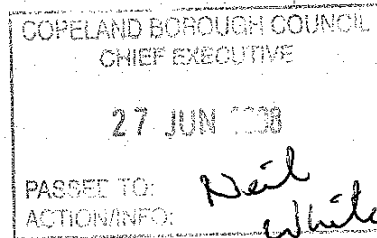


DAVID GRAY

8 Meadowfield
Gosforth
Seascale
CUMBRIA
CA20 1HX

25th June 2008

Liam Murphy
Chief Executive
Copeland Borough Council
Catherine Street
Whitehaven



Dear Liam,

I now understand that as a result of our recent meeting regarding Honorary Aldermen's privileges that the matter is now being put to a committee. Perhaps I can be so bold as to making some comments and suggestions. "Guidance" or "Code" sounds better than rules.

Firstly as I have not signed any form of declaration I do not expect to receive "grey" papers or the right to be present when "grey" papers are discussed. I do appreciate receiving full council papers but would hesitate at having any rights to speak at full council as getting through the business is problematic without extra speakers being involved. I did attend a working group meeting recently which had a guest speaker and was rather short of regular members and I felt my involvement did help to boost up the numbers of council people present. Recently your staff prepared a letter to the Post Office for me in my capacity as an Honorary Alderman objecting to their closures, I felt this was an appropriate service to be provided for me by the council. I have also been provided information on phone box closures and had a very small amount of photocopying done relating to a local issue.

I do not believe I should ever be present when such matters as personnel as being discussed or to have voting rights at any meeting. I do believe that it would be appropriate at committee meetings where the public are allowed to be present that Honorary Aldermen with the prior agreement with the Chairman of the meeting can participate, the level of participation being decreed by the chairman. I would wish to receive committee papers dealing with issues that I had a particular interest or involvement in. I would also hope that the level of administration that I have enjoyed to date will continue. Regarding access to officers I cannot see the need for this to be any different from an ordinary member of the public with the exception of the member support staff and yourself plus perhaps your heads of departments.

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These are my own views, not the views of any of the other Honorary Aldermen. I will make two final suggestions, one to find out the views of the other Honorary Aldermen and the other to review the outcome of any guidance prepared on this issue after it has run for twelve months.

Perhaps you can present the views I have expressed to the relevant committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Gray', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the right of the text 'Yours sincerely' and above the printed name 'David Gray'.

David Gray
Honorary Alderman

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