care about the community.

There have been times in my life where I have been very happy, getting married, having children, success with my careers, and contributing as much as possible to being a good person. I cannot stomach the lies, immoral and underhand clandestine meetings that totally exclude the very people that should be included. The tax payers. I urge you all to get the rot out and make our area a happy and prosperous place. If there's anything I have learnt is that the residents in the Mayals and all over Swansea are fantastic people and deserve to know the truth. Louise x

Cllr Louise Thomas
Mayals Parish

Te [REDACTED]
Louise.Thomas@mumbles.gov.uk



Minor Hall, Ostreme Centre,
Castle Avenue, Mumbles,
Swansea SA3 4BA

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From: [Louise Thomas](#)
To: [Steve Heydon](#); [Carrie Townsend Jones](#)
Cc: [Rebecca Fogarty](#); [William Thomas](#); [Francesca O'Brien](#); [Ian Scott](#); [Angela O'Connor](#); [Leigh McAndrew](#); [Claire Anderson](#)
Subject: Resigning as a community councillor
Date: 18 July 2022 09:43:53

Good morning all

Please except this correspondence to confirm my resignation as a community councilor.

I have sold my house and will be moving on.

I would say its been a pleasure, but I think we can read between the lines on that one!

Good luck though to all MCCs endeavors.

Kind regards

Louise

[Information and Data Protection Policy](#)

APPENDIX 17

From: [Louise Thomas](#)
To: [Leigh McAndrew](#)
Subject: Re: Complaint made to the Ombudsman - 202106524 [REF/JR/rR/pE/gY/]
Date: 04 January 2022 15:40:12

This email, created by louise.thomas@mumbles.gov.uk, has been securely delivered using Egress Switch and was decrypted on 04 January 2022 15:40:11+00:00

May I remind you that I never lie about anything, I am astounded at the underhand goings on at MCC, I have sought legal advice and you and MCC will be hearing from my lawyer

I have had quite enough of this kind of behaviour.

There is a lot going on with MCC and Swansea city council and I for one will not stand back and let this happen.

Thank you

Cllr Louise Thomas

From: "Leigh McAndrew" <leigh.mcandrew@ombudsman-wales.org.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 3:34 PM
Received: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 3:36 PM
To: louise.thomas@mumbles.gov.uk
Subject: Complaint made to the Ombudsman - 202106524 [REF/JR/rR/pE/gY/]

This email, created by leigh.mcandrew@ombudsman-wales.org.uk, has been securely delivered using Egress Switch and was decrypted on Tuesday, January 4, 2022 3:36:59 PM+00:00

Dear Councillor Thomas

Reference: 202106524

I am writing to remind you that, as per my letter of today, "You are therefore asked not to contact or discuss the details of the complaint with any potential witnesses or persons who may be involved in the matter, whether directly or indirectly, to avoid any prejudice to any investigation. Conduct of this kind may amount to a breach of the Code of Conduct".

Please bear the above in mind whilst the Ombudsman is considering this complaint.

Yours sincerely

Mr Leigh McAndrew


Swyddog Ymchwilio/Investigation Officer
Ffôn/Tel: 01656 644216

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Hybu  Gymraeg

Gallwch ysgrifennu atom yn Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg. Ni fydd hyn yn arwain at oedi cyn ymateb.

Welsh Language Promotion

From: [Louise Thomas](#)
To: [Leigh McAndrew](#)
Subject: Re: Complaint made to the Ombudsman - 202106588 [REF/Qo/vG/06/oj/]
Date: 07 January 2022 11:18:34

This email, created by louise.thomas@mumbles.gov.uk, has been securely delivered using Egress Switch and was decrypted on 07 January 2022 11:18:34+00:00

I have resigned so this matter will be closed

Thank you

Louise Thomas

From: "Leigh McAndrew" <leigh.mcandrew@ombudsman-wales.org.uk>
Sent: Friday, January 7, 2022 11:00 AM
Received: Friday, January 7, 2022 11:14 AM
To: louise.thomas@mumbles.gov.uk
Subject: Complaint made to the Ombudsman - 202106588 [REF/Qo/vG/06/oj/]

This email, created by leigh.mcandrew@ombudsman-wales.org.uk, has been securely delivered using Egress Switch and was decrypted on Friday, January 7, 2022 11:14:31 AM+00:00

Dear Councillor Thomas

Reference: 202106588

Please find attached my letter of today which is being sent to you **by email only**. I also attach a redacted copy of the complaint we have received.

Yours sincerely


Mr Leigh McAndrew

Swyddog Ymchwilio/Investigation Officer
Ffôn/Tel: 01656 644216

--

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Mae Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru yn cymryd o ddifrif yr angen i ddiogelu eich data.

Mae ein [Hysbysiad Preifatrwydd](#) yn esbonio sut rydym yn defnyddio eich gwybodaeth a sut rydym yn diogelu eich preifatrwydd.



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Bydd pob galwad yn cael ei recordio ar gyfer dibenion hyfforddi a chyfeirio

All calls are recorded for training and reference purposes

Ystyriwch yr amgylchedd  a oes wir angen i chi argraffu  neges e-bost hon?

Please consider the environment - do you really need to print this email?

From: [Louise Thomas](#)
To: [Leigh McAndrew](#)
Subject: Re: Ref: 202106524 and 202106588
Date: 02 February 2022 16:11:59

Good afternoon Mr McAndrew

Just to let you know I have had the police round and they have taken on board all of the following incidents, which include:-

Dead rats thrown in my garden (4 times)

Followed twice on way to work, documented by police

Headlights being shone in sons bedroom for 20 minutes and then passenger got out and walked behind my house and was stopped by the police. claiming he was having a cigarette, names were taken,

Harrasment via messenger saying that I had shouted abuse at a young girl that day, when I hadnt left my house, poice now investigating

Harrasment from Dyfed powys officer who was in school with the Leader of Swansea council, IOPC said he was allowed to act in this manner

Threats from Martin O'Neill which was documented and is now being dealt with by the police

Being outed as a magistrate in Facebook by Cllr Adam Gilbert, and then informing Martin who claimed he didnt know what he was doing, no reprimand!

Threats on my phone, being treated by police.

I have informed my family and have made detailed reports on all of these events, So now I claim there are financial inproprieties at MCC and I get the chair saying I have been vexaxious!

I hope you will be keeping this on record, and if I am asked to give evidence I will be able to prove my innocence.

Finally what happend if the police warn Cllr O,Neill will that be considered?

Thank you

Kind regards

Louise Thomas

On Wed, Feb 2, 2022 at 1:22 PM Louise Thomas [REDACTED] > wrote:

Good afternoon

I have today received a letter stating that Cllr Martin O'Neill has made an official complaint against me, stating that I have been vexatious and also disclose any information regarded as confidential.

May I remind you of the following:-

I made a complaint to Audit Wales with facts and evidence, on the 27th of January 2021. I have also made a complaint to South Wales police over a issue harrasment from Cllr O'Neil. for which I also have evidence!

So, given these facts, I welcome an invesitgation and will be happy to provide you with further information.

You also asked that you consider witnesses to be taken into consideration and as such I would like the following:-

[REDACTED]

I would like to know what the next steps are and timescales thank you.
All of this information will be passed on to my solicitor.

Your sincerly

Louise Thomas

From: [Louise Thomas](#)
To: [Leigh McAndrew](#)
Subject: Re: Complaints made to the Ombudsman - 202106524 and 202106588 [REF/JR/rR/pE/gY/]
Date: 07 February 2022 13:39:42

Hi Mr McAndrew

This is what Martin O'Neill has written on Facebook. He attempted to join a Facebook page in which I am the moderator on Sunday, maybe you should be asking him what he is doing?

Also the police have visited him, and after speaking to another councillor who by the way confirmed that he had said "I am coming for her, hard!". Dr O'Neill denied this! So he is actually prepared to lie to the police.

I am looking forward to your response as I am sure you will be aware of what this means in terms of his office? The police have 100% backed me up and warned Cllr O'Neill of the implications of such matters.

There has been a massive amount of misinformation about the Mumbles Skatepark flying about on various Facebook groups and pages, much claiming that the minutes of the meeting held to discuss the Skatepark were kept 'hidden' from the public. So here is the link to the minutes which have been publicly available on the MCC website for weeks: <https://www.mumbles.gov.uk/minute.php?s=2021>

I have also attached a copy. Please feel free to share as widely as you wish!

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards

Louise Thomas

On Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 8:20 AM <Leigh.McAndrew@ombudsman-wales.org.uk> wrote:

Dear Former Councillor Thomas

Reference: 202106524 and 202106588

Thank you for your 2 emails dated 2 February 2022, the content of which will be considered in due course.

May I take this opportunity to remind you that the Ombudsman's investigations are conducted in private. You are therefore asked not to contact or discuss the details of the complaints with any potential witnesses or persons who may be involved in the matter, whether directly or indirectly, to avoid any prejudice to the investigations. You are also

asked not to discuss the complaints on social media.

As of 17 January 2022 we have moved to Microsoft 365 email. This enhances our email security. You may previously have received emails from us that were encrypted using Egress, but the move to Microsoft 365 email removes the need for us to use Egress. We hope that this move will address feedback from some complainants who found it difficult to use Egress. We recognise that this change could be inconvenient, during this transition period, for service users who have set up arrangements to access Egress emails, and we apologise for that inconvenience. However, the use of Microsoft 365 email will be simpler for the future.

If we correspond with you by email, general correspondence will be unencrypted but we will send any confidential or sensitive personal information to you using encrypted secure email via Microsoft 365 email. This is necessary to protect the content of the material. You can access the encrypted email automatically if you have a Microsoft Office 365 account. If you do not already have a Microsoft Office 365 account, you can access the encrypted email by selecting the 'sign in with a one-time passcode' option when you open the email. This one time passcode will be emailed to you and you can then use the passcode to access the email.

If you have any queries about accessing encrypted email sent by this office, you can contact our IT team on itc@ombudsman-wales.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Mr Leigh McAndrew
Swyddog Ymchwilio/Investigation Officer

Ffôn/Tel: 01656 644216

--

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www.ombudsman-wales.org.uk<<http://www.ombudsman-wales.org.uk>>

From: Louise Thomas
To: Leigh McAndrew
Subject: Re: Complaint made to the Ombudsman - 202106524 and 202106588 [REF:/R/RR/PE/gV]
Date: 09 June 2022, 17:12:32

louisethomas@mumbles.gov.uk appears similar to someone who previously sent you email, but may not be that person. [Learn why this could be a risk](#)

Dear Mr McAndrew

Some facts for your investigation. Audit Wales are still investigating the way MCC carried out the tender process.

Please can you pass this on to your line manager.

Thank you

Cllr Louise Thomas

Vote of no confidence for 4 MCC councillors

Inbox



Louise Thomas

Jan 20, 2022, 1:26 PM

to Martin, Mumbles, Rebecca, Ian, William, Linda

20th of January 2021

Dear Martin

RE: Vote of no confidence and request for the resignation of the following councillors:-

1. Cllr Carrie Townsend- Jones
2. Cllr Pamela Erasmus
3. Cllr Sara Keaton
4. Cllr Rebecca Fogarty

Following the last few weeks I have witnessed what I can only describe as deeply concerning in terms of financial mismanagement of public funds by these councillors.

They have been in regular meetings in respect to the Mumbles Skate park Project during which they have been working on a way of securing funding.

On the Friday the 3rd of December 2021 a meeting was held in private and it was agreed that a large sum of money to the value of £68,000 would be paid up front to Mavericks as apparently this was the only way of securing the contract at that price. However since that meeting I sought legal advice and discovered that MCC (Mumbles Community Council) would be on very thin ice in terms of whether this is ethical or indeed legal. The residents of the wards of Mumbles were not aware of such a risk and as such I have made this public. I also have resigned from MCC as a protest of the way this was handled.

Since this has been made public there has been no formal announcement from MCC and as such members of the public are asking questions and as such I feel that again this is not being dealt with in the guidelines set out for councillor responsibility as set out in the code of conduct.

On the 18th of January 2022, The leader of County Council of Swansea confirmed there is still a "Live Judicial Review" so my concerns about this financial transaction were correct and this could have resulted in MCC making a huge mistake. I would like to request under Freedom of information when MCC was notified that this judicial review was still live? I am sure you will be aware of the implications of this being known before the meeting on the 3rd of December 2021.

Due to this I will now be asking members of the public to carry out a vote of no confidence with these councillors. I do not think these councillors have conducted themselves at all well and believe their actions have fallen well below the standards that should be set when in public office.

They should definitely not allowing other pressures including the financial interests of others connected to the project or deter themselves providing sound governance of MCC in a proper manner. I believe this project has been run with political motivation and as pointed out in this video that the Labour run council has paved the way for the skate park! This is a MCC project and yet being advertised as Labour run? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1E7m_G8F4w

They should have exercised independent judgement and not compromised my position by placing myself under obligations to outside individuals or organisations this is extremely important as if I had accepted the proposals and the general public were made aware then my role as a councillor of MCC would be in question as well and also my role as a magistrate would also have been brought into question. Integrity is everything and the blatant disregard to the general public to be included in such an important and financial decision was not at all democratic. These councillors should have contributed to ensure MCC's decision-making processes were as open and transparent as possible to enable residents to understand the reasoning behind those decisions and to be informed when holding themselves and other members to account but restricting access to information when the wider public interest or the law requires it.

They should have behaved in accordance with all MCC and CCo's legal obligations alongside any requirements contained within this MCC policies protocols and procedures including the use of the MCC's resources.

Finally I would like a response back with 28 days of this letter. I will be sending this letter to the Ombudsman and will be formally requesting a vote of no confidence along with many mumbles residents.

Yours sincerely

Louise Thomas

[Preview YouTube video](#)

[Mumbles Skate Park -](#)

[SD 480p](#)



From: Leigh.McAndrew@ombudsman-wales.org.uk <Leigh.McAndrew@ombudsman-wales.org.uk>

Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022, 11:30 AM

To: Louise Thomas <Louise.Thomas@mumbles.gov.uk>

Subject: Complaint made to the Ombudsman - 202106524 and 202106588 [REF:/R/RR/PE/gV]

Dear Councillor Thomas

Reference: 202106524 202106588

I am writing to confirm that the investigations of Dr O'Neill's complaints are ongoing.

I will update you further in due course.

Yours sincerely

Mr Leigh McAndrew
Swyddog Ymchwilio/Investigation Officer
Ffôn/Tel: 01656 644216

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Please consider the environment - do you really need to print this email?

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From: [Louise Thomas](#)
To: [Leigh McAndrew](#)
Subject: Re: Complaint made to the Ombudsman - 202106524 and 202106588 [REF/JR/rR/pE/gY/]
Date: 09 June 2022 17:12:53

louise.thomas@mumbles.gov.uk appears similar to someone who previously sent you email, but may not be that person. [Learn why this could be a risk](#)

This is the voice recording of the meeting that I along with other councilor's had concerns about

Thank you

Cllr Louise Thomas

From: Leigh.McAndrew@ombudsman-wales.org.uk <Leigh.McAndrew@ombudsman-wales.org.uk>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 11:30 AM
To: Louise Thomas <Louise.Thomas@mumbles.gov.uk>
Subject: Complaint made to the Ombudsman - 202106524 and 202106588 [REF/JR/rR/pE/gY/]

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Reference: 202106524 202106588

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I will update you further in due course.

Yours sincerely

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Swyddog Ymchwilio/Investigation Officer
Ffôn/Tel: 01656 644216

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From: [Louise Thomas](#)
To: [Leigh McAndrew](#)
Subject: Re: Complaint made to the Ombudsman - 202106524 and 202106588 [REF/JR/rR/pE/gY/]
Date: 10 June 2022 11:37:25
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thank you Leigh

I must also apologise for my outburst, this is very unlike me. I am a victim of ostracizing and unwanted treatment by some of these councilors. I really would like to stay in MCC, but the constant harassment I am receiving is quite daunting.

<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/mumbles-local-elections-louise-thomas-23727099>



Tory election candidate claims dogs have been 'poisoned', and dead rats thrown in her garden in shocking campaign of harassment - Wales Online

Police have a support package in place for Louise Thomas, of Mumbles, who also claims lights have been shone in her son's bedroom, and people have followed her and called her in the middle of the ...

www.walesonline.co.uk

I have also reported two councillors to MCC for only yesterday stating very nasty things on Facebook.

Its all very one sided and I am being singled out, just for asking the questions that need addressing.

So, I totally understand you have to do your job, I just hope I am going to given a chance to show exactly what is happening to me as a community councilor.

Kindest regards

Louise

From: Leigh McAndrew <Leigh.McAndrew@ombudsman.wales>
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 7:28 AM
To: Louise Thomas <Louise.Thomas@mumbles.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Complaint made to the Ombudsman - 202106524 and 202106588 [REF/JR/rR/pE/gY/]

Dear Councillor Thomas

Thank you for your 2 emails. I will not be passing the emails onto my line manager as I am conducting the investigations (as noted in my manager's letter to you dated 8 June 2022), although I will discuss the investigations with her in accordance with our usual practice.

Yours sincerely



Mr Leigh McAndrew

Swyddog Ymchwilio / Investigation Officer

Ffôn / Tel: 01656 644216

From: Louise Thomas <Louise.Thomas@mumbles.gov.uk>

Sent: 06 June 2022 13:19

To: Leigh McAndrew <Leigh.McAndrew@ombudsman.wales>

Subject: Re: Complaint made to the Ombudsman - 202106524 and 202106588

[REF/JR/rR/pE/gY/]

louise.thomas@mumbles.gov.uk appears similar to someone who previously sent you email, but may not be that person. [Learn why this could be a risk](#)

This is the voice recording of the meeting that I along with other councilor's had concerns about

Thank you

Cllr Louise Thomas

From: Leigh.McAndrew@ombudsman-wales.org.uk <Leigh.McAndrew@ombudsman-wales.org.uk>

Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 11:30 AM

To: Louise Thomas <Louise.Thomas@mumbles.gov.uk>

Subject: Complaint made to the Ombudsman - 202106524 and 202106588 [REF/JR/rR/pE/gY/]

Dear Councillor Thomas

Reference: 202106524 202106588

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I will update you further in due course.

Yours sincerely

Mr Leigh McAndrew

Swyddog Ymchwilio/Investigation Officer

Ffôn/Tel: 01656 644216

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<https://twitter.com/OmbudsmanWales>

Hybu'r Gymraeg

Gallwch ysgrifennu atom yn Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg. Ni fydd hyn yn arwain at oedi cyn ymateb.

Welsh Language Promotion



Tory election candidate claims dogs have been 'poisoned', and dead rats thrown in her garden in shocking campaign of harassment

Police have a support package in place for Louise Thomas, of Mumbles, who also claims lights have been shone in her son's bedroom, and people have followed her and called her in the middle of the night

SHARE



By [Liz Perkins](#)

10:13, 22 APR 2022 | UPDATED 11:11, 22 APR 2022



□ Louise Thomas claims she has been targeted with abuse since she said she was standing in the local elections

A local elections candidate in Swansea is being offered support from the police after she claims dead rats have been thrown into her garden and her dogs have been poisoned during the campaign.

Louise Thomas, 54, who is standing for the Conservatives in Mayals, claims to have been abused in the street, called at 3am and branded “a b***h”, and followed to work.

The former policewoman and mum-of-two said she was having to have police officers check on her and her property. A south Wales Police spokesperson confirmed they had a support package in place for Mrs Thomas. [You can read more stories about Mumbles here.](#)

Read more: [Mumbles restaurant keeps 'black book' of no-shows and won't let them back without a good excuse](#)

Swansea-born Mrs Thomas said: “I’ve had dead rats thrown in my garden four times. I’ve been called a liar on the neighbourhood app and there’s nasty stuff being written about me online. I’ve had threats on my phone and have been getting people phoning me at 3am calling me a b***h.

“My dogs have been poisoned, one of them, my Labrador, ended up with diarrhoea and sickness and ended

up being ill for three days. Twice people have put flashing lights into my son's room for 20 minutes. One person walked behind my house and was stopped by the police. He claimed he was having a cigarette, names were taken. I have started taking a log."

LOADING

Mrs Thomas said she had been receiving unwanted calls during the early hours of the morning (Image: Louise Thomas)

She added: "I was followed to work twice - one was by a guy on a moped. I called it into the beat officer when I got to work. There were two sets of roundabouts and he followed me and he followed me to a trading estate. I quickly reversed and he followed me again. It's that psychological thing that they want you to know that you are being followed - it's a tactic used to frighten people.

"Someone took a photo of me right in front of me at the beach. I've had harassment via messenger saying that I had shouted abuse at a young girl that day, when I hadn't left my house and police are now investigating."

She described it as the worst election campaign possible. "It's awful. It needs to be a fair playing field and I have had an onslaught of abuse. It's possibly the worst campaign, it's been an uphill struggle. It's looking personal and muddy." She said that due to the nature of the abuse she did not go anywhere on her own. "I do not take my dogs to isolated places anymore. I do not go anywhere at night."

LOADING

Mrs Thomas claimed her dogs were poisoned as a result of her standing in the election (Image: Louise Thomas)

She said she took the step of standing down from Mumbles Community Council due to funding issues over the area's skate park.

She claimed **Swansea Liberal Democrats leader Chris Holley** was looking into what had happened to her recently. Mr Holley said he did not believe such behaviour should be tolerated, adding: "She phoned me and asked me as a former leader of the opposition for advice. It seems to me it's got out of hand - we should not be engaging in personal abuse. There's one person in Aberystwyth who is stepping down because of the abuse.

"It's being done by individuals with grievances and it might be something to do with the skate park. The candidates need to come out and say it must stop. She has taken a lot of abuse from particular people. I feel sorry for her and the abuse she has taken- it's not good at all. It's surprising but not unexpected - I have had a broken window and boards damaged. All the local parties should say it's not good enough, we are not here for that."

LOADING

□ **Swansea Liberal Democrats leader Chris Holley** (Image: Copyright unknown)

Labour leader Rob Stewart has also called on people to be respectful towards other candidates during the course of the election. You can read more about that **here** and you can get more Swansea stories **with our newsletter**.

Local policing inspector Judith Martin said: “We take all reports of this nature very seriously and have met the complainant. A support package has been put in place by the Neighbourhood Policing Team. If anyone has any information concerning these allegations, they are urged to contact us quoting reference 243 of March 5th .”

The other candidates standing in Mayals are Pam Erasmus for Labour, Chris Evans for the Green Party and Daniel David Guttery for the Lib Dems.



Welsh election candidate suspended after tweet calls Zelenksy 'fascist'

Messages by Emma McNamara and Clare-Anna Mitchell 8.6.22 on Facebook

The image shows a series of Facebook messages in a thread. The messages are as follows:

- Emma McNamara** (3h): Louise Thomas can you confirm you are actively trying to stop this project. (1 Like, 1 Reply)
- Emma McNamara** (3h): Louise Thomas can you confirm who contacted audit wales...what is your problem seriously. (1 Like, 1 Reply)
- Paul Phillips**: Can we expose Louise Thomas for who she actually is. There has been nothing but hard work over a four year period to make this park happen. But there are a few still hell bent on trying to undermine this amazing project. (1 Like)
- Emma McNamara** (4h): Louise Thomas I feel her response is very on point..no assumptions just the plain fact that you have not put yourself forward for any committees and you consistently post negativity about certain projects... (1 Like, 1 Reply)
- Emma McNamara** (4h): What is your purpose being on mcc...you can't claim to be a voice for the majority when you came 2nd with mcc for your ward and the electorate decided they didn't want you for council..what are you doing/have done for your ward I'm eager to hear your response. (3 Likes, 1 Reply)
- Heather Davies**: Clare-Anna Mitchell another elected member who had to... (partially visible)
- Clare-Anna Mitchell** (4h): Louise Thomas information I don't have a problem with. Making allegations against MCC that are untrue, I do have a problem with. These councillors are working so hard. You are not. If you cared so much about the skatepark project WHY DIDNT YOU JOIN THE COMMITTEE SO YOU COULD HAVE A SAY AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE?? Instead you'd rather just judge from behind your computer. As for updates, I update the public daily on matters. You just don't see my posts because you are blocked. Unfortunately, I will have to now wait 72 hours before blocking the toxicity again. (2 Likes)
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- Louise Thomas** (4h): Clare-Anna Mitchell I am sorry but you have completely gone off on a tangent, this is called information so instead of making assumptions about me, how about you.give people your.updstes, thank you. (1 Like)

project faster for you all. You have my word (and I hope by now this means something) that they are doing everything that they can do. Nothing is being kept back from the public. I believe in total transparency so if you ever have any questions, PLEASE send me a message and I'll reply as soon as I find out the answer to your query.
As for you, Louise, may I suggest that while the rest of us are working REALLY hard on various projects (skatepark, west cross park, big food drop, summer fun days, Friday night community links, the list goes on) please do something useful and positive YOURSELF and stop undermining the work of others who, I will mention again, are doing this work for FREE!

4 h Like Reply



Heather Davies

Ben Billingham it doesn't matter what we say, however, I'm sure someone senior within the Labour Party should understand why Emma's attitude is wrong. If she was simply a member, then fine, but she's representing Labour!!!! Along with her other diatribe, she made an accusation that Boris Johnson had lied about his illness. Can you see the issue here? And the way she speaks to Louise Thomas is, at best, unprofessional! It's not good. Louise has reacted the way a professional would. With respect.



Emma Mcnamara

You can bark orders at me all you want....you have posted the replies to an email that you asked for whilst misrepresenting this as some kind of update...I may suggest that you reveal your motivation behind the obsession with this project...you could join committees and be an active member of mcc but it is looking very much like you are just looking for stuff to post on social media as some kind of voice of the community...I don't want to carry this on further on social media so will email yourself and others within mcc to convey my concerns about your conduct....without prejudice...thanks



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Like Reply Share 14 h



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Like Reply Share 14 h



Heather Davies

Clare-Anna Mitchell another elected member who had to block an opposing councillor. Really? Lol

Like Reply Share 14 h



Ben Billingham

Heather Davies is that a problem? ...

Like Reply Share 12 h



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Like Reply Share 13 h



Emma Mcnamara

Louise Thomas can you confirm who contacted audit wales...what is your problem seriously ...

Rob Stewart | Facebook

facebook.com/profile.php?id=100070379936760

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Rob Stewart

Friends
1 mutual friend
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Louise Fitzgerald

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THE EX COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR HAS ALSO STATED THAT IF AND OR WHEN GRANT FUNDING IS APPROVED IT WILL BE BUILT WITHOUT ANY CONSULTATION. AGAIN SIMPLY NOT TRUE.

We have submitted all of our bids for this year, none of them include the areas in Mayals and West Cross that she states. None!

I can confirm that the only bids we are considering in this area this year are across Clyne Common (which has the full support of the leader of the conservatives Cllr Lyndon Jones), and a scheme to improve cycling on the existing Promenade - which has also been highlighted the public announcements about the promenade and seafront upgrades.

The suggestion that we have put in bids for Clyne Drive, Mayals, Mulgrave Way, Linden Avenue, Moorside Road, Fairwood Road and bottom part of West Cross Lane are absolutely untrue. Again a total fabrication

There are no current plans for new routes along these streets, and if the council did consider applying for funding for those areas at any point in the future, then communities would have further opportunities to get involved and give their views.

Rob Stewart | Facebook

facebook.com/profile.php?id=100070379936760

Search Facebook

Rob Stewart

County of Swansea

Studied at Swansea University

Lives in Swansea, United Kingdom

From Swansea, United Kingdom

Followed by 559 people

[Cllr_robstewart](#)

Photos
[See All Photos](#)

Rob Stewart
11 April at 20:45

For the second time in a two months I have had to go into print to dispel misinformation being deliberately posted by an ex community councillor.

Today I was made aware of further examples of misinformation and statements which are simply untrue.

It is hugely disappointing that she has again misrepresented information provided to her in good faith by officers of the council.

One of the latest claims on social media appears to be that the active travel map is something that Swansea Council did not want the public to see. That is a outright lie

Our Integrated Network Map went out for public consultation across Swansea last Autumn.

The map showed the potential for an Active Travel Network across Swansea which could be considered for funding over the next 15 years. The aspirational map and network is not yet approved (even in principle) and is with Welsh Government for consideration

The ex community councillor has also stated that if and or when grant funding is approved it will be built without any consultations. Again simply not true.

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I can confirm that the only bids we are considering in this area this year are across Clyne Common (which has the full support of the

Rob Stewart | Facebook

facebook.com/profile.php?id=100070379936760

Search Facebook

Rob Stewart

Friends
1 mutual friend
[See All Friends](#)

Louise Fitzgerald

do so with incorrect information that spreads mistrust and hatred. The per... [See more](#)

Like Reply 1 d

Valerie Horlick
If someone is trying to become an elected councillor whilst spreading false information, have we got the right to know who it is before polling day?

Like Reply 1 d

Rosie Anna
Valerie Horlick it's Louise Thomas

Like Reply 1 d

Rosie Anna
She's standing for Mayals ward, Conservative

Like Reply 1 d

Valerie Horlick
Rosie Anna thank you. Seems to be no built in mechanism for honour in the political system, from top to bottom!

Like Reply 21 h

Write a reply...

 **Martin O'Neill** shared a post. ...
1 d · 

Really disappointing to see people apparently purposefully spreading misinformation on social media to smear others, really glad to see Rob Stewart calling this out and this as Rob says is not the only case of it recently

 **Rob Stewart**
1 d · 

For the second time in a two months I have had to go into print to dispel misinformation being deliberately posted by an ex community councillor.
... See more



17 7 comments

 Home  Friends  Watch  Marketplace  Notifications  Menu

Comments

Done



Lisa Challenger

Keep up the good work [Rob Stewart](#) 🙄 Fake news is No news. 🙄

1 d Like Reply

1 🗳️



Deb Palmer-Davis

So who is it?

1 d Like Reply



Rosie Anna

[Deb Palmer-Davis](#) [Louise Thomas](#)

1 d Like Reply



Write a reply...



Pamela M Erasmus

Thankyou Rob.

1 d Like Reply

1 🗳️



Jacki Shaw

[Louise Thomas](#) is this you again

1 d Like Reply

1 🗳️



John Webb

Name the person. 🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄

1 d Like Reply



Darren Thomas

Great to see our council leader being open and



Write a comment...



Comments

Done



Karen Jones

Sue I doubt she's cringing as she's like a pit bull with a bone.
She really needs some sort of official action. I find her rather tiring as it's a regular, sometimes daily occurrence. This is certainly not the first time she's typing away with false accusations.
I skip past her posts now as I'm finding it quite hard not to give her the attention she seems to require and reply.
The desperation for attention is quite sad and isn't making her look pretty at all.
She could do with a legal and official warning and banning from Fb due to her obsession. Maybe a psychological assessment too so appropriate help can be put in place for her as she clearly has issues. I suppose it's quite sad really x

1 d Like Reply



Sue Sheriff

Hi Karen I find it rather strange that anyone can think it's OK to print a load of stuff that is not a true fact. Especially to blacken anyone's reputation .
But unfortunately that what happens when you are involved with the council of a different party ..
People like her should have a public warning
Your right Karen it is quite sad really

Comments

Done

That's right Karen it is quite sad really

1/0 Like Reply

3



Sara Keeton

Sue Sherif wish they would show a modicum of shame. She just goes on fake news all the way!

1/0 Like Reply

1



Sara Keeton

Karen Jones I know she's an absolute pain, but let's shine some positivity here. We have still managed to go ahead with the skatepark, which she vowed to stop. We have managed to get a basketball court put in Languard, which is being used all the time, and is full of happy kids, not as she suggested full of criminals and drug takers. She hasn't won, we just keep doing what we have been doing, working with the community. She can't say she has done anything positive. She couldn't even fulfill her promise to the electorate to stay in office for her full term.

1/0 Like Reply

3



Write a reply...



Paul Lloyd

Read all about it from Fake News Mayals correspondent





Write a comment...



Comments


Done

 Write a reply...


 **Paul Lloyd**
Read all about it from Fake News Mayals correspondent








1 d Like Reply 8 🗨️ 😬

 **Sara Keeton**
[Paul Lloyd](#) I wish I could laugh at her, but she is causing real distress to many people, who still believe that people who post this stuff are honest. It makes me angry they are being played for fools.

1 d Like Reply 2 🗨️


 Write a reply...


 **Jamie Batchelor**
Well it's in good faith to ensure the residents of Swansea know the real truth, that way it will


 Write a comment...   


[← Comments](#) **Reactions**


All 5 🤔 3 😬 1 🙄 1

 **Neil Goldsmith**
1 mutual friend [Add Friend](#)

 **Sara Keeton**
2 mutual friends [Add Friend](#)

 **Melanie Wheatley**

 **Karen Jones**
3 mutual friends [Add Friend](#)

 **Jo Meller**
3 mutual friends [Add Friend](#)



Martyn Griffiths · Killay

Has this site now become a political stage for Labour Councillors

5 hrs ago Like Reply Share 10



Louise Thomas · Mayals

I have reported this post to the chief inspector of police this person is in perdah and is not allowed to talk about this kind of articles. Its completely untrue by the way, and just labour spin.

7 hrs ago Like Reply Share 3



Sara K. · West Cross

Louise Thomas Do you not think that you have wasted enough of the time of ombudsman and the police already, in a cruel attempt to stop a skatepark, bike paths and of course basketball courts? What have you personally got against young people?

7 mins ago Like Reply Share



Louise Thomas · Mayals

Sara K. Can I remind you Clfr



Home



Groups



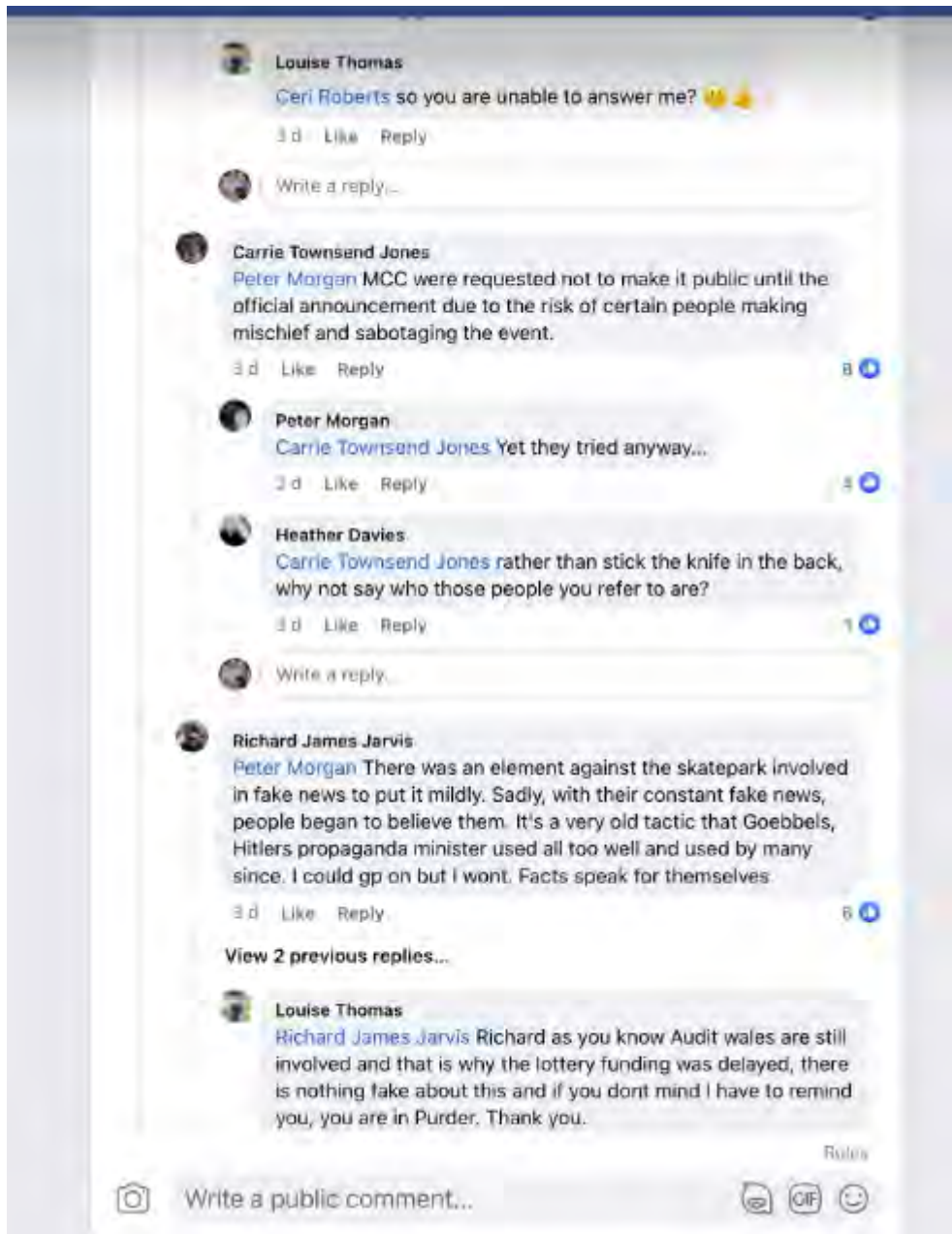
Post



Notifications



More



From: [Louise Thomas](#)
To: [Leigh McAndrew](#)
Subject: Fw: Social Media Policy
Date: 24 June 2022 08:05:10

Good morning

Please find attached and an update on the kind of treatment I am being subjected to.

Kind regards

Cllr Louise Thomas

From: Louise Thomas <Louise.Thomas@mumbles.gov.uk>
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2022 6:41 PM
To: Carrie Townsend Jones <carrie.townsendjones@mumbles.gov.uk>
Cc: Mumbles Community Council <council@mumbles.gov.uk>; Rebecca Fogarty <rebecca.fogarty@mumbles.gov.uk>; Emma McNamara <emma.mcnamara@mumbles.gov.uk>; Ian Scott <ian.scott@mumbles.gov.uk>; Richard Jarvis <richard.jarvis@mumbles.gov.uk>; Helen Nelson <helen.nelson@mumbles.gov.uk>; Sara Keeton <sara.keeton@mumbles.gov.uk>; Pam Erasmus <pam.erasmus@mumbles.gov.uk>; Francesca O'brien <francesca.obrien@mumbles.gov.uk>; Angela O'Connor <angela.oconnor@mumbles.gov.uk>; William Thomas <william.thomas@mumbles.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]; Sophie Gardiner <sophie.gardiner@mumbles.gov.uk>; Phil Keeton <phil.keeton@mumbles.gov.uk>; mark.park@mumbles.gov.uk <mark.park@mumbles.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Social Media Policy

Dear Cllr Townsend-Jones

I am not sure why you are sending this just to me?

Please do not single me out and I do hope you have sent this to Cllr McNamara as she has definitely fallen short of this policy, If this kind of treatment carries on, I will take this further. What I put on social media, is information that is readily available to the public, and as Cllr Keaton stated last night the meeting was public.

Cllr McNamara has without doubt and I have evidenced this.... **Not contain content that is unlawful, libelous, harassing, defamatory, abusive, threatening, harmful, obscene, profane, sexually oriented or racially offensive.**

I look forward to your response. And just to confirm you have NO authority to stop me posting on social media, if you want to pursue this further, please go ahead. I have cc'd in the whole of the council just to ensure transparency.

Oh and please find attached a few posts on Facebook just in case you have forgotten, that many councilors have been complicit to using social media against myself. The word "witch hunt" comes to mind, and even bullying and harassment, so I suggest you look at yourself

and revisit your actions, disgraceful!

Thank you

Cllr Louise Thomas

From: Carrie Townsend Jones <carrie.townsendjones@mumbles.gov.uk>

Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2022 3:37 PM

To: Louise Thomas <Louise.Thomas@mumbles.gov.uk>

Cc: Mumbles Community Council <council@mumbles.gov.uk>

Subject: Social Media Policy

Dear Cllr Thomas,

MCC have a Social Media Policy which all councillors must abide by. It is available on the website but I have also attached it here.

Carrie Townsend Jones

[Information and Data Protection Policy](#)

[Information and Data Protection Policy](#)

Messages by Emma McNamara and Clare-Anna Mitchell 8.6.22 on Facebook

The image shows a vertical scroll of Facebook messages. The messages are as follows:

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- Emma McNamara** to **Louise Thomas**: "can you confirm who contacted audit wales...what is your problem seriously" (3 h, Like, Reply)
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4 h Like Reply



Heather Davies

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Emma Mcnamara

You can bark orders at me all you want....you have posted the replies to an email that you asked for whilst misrepresenting this as some kind of update...I may suggest that you reveal your motivation behind the obsession with this project...you could join committees and be an active member of mcc but it is looking very much like you are just looking for stuff to post on social media as some kind of voice of the community...I don't want to carry this on further on social media so will email yourself and others within mcc to convey my concerns about your conduct....without prejudice...thanks



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Like Reply Share 14 h



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Like Reply Share 14 h



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Like Reply Share 13 h



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Comments

Done

That's right Karen it is quite sad really

10 Like Reply

3



Sara Keeton

[Sue Sherif](#) wish they would show a modicum of shame. She just goes on fake news all the way!

10 Like Reply

1



Sara Keeton

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10 Like Reply

3



Write a reply...



Paul Lloyd

Read all about it from Fake News Mayals correspondent



Write a comment...



Comments

Done

Write a reply...



Paul Lloyd

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1 d Like Reply

8 🗨️



Sara Keeton

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1 d Like Reply

2 🗨️



Write a reply...



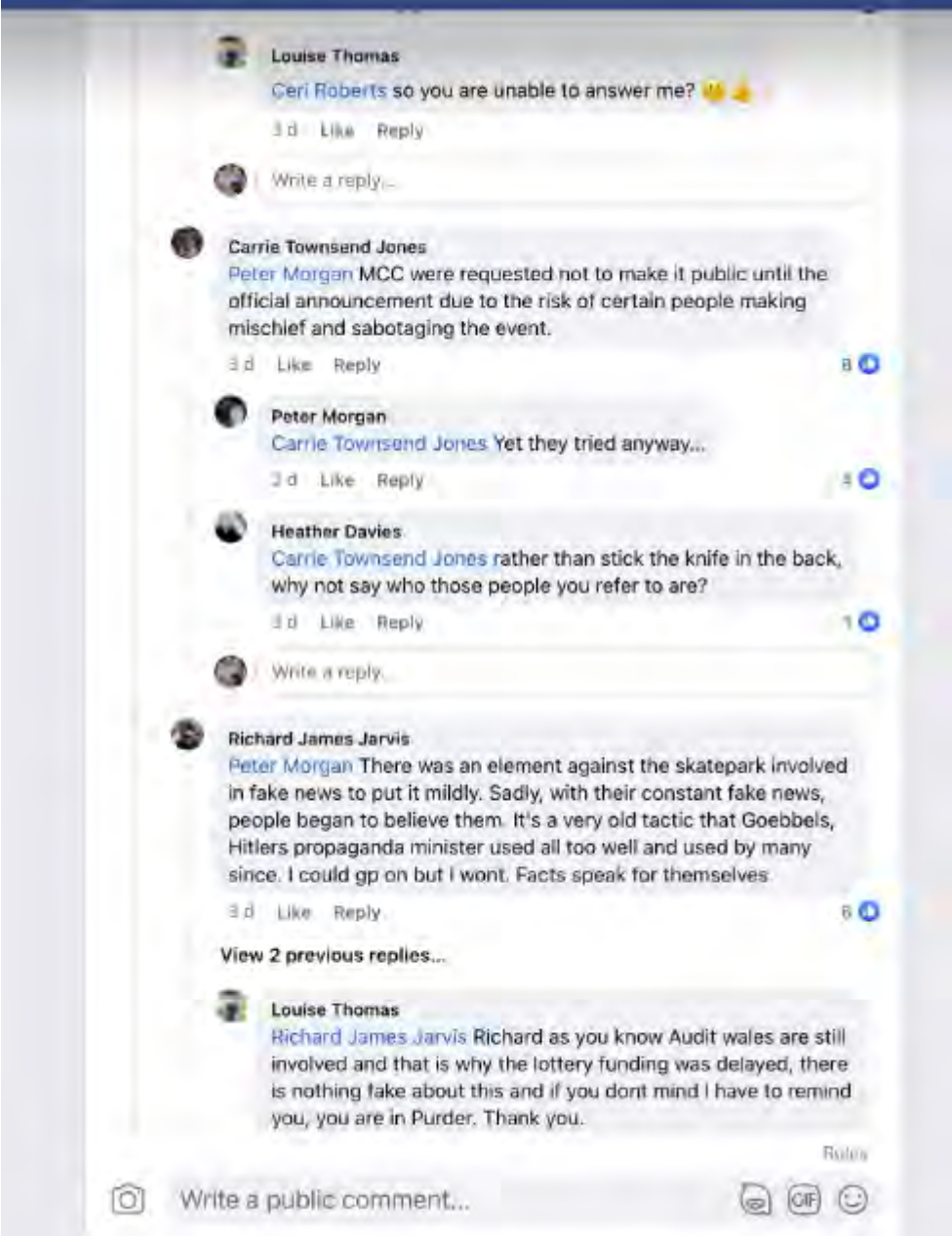
Jamie Batchelor

Well it's in good faith to ensure the residents of Swansea know the real truth, that way it will



Write a comment...





Louise Thomas

[Ceri Roberts](#) so you are unable to answer me? 🙄🙄

3 d Like Reply

Write a reply...

Carrie Townsend Jones

[Peter Morgan](#) MCC were requested not to make it public until the official announcement due to the risk of certain people making mischief and sabotaging the event.

3 d Like Reply

8

Peter Morgan

[Carrie Townsend Jones](#) Yet they tried anyway...

3 d Like Reply

4

Heather Davies

[Carrie Townsend Jones](#) rather than stick the knife in the back, why not say who those people you refer to are?

3 d Like Reply

1

Write a reply...

Richard James Jarvis

[Peter Morgan](#) There was an element against the skatepark involved in fake news to put it mildly. Sadly, with their constant fake news, people began to believe them. It's a very old tactic that Goebbels, Hitler's propaganda minister used all too well and used by many since. I could go on but I won't. Facts speak for themselves.

3 d Like Reply

6

View 2 previous replies...

Louise Thomas

[Richard James Jarvis](#) Richard as you know Audit wales are still involved and that is why the lottery funding was delayed, there is nothing fake about this and if you dont mind I have to remind you, you are in Purder. Thank you.

Rules

Write a public comment...



From: [Louise Thomas](#)
To: [Leigh McAndrew](#)
Subject: Re: Complaints made to the Ombudsman - 202106524 & 202106588 [REF/JR/rR/pE/gY/]
Date: 16 November 2022 10:34:22

Good morning Leigh

Just to update you I have now sold my house and have moved to England.

Please can you direct all correspondence via this email account please.

Kind regards

Louise

On Mon, 31 Oct 2022, 16:35 , <Leigh.McAndrew@ombudsman-wales.org.uk> wrote:

Dear Former Councillor Thomas

Reference: 202106524

Thank you for your email. You will note from the transcript that I explained to you the next steps in relation to the Ombudsman's investigation (pages 18 and 19 of the transcript).

Yours sincerely

Mr Leigh McAndrew
Rheolwr Ymchwilio Cynorthwyol/Assistant Investigation Manager

Ffôn/Tel: 01656 644216

--

Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru/ Public Services Ombudsman for Wales

1 Ffordd yr Hen Gae

Pencoed

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CF35 5LJ

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CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

Civic Centre, Oystermouth Road, Swansea SA1 3SN

Canolfan Ddinesig, Heol Ystumllwynarth, Abertawe SA1 3SN

01792 635382

www.swansea.gov.uk

council.tax@swansea.gov.uk

www.abertawe.gov.uk trethycyngor@abertawe.gov.uk



Cyngor Abertawe Swansea Council

COUNCIL TAX DEMAND NOTICE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR

NYSBYSIAD HAWLIO TRETH Y CYNGOR AR GYFER Y FLWYDDYN ARIANNOL 2022/23

Date of issue 11/11/2022
yddiad cyhoeddi

Reason for bill Closed Account
Rheswm dros y bil

Acc No.
Rhif. Cyf.



MRS LOUISE THOMAS

Charge in respect of/Tâl ynghl â



Swansea

Cheltenham

This property is in band/Maer eiddo hwn ym mand

City & County Of Swansea / Dinas A Sir Abertawe
The Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales / Y Comisiynydd Heddlu a Trosedd ar gyfer De Cymru
Mumbles / Y Mwmbwls

COUNCIL TAX FOR THE YEAR 01/04/2022 TO/ 31/3/2023
TRETH Y CYNGOR AR GYFER Y FLWYDDYN

01/04/2022 09/11/2022

Charge For Period
Tâl Am Y Cyfnod
Payments Received As At Date Of Issue
Derbyniwyd Taliadau Fel Ar Y Dyddiad Cyh

AMOUNT PAYABLE BY YOU
WM SYN DALADWY GENNYCH

Balance due on or before 25/11/2022

to be paid by Cash

Gweddill Yn Ddyledus Ar Neu Cyn 25/11/2022

I'w Dalu Trwy Arian Parod

From: [Louise Thomas](#)
To: [Leigh McAndrew](#)
Subject: Re: Complaints made to the Ombudsman - 202106524 & 202106588 [REF/JR/rR/pE/gY/]
Date: 28 February 2023 09:45:49
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thanks Leigh, and thank you for your kind words. It's a very sad time indeed.

Louise

On Tue, Feb 28, 2023 at 9:39 AM Leigh McAndrew
<Leigh.McAndrew@ombudsman.wales> wrote:

Dear Former Councillor Thomas

Reference: 202106524 & 202106588

Thank you for your email. I am sorry to hear of the death in your family and offer my sincere condolences to you.

The outcome you have described is not available. The provisional decision is to refer the report to Standards Committee, whose role it would be to determine if the Code has been breached. If so, as you are no longer a member, they could only decide that no further action is necessary or that a public written censure is appropriate.

Yours sincerely



Mr Leigh McAndrew

Rheolwr Ymchwilio Cynorthwyol / Assistant Investigation Manager

Ffôn / Tel: 01656 644216

From: Louise Thomas [REDACTED] >
Sent: 28 February 2023 09:30
To: Leigh McAndrew <Leigh.McAndrew@ombudsman.wales>
Subject: Re: Complaints made to the Ombudsman - 202106524 & 202106588 [REF/JR/rR/pE/gY/]

Good mornign Leigh

Sorry I have not replied, I have had far more important things to deal with, we have had a sudden death in the family, and I am sure you can appreciate how this would take precedent over everything, In fact it puts everything into perspective. I am sure you will agree. I expect the outcome will be that I am to be banned from ever serving as a councillor in Wales, and I fully understand this.

Regards

Louise

On Tue, Feb 28, 2023 at 9:20 AM <Leigh.McAndrew@ombudsman.wales> wrote:

Dear Former Councillor Thomas

Reference: 202106524 & 202106588

I am writing to confirm that the Ombudsman's draft report was issued to you for comment on 21 February 2023 and any comments you may have are due by no later than 14 March 2023. If we do not hear from you then we will assume you have no comments to make.

Yours sincerely

Mr Leigh McAndrew
Rheolwr Ymchwilio Cynorthwyol/Assistant Investigation Manager

Ffôn/Tel: 01656 644216

--

Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru/ Public Services Ombudsman for
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Hybu'r Gymraeg

Gallwch ysgrifennu atom yn Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg. Ni fydd hyn yn arwain at oedi cyn ymateb.

Welsh Language Promotion

You can write to us in Welsh and we will reply in Welsh. This will not lead to a delay in responding.

Sganiwyd y neges hon am bob feirws hysbys wrth iddi adael Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru.

Mae Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru yn cymryd o ddifrif yr angen i ddiogelu eich data.

Mae ein Hysbysiad Preifatrwydd yn esbonio sut rydym yn defnyddio eich gwybodaeth a sut rydym yn diogelu eich preifatrwydd.

On leaving the Public Services Ombudsman, this email was scanned for all known viruses.

The Public Services Ombudsman takes the protection of your data seriously.

Our Privacy Notice explains how we use your information and the ways in which we protect your privacy.

Bydd pob galwad yn cael ei recordio ar gyfer dibenion hyfforddi a chyfeirio

All calls are recorded for training and reference purposes

Ystyriwch yr amgylchedd – a oes wir angen i chi argraffu'r neges e-bost hon?

Please consider the environment - do you really need to print this email?

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Please consider the environment - do you really need to print this email?

APPENDIX 18

No Service

11:31

14%



5



Phil Keeton

st seen today at 11:08



Fri 7 May

Phil. Won't make the count. Can't walk. What a hoot! Enjoy the morning. xP

07:00 ✓✓

Ouch! Do you need an emergency stay at home and recuperate delivery of anything?

07:02

I'm fine.

07:03 ✓✓

Thankyou

07:03 ✓✓

Won't be a hoot