

## **Full Town Council Public Questions – Agenda Item 5**

I have the following questions for the entirety of Saltash Town Council:

1. Will the town council launch their own investigation into whether Cllr John Brady, Mayor of Saltash, purposefully misled the council regarding the referring of matters to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman?
2. If it is found that Cllr John Brady, Mayor of Saltash, did purposefully mislead the council and, therefore, lied to the council and public, will the members of Saltash Town Council request a vote of no confidence in the mayor?
3. Cllr John Brady has brought the council into disrepute and has damaged the relationship between the members of public and the council. This is with regards to the Remembrance Parade shambles. Will the council request a vote of no confidence in the mayor?

### **Contextual Information (Q1 & Q2):**

- On 16th August 2017, decision notice CCN002/17/18 was issued with regards to a breach of the code of conduct committed by Councillor John Brady. The decision notice gave the sanction that Cllr Brady must apologise in writing within 28 days. He did not apologise. He ignored this decision notice and refused to apologise.
- On 20th April 2017, decision notice CCN046/17 was issued with regards to a breach of the code of conduct committed by Councillor John Brady. The complaint was in relation to the first decision notice and that Councillor John Brady had not apologised. This refusal to follow the sanction of the first decision notice meant that Councillor Brady had, again, breached the code of conduct, specifically: 2.1 - You must treat others with respect; 2.10 - You must not do anything that could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or your authority into disrepute; 2.5 - You must not conduct yourself in a manner which is contrary to the Council's duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members.
- The recommended action from this decision notice was for the subject member (Councillor John Brady) to be censured by Saltash Town Council. After the arrival of this decision notice, I was made aware that Councillor John Brady had, within his rights, requested a review of the decision notice (CCN046/17). I had to wait for the conclusion of this appeal.
- On 29th May 2018, I received a letter with the response of this review. Within the letter, it was stated that the governance officer was upholding the decision and that the "sanctions imposed are adequate for the breaches found". The letter also gave me hope that this would be the end of the process as it was stated "I can advise that this is now the end of the process as there is no further right of appeal to the Council against this decision and therefore we now consider the matter closed". To me, the victim, I felt that at last this matter will be dealt with and that the perpetrator, who had made me feel

so small and so hurt, can now be sanctioned properly. Following this letter, I asked the council, at the time, whether this would be carried out.

- However, the response given was: “In response to your questions regarding Councillor Brady I can confirm that Councillor Brady has referred Decision Notice CCN046/17/18 to the Ombudsman.”
- Last month, on 14th September, after chasing this matter up, I heard from the town clerk that the monitoring officer and standards committee had not yet heard anything from the Ombudsman regarding this matter.
- I launched my own investigation with a Freedom of Information request of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman. I recently received the result of this that could neither confirm nor deny whether Cllr Brady had referred the matter to them. However, they informed me how to search for matters that had been referred to them and how that matter had been dealt with. On searching their site for any information regarding Cornwall Council, I could not find any mention - at all - of any matter sounding remotely like the matter that Cllr Brady had supposedly sent to the Ombudsman.

### **Contextual Information (Q3):**

- I refer you to:
  - [Facebook Post 1](#)
  - [Facebook Post 2](#)
  - [Facebook Post 3](#)
  - [Facebook Post 4](#)
  - [Facebook Post 5](#)
  - [Facebook Post 6](#)
  - [Facebook Post 7](#)
  - [Facebook Post 8](#)
  - [Facebook Post 9](#)
  - [News Article](#)
  - [Petition](#)

I look forward to having a response from the members of Saltash Town Council.

Many thanks,

Matt Coot

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### **Response to the above public question**

Dear Mr Coot,

Thank you for your letter and putting forward your questions.

I replied to your last letter to Council on a 1-1 basis, but on this occasion, I have decided to include all Councillors into my response for the purpose of clarity.

My response is as last time;

I am quite happy to meet with you to discuss the points you have raised and am more than happy to re-submit my request to the Ombudsman. I asked you to contact the Guildhall to name a date and time to meet and invited you to bring a 'friend'. This offer still stands.

I will re-submit my letter, which went in the form of an email and this will be done this week and sent by post. I will ask the Town Clerk to email you to confirm the letter has been posted.

The offer to meet still stands so please take this up.

As to the question about the Remembrance parade, I most certainly will not give you the satisfaction of an answer, as there are many questions to be answered and investigated.

In closing I take serious offence at the inference that I misled Council, and I ask that you send a fulsome letter of apology to me in the next 7 days.

Yours Sincerely

John Brady