



## **CENSURE NOTICE**

**Date of Decision:** 5 March 2021

**Subject Member:** Councillor R Webb (Bardney Parish Council)

**Effective until:** 28 days from the date of the notice was published.

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### **Background and Decision**

Having received a Code of Conduct Complaint on 5 February 2020

Following an initial assessment by the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Independent Person and given the issues raised within the complaint, an initial decision was made on 19 February that the matter should be referred for investigation.

On receiving the Independent Investigating Officer (IO)'s report, which had determined that a breach of the Code had likely occurred, the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Independent Person, on 21 October made a decision that local resolution would be the most appropriate course of action in this case.

The Local Resolution offered was as follows: -

- \* A final offer to both parties for an opportunity to partake in mediation, undertaken by someone impartial to West Lindsey District Council (WLDC), but including the requirement for Councillor Webb to apologise in writing for his behaviour on those occasions identified within the IO's report.
- \* Providing information to the Bardney Group Parish Council (BGPC) to:-
  - \* provide some clarity around how BGPC should conduct its business with WLDC
  - \* make clear what the reasonable expectations are of the District/County Councillor in relation to issues BGPC may have, to enable all parties to work together for the good of the parish
  - \* remind BGPC they should refrain from commenting on social media posts and follow their own agreed protocol for use of Social Media to publish factual information only, due to the impact this has on people's confidence in local democracy

The overriding sentiment of the Investigating Officer's report was that these matters related solely to inter-personal issues, and these were long standing and entrenched.

The IO had been fair in recognising that BGPC as a whole, as opposed to just the subject member, held the complainant to account for matters which were not his responsibility. Similarly the complainant, through the investigation, seemed to hold the subject member to account for the actions of the wider Parish Council.

The complainant had indicated their willingness to undertake the proposed local resolution, however the subject member has indicated he is unwilling to do so.

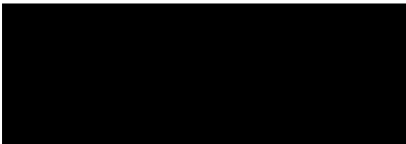
### **Sanction Imposed**

The Monitoring Officer remains of the view that a Hearing would bring no resolution to this matter and result in no change of behaviour.

The Monitoring Officer remains unwilling to invest Council resources and tax payer money into a Hearing for this reason.

The Monitoring Officer is unable to mandate a subject member to comply with a local resolution.

In recognition of the subject member's unwillingness to engage in the process, the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Independent Person, has made a decision to make public, by way of censure notice, the decision taken and the subject member's unwillingness to engage in the process a matter of public record for 28 days.



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Alan Robinson  
Monitoring Officer