

Report to Rugeley Town Council

Transparency



Introduction

As the new Town Clerk, I am very concerned about the ongoing and constant references to the incidence of fraud that happened 5-6 years ago and the regular comments made that are bordering on being libellous/slanderous.

Background

I can appreciate that this was a most unfortunate event and know it is a matter of great regret for everyone that was involved with the council at the time and everyone accepts that it shouldn't have happened. However, it did happen and the council now has to look for a way forward.

The matter was fully investigated by the police at the time and the perpetrator was tried, convicted and sentenced. The police investigation was all encompassing and they were satisfied that the person had acted alone and that no one else in the council was involved.

Following the incident the procedures at the Town Council faced a very stringent review and changes were implemented.

In my professional opinion, the division of duties, authorisation requirements and cross checking now in place are of an exceptionally high level and will ensure the financial integrity of the council's administration.

Action Taken

Since the last meeting I have sought advice from the police, other councils, the SPCA and SLCC about the way forward in this matter.

Possible Future Actions

PCSO Kevin Lee, who was the arresting officer has offered to come to a meeting at the Council Offices, to meet all councillors, to explain what happened at the time and answer any questions.

The only condition is, that it has to be a daytime meeting because of the hours he works currently in his voluntary role.

Source: Sue Buxton -Town Clerk