

LOCAL INVESTIGATIONS AND DETERMINATIONS – APRIL 2022 TO MARCH 2023

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Standards Committee receives a summary of complaints and queries received in relation to Members' behaviour under the Code of Conduct.

2 SUMMARY

- 2.1 In 2018, the Committee resolved that a twice-yearly report be made to the Committee detailing all complaints and queries that had been received by the Monitoring Officer, including those that were progressed to formal investigation and those that had been reported but resolved informally or where advice had been given to the complainant.
- 2.2 A summary of the matters received formally and informally between April 2022 and March 2023 is appended.

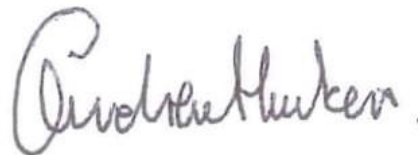
3 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out as no decision is being made.

4 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That the summary of complaints and determinations for the period April 2022 to March 2023 be received.



Andrew Hunkin

Interim Director of People and Governance (Monitoring Officer)

Background Papers:-

None.

For further information please contact Andrew Hunkin:-

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If you would like this report in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 318111.

No.	Complaint Reference	Date of Complaint	Complaint Against District/Parish Councillor	Relevant Section of the Code	Details	Outcome
1	SC0090	08.06.2022	Parish Councillor	3. General obligations (1) You must treat others with respect.	Complaint about the behaviour of Parish Councillor at a fund raising event.	Completed. Mediation offered and accepted.
2	SC0091	02.07.2022	District Councillor	4. Confidential Information You must not:- (a) disclose information given to you in confidence by anyone, or information acquired by you which you believe, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature, except where- (i) you have the consent of a person authorised to give it; (ii) you are required by law to do so; (iii) the disclosure is made to a third party for the purpose of	Complaint about Facebook comments posted.	Completed. No breach of Code.

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				<p>obtaining professional advice provided that the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person; or</p> <p>(iv) the disclosure is reasonable and in the public interest; and is made in good faith and in compliance with the reasonable requirements of the Authority</p>		
3	SC0092	23.09.2022	Parish Councillor and Clerk	<p>3. General obligations</p> <p>(1) You must treat others with respect.</p> <p>(3)(b) You must not bully any person</p> <p>(3)(e) You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could be reasonably regarded as bringing your Authority into</p>	Complaint about the Clerk and Cllr's behaviour at Parish Council meeting on 7 September 2022.	Clerk is outside Code's remit. Ongoing and seeking support from the National Association of Local Councils.

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				disrepute.		
4	SC0093	28.09.2022	Parish Councillor and Clerk	3. General obligations (1) You must treat others with respect. (3)(b) You must not bully any person (3)(e) You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could be reasonably regarded as bringing your Authority into disrepute.	Complaint about the Clerk and Cllr's behaviour at Parish Council meeting held on 7 September 2022.	Clerk is outside Code's remit. Ongoing and seeking support from the National Association of Local Councils.
5	SC0094	19.10.2022	District Councillor	3. General obligations (1) You must treat others with respect.	Complaint about Facebook comments posted.	Completed. No breach of Code.

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				<p>(3)(b) You must not bully any person</p> <p>(3)(e) You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could be reasonably regarded as bringing your Authority into disrepute.</p>		
6	SC0095	02.10.22	District Councillor	<p>3. General obligations</p> <p>(3)(b) You must not bully any person;</p> <p>(3)(c) You must not intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person who is or is likely to be a complainant; a witness; or involved in the administration of any investigation or proceedings, in relation to an allegation that a Member (including yourself) has</p>	Complaint about conduct; citing bullying and intimidation.	Completed. Complaint was not considered sufficiently serious to warrant Investigation and merits no further action.

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				failed to comply with the Authority's code of conduct		
7	SC0097	07.11.2022	Parish Council and Clerk	3. General obligations (1) You must treat others with respect. (3)(e) You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could be reasonably regarded as bringing your Authority into disrepute.	Complaint about the conduct and general attitude of Parish Council and the Clerk's behaviour at meeting held on 2 November 2022.	Completed. Clerk is outside Code's remit.
8	SC0096	24.11.22, but not acknowledged until 25.01.23	District Councillor	3. General obligations (1) You must treat others with respect. (3)(e) You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could	Complaint about District Councillor failing to uphold 6 of the principles of public life.	Ongoing

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				be reasonably regarded as bringing your Authority into disrepute.		
9	SC0084	22.09.22	Parish Councillor	3. General obligations (1) You must treat others with respect. (3)(b) You must not bully any person (3)(e) You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could be reasonably regarded as bringing your Authority into disrepute.	Complaint by a member of the public attending the parish council meeting	Ongoing and seeking support from the National Association of Local Councils.
10	SC0098	20.02.23	Parish Councillor and District Councillor	General obligations (1) You must treat others with respect. (3)(a) You must not do anything which may cause the Authority to breach any of the equality enactments	Improper use of personal information on social media	Ongoing. Complaint acknowledged.

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				<p>(3)(b) You must not bully any person;</p> <p>(3)(e) You must conduct yourself in a manner which could be reasonably regarded as bringing your Authority into disrepute.</p> <p>4. Confidential Information</p> <p>You must not:-</p> <p>(a) disclose information given to you in confidence by anyone, or information acquired by you which you believe, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature, except where-</p> <p>(i) you have the consent of a person authorised to give it;</p> <p>(ii) you are required by law to do so;</p> <p>(iii) the disclosure is made to a third party for the purpose of obtaining professional advice provided that the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person;</p> <p>or</p>		

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				(iv) the disclosure is reasonable and in the public interest; and is made in good faith and in compliance with the reasonable requirements of the Authority.		
11	SC0099	21.02.23	District Councillor	3. General obligations (1) You must treat others with respect.	Tone in emails sent to district councillors	Ongoing. Complaint acknowledged.
12	SC0100	22.02.23	Parish Councillor	3. General obligations (1) You must treat others with respect.	Remarks made regarding a district councillor	Completed. Apology given and accepted
13	SC0101	27.02.23	Parish Councillor	3. General obligations (3)(e) Conduct yourself in a manner which could be reasonably regarded as bringing your Authority into disrepute.	Social media use to accuse district councillor of improper action.	Ongoing. Complaint acknowledged and initial discussions held.