

CONFIDENTIAL

opinion that Fr Pearce had behaved in a highly inappropriate manner. This allegation related to the late 1980s and early 1990s.

(h) RC-A6

In January 2004 Abbot Martin Shipperlee was approached by RC-A6 RC-A6 another former Junior School pupil, who alleged that Fr Pearce had touched his penis while examining him after he had fainted in assembly. RC-A6 decided to contact the police himself. Another investigation was carried out including Fr Pearce's arrest and release on police bail. This investigation was ended in November 2004. This allegation related to the late 1980s and early 1990s. RC-A6 then proceeded to sue Fr Pearce and the Abbey. In the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4th July 2005 it was recorded that "The civil suit against us by RC-A6 was proceeding and was set to come to court next year. Solicitors had won anonymity so that our name would not be mentioned. It was still highly likely that our insurers would agree an out of court settlement". In March 2006 RC-A6 RC-A6 was awarded £40,000 damages. On 10th August 2009 Fr Pearce was convicted on two counts and received 6 months imprisonment concurrent to each other but consecutive to the other counts on 2nd October 2009

(i) RC-A419 and RC-A623

In an affidavit to High Court in 2006 Abbot Martin Shipperlee stated his knowledge of the complaints made by boys these boys was only second hand. He was told by the Westminster Diocese about the complaint made by the DPA and he knew of an investigation which had proceeded in 1992 relating to one RC-A595. He had no direct knowledge of either of these complaints.

The allegation was made orally to the Diocesan Child Protection Officer (Westminster) in summer 2004. The alleged incident occurred in late 1970s. It was alleged that Fr Pearce talked to RC-A624 about the facts of life in a manner that RC-A624 perceived to be inappropriate whilst visiting him and his family in their home. RC-A624 mother being the DPA who had been widowed and indicated to Fr David that she felt unable to have this conversation with her son. The matter was investigated with the Diocesan Child Protection Team although RC-A624 indicated that he did not want to press charges or have police involvement. Abbot Martin Shipperlee took no action.

Fr Pearce was referred for a risk assessment following allegations of inappropriate behaviour towards male children while he was a teacher and late headmaster of the school. All allegations are historical dating from the late 1970's to the late 1980s/90s. The risk assessment was conducted in April 2005.

Following this risk assessment Mr Peter Turner, Westminster wrote to Abbot MS recommending conditions that should apply to Fr Pearce. These were:

10/09/2011

7