

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL (A&LCC) HELD ON 11 JUNE 2018 at 6.15pm in the Council Chamber, Mitre Street, Abertillery

PRESENT: Councillors: Gill Clark (in the Chair), Nick Simmons and Trudy Williams

Officers: Richard Gwinnell, Clerk

Others: None

Absent: Councillor Keri Bidgood

9. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Keri Bidgood.

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No members declared any personal interests.

11. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Committee **RESOLVED** to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following item of business, by virtue of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, on the grounds that disclosure of the matters to be discussed would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of those matters.

12. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOI) REQUEST: REFUSAL NOTICE: INTERNAL REVIEW

The Clerk reminded members that:

- they were tasked with undertaking an internal review of the decision to refuse a person's Freedom of Information requests
- they had been chosen to conduct this review as they had no previous involvement in the refusal of those requests, and they were not on the Human Resources (HR) Committee
- they had met on 25 April and requested further information
- that information had been provided to them.

Committee members commented that:

- they had seen a catalogue of correspondence over a lengthy period
- there was substantial evidence on which to base a decision
- the person continued to raise the same issues over and over again
- the volume and times emails had been sent indicated a possible obsession
- the issues he raised were in the past; this was not in the public interest
- the issues appeared to be of interest to him but no one else
- there was no value in corresponding on those issues any further
- the Council had very limited staffing resources
- corresponding on these issues was a clear waste of those resources
- members had a duty of care to protect staff from harassment
- the person appeared to be harassing staff

- members had undertaken a thorough investigation
- none of them had discussed this matter with anyone outside the committee
- there was overwhelming evidence to justify the refusal to correspond further with the person or answer his FoI requests on the issues defined by the HR Committee.

The Committee **RESOLVED:**

- (1) that the refusal of the person's Freedom of Information requests and any further correspondence on the issues defined was reasonable and justified
- (2) that the decision to do so therefore be upheld
- (3) that the Chair write to the person, informing him of the outcome of this review.

The meeting ended at 6.40pm.

Signed as a correct record by the Chair

*NB these minutes are a summary of the proceedings and record of the decisions taken.
They are not intended to be a verbatim record.*

Minutes produced by Richard Gwinnell, Clerk