

Standards Committee



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL



Wednesday, 11 September 2024 at 2.00 pm
Council Chamber - South Kesteven House, St. Peter's Hill,
Grantham. NG31 6PZ

Committee Members: Councillor Pam Byrd (Chairman)
Councillor Sarah Trotter (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Rhys Baker, Councillor Ashley Baxter, Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing,
Councillor Richard Dixon-Warren, Councillor Ben Green, Councillor Chris Noon,
Councillor Max Sawyer, Councillor Peter Stephens and Councillor Mark Whittington

Agenda

This meeting can be watched as a live stream, or at a later date, [via the SKDC Public-I Channel](#)

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Disclosure of interests**
- 3. Minutes of the previous meeting** (Pages 3 - 7)
Minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2024.
- 4. Councillor Code of Conduct Complaints – Overview of Cases** (Pages 9 - 29)
To provide the Standards Committee with an overview of Councillor Code of Conduct complaints received and processed during the 2023/24 municipal year, as well as those received to date for the 2024/25 municipal year.
- 5. Training** (Verbal Report)
A verbal update on training from the Monitoring Officer
- 6. Any other business, which the Chairman, by reasons of special circumstances, decides is urgent**

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☎ 01476 406080

Karen Bradford, Chief Executive

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Meeting of the Standards Committee

Wednesday, 6 March 2024, 2.30 pm



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
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COUNCIL

Committee Members present

Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing (Chairman)
Councillor Sarah Trotter (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Ashley Baxter
Councillor Richard Dixon-Warren
Councillor Tim Harrison
Councillor Chris Noon
Councillor Max Sawyer
Councillor Mark Whittington

Officers

Gordon Grimes, Independent Person
Mr. Fred Mann, Independent Person
Graham Watts, Assistant Director (Governance and
Public Protection) and Monitoring Officer
James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager
(Deputy Monitoring Officer)
Debbie Mewes, Governance Support Team Leader

Other Members present

Councillor Anna Kelly

Independent Persons

Gordon Grimes
Fred Mann

8. Apologies for absence

In welcoming Members and officers to the meeting, the Chairman commented on the sad news of the passing of former Councillor Brenda Sumner. All present stood for a minute's silence.

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor Zoe Lane
Councillor Vanessa Smith
Councillor Lee Steptoe

Councillor Tim Harrison substituted for Councillor Vanessa Smith.

9. Disclosure of interests

There were none.

10. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

11. Councillor Code of Conduct Complaints - Overview of Cases

Members considered an overview of Councillor Code of Conduct complaints received and processed for the municipal year to date. They also considered the outcome of a formal investigation relating to a complaint against a District Councillor.

The Monitoring Officer introduced the report and reminded Members that the new procedure for Code of Conduct complaints, as agreed by Standards Committee in September 2023, was now being followed. Complaints were subjected to an initial two-stage assessment process; Stage 1 would assess whether the Councillor was acting in an official capacity and establish whether the Code of Conduct was engaged. Stage 2 assessed the complaint against set criteria as outlined in the procedure; the Monitoring Officer would consult with both Independent Persons before making a decision as to whether the complaint would proceed to a formal investigation.

Since 4 May 2023 16 complaints had been received against District Councillors. In addition, 22 further complaints had been received since Saturday 2 March 2024 – these 22 were open and active. Further information was given by the Monitoring Officer on the 16 complaints outlined at Table 1 in the report:

- 19 May - an alleged inappropriate scrutiny of a Register of Interest and a threat to go to the press. **No breach.**
- 5 June – social media posts on the subject of transgender issues. The subject Councillor was not acting in an official capacity and therefore the Code was not engaged.
- 16 June – 4 complaints against 4 District Councillors from a Lincolnshire County Councillor who felt they should have been consulted on an issue. **No breach.**
- 20 June – 2 complaints, a breach of the Code on the publication of exempt information at a Town Council. An apology was issued in both cases. **Breach of the Code**, but no further action necessary.
- 2 September – No response from a local Member to an email. **No breach.**
- 1 November – 2 complaints about attendance by Councillors at a pro-Palestinian rally. The subject Councillors were not acting in an official capacity. **No breach.**
- 23 November – Formal investigation and a **breach of the Code.**
- 1 December – Councillor being accused of not representing constituents and misleading on planning issues. **No breach.**
- 30 January – comments at Full Council. Still being assessed.

- 2 February – disrespectful comments on Facebook. **No breach.**
- 13 Feb – perceived conflict of interest based on member being appointed to Outside Body. That Councillor had received a large volume of correspondence and this dealt with as a vexatious complaint. **No breach.**

The following points were highlighted during debate on Table 1 of the report:

- The number of complaints received over the weekend of 2 March was unprecedented. The 22 complaints had been received from 4 Councillors and one member of the public. Any additional support for investigating Code of Conduct complaints should they proceed to formal investigation may be provided by Legal Services Lincolnshire (LSL) should the volume be unmanageable for the Monitoring Officer and his team given the volume – there would be a cost for these services, which would vary depending on the seniority of the legal advisor. Any complaints referred to LSL would be completed as expediently as possible.
- The complainants in Table 1 and Table 2 were a mixture of members of the public and Councillors; however the complaints were predominantly Councillors complaining about other Councillors.
- For future reports, the Monitoring Officer agreed to provide information on the different types of Councillors submitting and receiving complaints, for example whether they were District, County or Town/Parish Councillors.

The Monitoring Officer outlined further information on the complaints against Parish and Town Councillors at Table 2 of the report:

- 3 May – verbal and physical threats. **No breach.**
- 6 June – facility for community use was alleged to have been used improperly. **No breach.**
- 11 July – incorrect information was provided from the Parish Council. **No breach.**
- 7 August – an alleged failure to declare an interest. **No breach.**
- 10, 15, 19 November – respect from a Member at a Parish Council meeting. No breach in 3 of these as the Code was not engaged; the Member had withdrawn from the meeting as a Councillor on these occasions. However, they were part of the meeting and the Code was engaged within the complaint on 15 November. **That aspect of complaint was upheld.**
- 13 December – an inappropriate comment at a Town Council regarding an officer. The comment wasn't sufficient enough to be a breach. **No breach.**
- 3 January – inappropriate behaviour and comments on a personal matter. **No breach.**

Further information was highlighted during debate:

- The Monitoring Officer had limited jurisdiction with Town and Parish Councils and had no influence on their governance. Any issues at individual Parish or Town Councils could be addressed using Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils (LALC). LALC would also offer induction training for new and existing Parish Councillors.
- The Monitoring Officer would support the transition, working with existing staff of the Grantham Charter Trustees, over to the new authority of Grantham Parish Council, but could not give any advice on how they should operate once they were in operation.
- In the opinion of the Independent Persons, the volume of complaints received against District Councillors, prior to the 22 complaints received in the lead up to the meeting, was about average. Generally, the Town and Parish Councils would generate far more complaints than a District Council.
- The financial costs and time costs attached to each complaint were interlinked. The Council taxpayer would be concerned with any undue costs; however if there was a serious breach of the Code then there was no alternative but to formally investigate.
- Although Council Chambers were party to the 'rough and tumble' of political debate it was important to note that the mental health of each individual should be taken into account.

The Monitoring Officer presented the Standards Committee with a decision notice following a formal investigation undertaken in respect of a District Council who was found to have breached the Councillor Code of Conduct.

Members **AGREED** to note the report, and to also note the outcome of the formal investigation.

12. Code of Conduct Training Update

The Monitoring Officer reported that all 56 Members had now received their Code of Conduct training. There would be annual refresher training for the Code of Conduct.

An item was to be considered by Governance and Audit Committee on 13 March 2024 recommending that certain training sessions were made 'mandatory'.

Members confirmed that the ideal scenario would be a range of different options for the delivery of training, as well as the option to train in the evening as well as the daytime. If certain training sessions, such as PREVENT and safeguarding were to be made mandatory, it would bring the Council in line with areas such as the Police and schools.

13. Any other business, which the Chairman, by reasons of special circumstances, decides is urgent

There was no other business.

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**SOUTH
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COUNCIL**

Standards Committee

11 September 2024

Report of Graham Watts, Monitoring
Officer

Councillor Code of Conduct Complaints – Overview of Cases

Report Author

Graham Watts, Assistant Director (Governance and Public Protection) and Monitoring Officer

 Graham.watts@southkesteven.gov.uk

Purpose of Report

To provide the Standards Committee with an overview of Councillor Code of Conduct complaints received and processed during the 2023/24 municipal year, as well as those received to date for the 2024/25 municipal year.

Recommendations

That the report be noted.

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?

No

What are the relevant corporate priorities?

Effective Council

Which wards are impacted?

All

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 There are cost implications associated with those cases currently under investigation, as identified in Appendix A. Final costs will not be known until each investigation has reached their respective conclusion, which will be met out of the Council's corporate legal services budget.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 There are no significant legal or governance implications not already referred to in the body of this report.

Completed by: Graham Watts, Monitoring Officer

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1 The Monitoring Officer at South Kesteven District Council is responsible for considering complaints against Councillors where allegations of a breach of the Code of Conduct are made. This means that any complaints against any of the 56 District Councillors will be assessed and processed by the Monitoring Officer in accordance with the agreed procedure for dealing with complaints against Councillors. The Council's procedure is included as part of the Council's Constitution and can be viewed via the following link:
<https://moderngov.southkesteven.gov.uk/documents/s40111/Part%2053%20Procedure%20for%20dealing%20with%20complaints%20against%20Councillors.pdf>
- 2.2 As the designated Principal Authority for the District, the Monitoring Officer at South Kesteven District Council is also responsible for considering complaints against any Parish or Town Councillors where allegations of a breach of the Code of Conduct are made. These complaints are treated in the same way in accordance with the agreed procedure for dealing with complaints against Councillors.

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1 This report provides the Standards Committee with an update on the complaints submitted against District Councillors and Parish/Town Councillors for the 2023/24 municipal year. It also reports on those complaints received since 23 May 2024 (the date of the Council's Annual Meeting), which commenced the 2024/25 municipal year.

Complaints against District Councillors

- 3.2 For the 2023/24 municipal year, 63 individual complaints were received against District Councillors of South Kesteven District Council. Details relating to these complaints are set out in **Appendix A**.
- 3.3 Of the 63 complaints received during the period, six were confirmed as breaches of the Councillor Code of Conduct. Fifteen of these complaints are still to be concluded as they have been referred for formal investigation and are in the process of being investigated.
- 3.4 One Code of Conduct case has been reported for the 2024/25 municipal year, details of which are set out in **Appendix B**.

Complaints against Parish/Town Councillors

- 3.5 For the 2023/24 municipal year, 21 individual complaints were received against Parish and Town Councillors in the South Kesteven district. Details relating to these complaints are set out in **Appendix C**.
- 3.6 One Code of Conduct case has been reported for the 2024/25 municipal year, details of which are set out in **Appendix D**.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1 No other options are highlighted for consideration as the report is for noting only.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1 To provide the Standards Committee with an overview of information associated with complaints against District and Parish/Town Councillors where allegations of a breach of the Councillor Code of Conduct have been made.

6. Appendices

Appendix A – complaints against District Councillors 2023/24 municipal year

Appendix B – complaints against District Councillors 2024/25 municipal year

Appendix C – complaints against Parish and Town Councillors 2023/24 municipal year

Appendix D – complaints against Parish and Town Councillors 2024/25 municipal year

**Code of Conduct complaints received against District Councillors
2023/24 municipal year**

Number	Date received	Reason for complaint	Complainant	Outcome
1	19.05.2023	Respect Complaint alleging inappropriate scrutiny of register of interest and threat to go to the press	District Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
2	05.06.2023	Equality and diversity Complaint regarding social media posts relating to the transgender community. Not acting in official capacity	Member of the public	Stage One Assessment – Code not engaged (not in official capacity)
3	16.06.2023	Respect Complaint that County Council was not consulted on a local issue	County Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
4	16.06.2023	Respect Complaint that County Council was not consulted on a local issue	County Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
5	16.06.2023	Respect Complaint that County Council was not consulted on a local issue	County Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
6	16.06.2023	Respect Complaint that County Council was not consulted on a local issue	County Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action

7	20.06.2023	Publication of confidential or exempt information Disclosure of exempt information on social media	Monitoring Officer	Stage Two Assessment – breach of the Code Apology issued by Subject Councillor and social media post withdrawn
8	20.06.2023	Publication of confidential or exempt information Disclosure of exempt information at public meeting of third party organisation	Monitoring Officer	Stage Two Assessment – breach of the Code Apology issued by the Subject Councillor and statement made to recipients of information
9	02.09.2023	Integrity, openness and transparency Complaint of no response from local member	Member of the public	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
10	01.11.2023	Disrepute Complaint relating to attendance at a pro-Palestinian rally	Member of the public	Stage One Assessment – Code not engaged (not in official capacity)
11	01.11.2023	Disrepute Complaint relating to attendance at a pro-Palestinian rally	Member of the public	Stage One Assessment – Code not engaged (not in official capacity)
12	23.11.2023	Respect Complaint relating to disrespectful behaviour at public meeting of the Council and patterns of similar behaviour	District Councillor	Formal investigation – breach of the Code Censure notice on the Councillor's profile on the Council's website until May 2025

13	01.12.2023	Impartiality and objectivity Complaint accusing a Councillor of not representing their residents and misleading a Planning Officer	Parish Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
14	30.01.2024	Respect Complaint regarding disrespectful comments at a public meeting, political description of the administration/leadership and failure to report instances of intimidation	District Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
15	02.02.2024	Respect Complaint regarding disrespectful comments on social media post	District Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
16	13.02.2024	Conflict of interest Complaint regarding a conflict associated with membership of an outside body and acting in a different capacity to that of local ward member. Subject Councillor in receipt of correspondence displaying unnecessary and unsavoury language and tone	Member of public	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
17	30.01.2024	Respect and confidentiality Complaint regarding disrespectful comments at a meeting of the Council, allegations of false or misleading claims and an allegation of breaching confidentiality	District Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action

18	02.03.2024	Respect, bullying, harassment and disrepute Complaint regarding publication of social media post inappropriately targeting another Councillor and a pattern of online harassment	District Councillor	Formal investigation – ongoing
19	03.03.2024	Respect, bullying, harassment and disrepute Complaint regarding publication of social media post inappropriately targeting another Councillor and a pattern of online harassment	District Councillor	Formal investigation – ongoing
20	03.03.2024	Respect, bullying, harassment and disrepute Complaint regarding publication of social media post inappropriately targeting another Councillor and a pattern of online harassment	District Councillor	Formal investigation – ongoing
21	03.03.2024	Declaration of interest Complaint regarding alleged failure to declare an interest	District Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
22	03.03.2024	Respect Complaint regarding inappropriate and disrespectful comment on social media about another Councillor	District Councillor	Stage One Assessment – Code not engaged (not in official capacity)

23	03.03.2024	Disrepute and respect Complaint regarding use of inappropriate language at public meeting of the Council	District Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – breach of the Code Apology issued by the Councillor and attendance at refresher training
24	03.03.2024	Disrepute and respect Complaint regarding use of inappropriate language at public meeting of the Council	District Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – breach of the Code Apology issued by the Councillor and attendance at refresher training
25	03.03.2024	Respect Complaint regarding alleged inappropriate comments on social media about another Councillor	District Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
26	03.03.2024	Selflessness, objectivity and honesty Complaint alleging the falsification of information presented to a public meeting of the Council	District Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
27	03.03.2024	Respect Complaint regarding an inappropriate post on social media about another Councillor	District Councillor	Formal investigation – ongoing
28	03.03.2024	Selflessness, honesty and leadership Complaint regarding misleading comments on social media regarding another Councillor	District Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action

29	03.03.2024	Selfishness, objectivity, honesty and leadership Complaint regarding social media post and use of intimidating language	District Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
30	03.03.2024	Selflessness, objectivity, honesty and leadership Complaint regarding misleading comments on social media regarding another Councillor	District Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
31	03.03.2024	Respect Complaint regarding content of a social media post and potential targeting of another Councillor	District Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
32	03.03.2024	Selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership Complaint regarding content of a social media post and potential targeting of another Councillor	District Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
33	03.03.2024	Respect Complaint regarding the inappropriate 'liking' of a post on social media	District Councillor	Formal investigation – ongoing
34	04.03.2024	Honesty Complaint alleging the falsification of information presented to a public meeting of the Council	District Councillor	Stage One Assessment – no further action
35	04.03.2024	Disrepute and respect Complaint alleging the publication of an inappropriate post on social media	District Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action

36	04.03.2024	Respect Complaint alleging disrespectful posts and comments on social media against other Councillors	Member of public	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
37	04.03.2024	Selflessness, integrity, honesty and leadership Alleged intimidation and attempt to interfere with due process	District Councillor	Withdrawn prior to assessment
38	05.03.2024	Respect Complaint alleging inappropriate terms to describe political groups	District Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
39	05.03.2024	Respect Complaint regarding the 'liking' of a comment on social media	District Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
40	06.03.2024	Respect Complaint regarding the 'liking' of an inappropriate post on social media	District Councillor	Formal investigation – ongoing
41	06.03.2024	Respect Complaint regarding the 'liking' of an inappropriate post on social media	District Councillor	Formal investigation – ongoing
42	11.03.2024	Respect and confidentiality Sharing of confidential information relating to conversation with fellow Councillor on social media	District Councillor	Formal investigation – ongoing

43	11.03.2024	Respect Alleged deliberate slurring of a political group and Councillors at a public meeting	Member of the public	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
44	15.03.2024	Disrepute and respect Use of inappropriate language at public meeting of the Council	District Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – breach of the Code Apology issued by the Councillor and attendance at refresher training
45	15.03.2024	Disrepute Allegation of a Councillor acting dangerously and potentially unlawfully	District Councillor	Withdrawn prior to assessment
46	26.03.2024	Misuse of position Allegation of incorrect and misleading information relating to item considered at a meeting of the Parish Council	Parish Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – informal resolution (no further action)
47	03.04.2024	Respect Allegation of disrespectful personal attack on social media	Member of the public	Stage Two Assessment – informal resolution (no further action)
48	08.04.2024	Respect, bullying, harassment and disrepute Allegation of pattern of behaviour in use of social media to bully, harass and disrespect fellow Councillors as well as bring the Council into disrepute	District Councillor	Formal investigation – ongoing
49	01.05.2024	Bullying Allegation of a threat and bullying behaviour following a post on social media against a fellow Councillor	District Councillor	Formal investigation – ongoing

50	02.05.2024	Respect Allegation of disrespect shown to a fellow Councillor via a social media post	District Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
51	03.05.2024	Respect Allegation of disrespect shown to a fellow Councillor via a social media post	Member of the public	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
52	08.05.2024	Bullying, harassment and disrepute Allegation of bullying and harassment shown through the submission of a complaint and bringing their role and the Council into disrepute by comments made at a public meeting	District Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
53	08.05.2024	Respect Allegation of disrespect shown to a fellow Councillor via a social media post	District Councillor	Formal investigation – ongoing
54	08.05.2024	Respect Allegation of disrespect shown to a fellow Councillor via a social media post	District Councillor	Formal investigation – ongoing
55	08.05.2024	Respect Allegation of disrespect shown to a fellow Councillor via a social media post	District Councillor	Formal investigation – ongoing
56	08.05.2024	Respect Allegation of disrespect shown to a fellow Councillor via a social media post	District Councillor	Formal investigation – ongoing
57	08.05.2024	Respect and bullying Allegation of a threat and disrespect shown to a fellow Councillor via a social media post	District Councillor	Formal investigation – ongoing

58	13.05.2024	Confidentiality Allegation of a breach of confidentiality regarding Code of Conduct complaint	District Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
59	13.05.2024	Honesty Allegation of dishonesty on a social media post regarding a fellow Councillor	District Councillor	Withdrawn prior to assessment
60	17.05.2024	Impartiality and disrepute Allegation of providing false information to the press and publicly criticising Officers	District Councillor	Withdrawn prior to assessment
61	17.05.2024	Impartiality and disrepute Allegation of providing false information to the press and publicly criticising Officers	District Councillor	Withdrawn prior to assessment
62	17.05.2024	Impartiality and disrepute Allegation of providing false information to the press and publicly criticising Officers	District Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
63	17.05.2024	Impartiality and disrepute Allegation of providing false information to the press and publicly criticising Officers	District Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action

**Code of Conduct complaints received against District Councillors
2024/25 municipal year**

Number	Date received	Reason for complaint	Complainant	Outcome
1	26.06.2024	Registration and declaration of interest Failure to register or declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Monitoring Officer	Referral to Police - ongoing

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**Code of Conduct complaints received against Parish/Town Councillors
2023/24 municipal year**

Number	Date received	Reason for complaint	Complainant	Outcome
1	03.05.2023	Respect and bullying Alleged verbal and physical threats in public place	Parish Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
2	06.06.2023	Misuse of position Providing incorrect information to benefit use of a facility for community use	Parish Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
3	11.07.2023	Misuse of position Incorrect information provided to Parish Council meeting	Parish Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
4	07.08.2023	Misuse of position Failure to declare interest	Parish Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
5	10.11.2023	Respect Outburst at public meeting. Withdrew from the meeting and attended as member of the public as part of public forum. Not in official capacity	Member of the public	Stage One Assessment – Code not engaged (not in official capacity)
6	15.11.2023	Respect Outburst at public meeting. Withdrew from the meeting and attended as member of the public as part of public forum. Not in official capacity	Member of the public	Stage One Assessment – Code not engaged (not in official capacity)

7	15.11.2023	Respect Outburst at public meeting	Member of the public	Stage Two Assessment – breach of the Code Apology issued by the Subject Councillor
8	19.11.2023	Respect Outburst at public meeting. Withdrew from the meeting and attended as member of the public as part of public forum. Not in official capacity	Member of the public	Stage One Assessment – Code not engaged (not in official capacity)
9	13.12.2023	Disrepute, respect and misuse of position Inappropriate comment at a public meeting regarding an officer	Employee of the respective Council	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
10	03.01.2024	Respect Inappropriate behaviour and comments associated with personal matter	Member of the public	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
11	07.03.2024	Respect and bullying Allegations of intimidation and bullying at meeting of Parish Council	Parish Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
12	14.03.2024	Respect and bullying Allegation relating to conduct during a meeting of the Parish Council	Parish Councillor	Withdrawn before assessment – apology issued by Subject Councillor
13	18.03.2024	Respect Disrespectful comments in email correspondence to all Councillors	Parish Clerk	Stage One Assessment – Subject Councillor no longer in office

14	19.03.2024	Declaration and registration of interests Allegation that interests were not properly declared or registered	Member of the public	Stage One Assessment – Subject Councillor no longer in office
15	26.03.2024	Misuse of position Allegation of incorrect and misleading information relating to item considered at a meeting of the Parish Council	Parish Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
16	09.04.2024	Bullying Allegation of bullying in person and via email	Parish Clerk	Withdrawn before assessment
17	17.04.2024	Respect Allegation of disrespectful behaviour towards local District Ward Councillor and Chair of the Parish Council	Parish Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
18	23.04.2024	Respect, intimidation, openness and transparency and misuse of position Allegations of disrespectful and intimidating behaviour, refusing to share information and misusing his position in relation to a decision taken at a meeting of the Parish Council	Member of the public	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
19	06.05.2024	Declaration of interest Allegation of a failure to declare an interest at a meeting of a Parish Council	Parish Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action

20	13.05.2024	<p>Respect and Disrepute</p> <p>Allegations of a pattern of behaviour relating to disrespect consistently shown towards a fellow Parish Councillor and a failure to adhere to due process, bringing the authority into disrepute</p>	Parish Councillor	Stage Two Assessment – no further action
21	13.05.2024	<p>Respect and Disrepute</p> <p>Allegations of a pattern of behaviour relating to failure to adhere to due process</p>	Member of the public	Dismissed – substantially the same as previous complaint about the same matter where assessment has been undertaken

**Code of Conduct complaints received against Parish/Town Councillors
2024/25 municipal year**

Number	Date received	Reason for complaint	Complainant	Outcome
1	15.07.2024	Registration and declaration of interest Failure to register or declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Monitoring Officer	Referral to Police - ongoing

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