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**From:** Cllr Michael McVeigh <Michael.McVeigh@copeland.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 18 July 2020 11:47

**To:** Cllr Charles Maudling <Charles.Maudling@copeland.gov.uk>

**Cc:** Pat Graham <Pat.Graham@copeland.gov.uk>; Sarah Pemberton <Sarah.Pemberton@copeland.gov.uk>;  
Stephanie Shaw <Stephanie.Shaw@copeland.gov.uk>; Clinton Boyce <Clinton.Boyce@copeland.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Requisition/request for a special meeting

Dear Mr Chairman

The Mayor has taken an extraordinary step which betrays the spirit of democracy for residents in this borough.

In joining a political party, just a year after promising voters that he would keep politics out of local government, he has let undermined the democratic process and removed the mandate with which he had been entrusted by the people of Copeland.

That he has done so without coming before Council and explaining his actions is a further dereliction of his duty to the electorate.

Therefore, we are writing to you as chair of the council, raise the following requisition, in order to drag Mr Starkie into the council chamber, and to ask him, formally, to put people before politics.

Please note that we have surpassed the number of member signatures required (5).

This council notes that the Mayor of Copeland, having joined a political party, has betrayed the electorate who voted overwhelmingly for an independent mayor.

This council notes that the austerity cuts faced by people in Copeland have been disproportionately high, and have devastated services, We express solidarity with our colleagues at Cumbria County Council, and recognise that cuts to their budget impact on the lives of people in our borough. This council demands, therefore, that the Mayor uses his new found political allegiance, and direct line to the Prime Minister, to demand forthwith that the Government restores to 2015 levels the central government funding grant for both Copeland Borough and Cumbria County Councils. This must be done publicly, and by letter to local government minister.

Furthermore, this council demands that, in order to respect the fundamental principles of democracy, under which he was elected, the Mayor must resign his position and seek reelection via a by-election. This should be announced immediately, with the election carried out in May 2021. Holding the election at this time will minimise cost, because there are already County Council elections taking place, and should also ensure enough time has passed that the election can be held safely, from a Covid-19 perspective. The Mayor may continue in post on an interim basis until the election can be held.

Singed -- Cllr Mike McVeigh, Cllr Gwynneth Everett, Cllr John Kane, Cllr, Allan Forster, Cllr Sam Pollen.

I have spoken extensively to the Monitoring Officer and Chief Executive, who have explained this process at length — I'm sure they will be able to provide you with any guidance you require.

I look forward to your reply.

Kind regards

Mike McVeigh,  
Labour Group Leader.

*John Kane*  
*Mike McVeigh*  
*Gwynneth Everett*  
*Sam Pollen*  
*A Forster*

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