

PLEASE NOTE THIS DOCUMENT IS REDACTED AS IT REFERS TO MATTERS THAT ARE NOT RELEVANT TO THIS HEARING

From: Deborah Watson

Sent: 02 October 2020 18:08

To: Sarah Sternberg <Sarah.Sternberg@bolsover.gov.uk>; Victoria Dawson <Victoria.Dawson@bolsover.gov.uk>

Subject: Complaint re the Chair of Tibshelf Parish Council

Dear Sarah and Victoria,

Cllrs Ray Heffer, Cliff Whitehead, Mike Coupe, and myself would like to lodge a formal complaint regarding a serious breach of the Code of Conduct by the Chair of Tibshelf Parish Council, Mrs Allison Beckett.

[REDACTED], we believe that Cllr Beckett has breached the Code of conduct by acting dishonestly, with a lack of integrity, and a complete lack of respect for fellow Councillors, staff, and members of the public.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

At the September meeting of TPC, during a discussion around the Tibshelf Neighbourhood Plan, Cllr Beckett sought to strengthen her own argument by fabricating a statement which she claimed to be from the Headteacher of Tibshelf Infant School, Mrs Zoe Andrews. This lie was heard by a member of the public, Mr James Knight, who also happens to be a governor at the Infant School. Having instantly recognised Cllr Beckett's comments as wholly untruthful, Mr Knight contacted the Headteacher immediately after the meeting. Mrs Andrews was understandably incensed and the following morning challenged Cllr Beckett herself. Cllr Beckett then proceeded to compound her lies by claiming that she had said this in the midst of a heated debate. This was neither the case, nor would it have been excusable even had it been true!

Mrs Andrews was so angry over this besmirching of her professional character, that she then telephoned myself to let me know that Cllr Beckett had admitted to the lie

and, furthermore, had promised to voice a retraction at the following Council meeting. Mrs Andrews said she had contacted me as she wanted to be sure that other Cllrs were aware so she could be reassured that the retraction would indeed be aired and duly minuted at the October meeting.

We are fearful that such inappropriate mendacious behaviour could lead TPC into disrepute, and that it is wholly improper for the Chair of a Parish Council to conduct themselves in such a manner, when rather they should in fact provide leadership in accordance with the Code of Conduct, treat all others with respect, and be truthful at all times.

Many thanks for your attention to this matter,

Best regards,

Deborah

Cllr D S Watson