

Annex 2 Annual Report – Member Code of Conduct Complaints (Parish and Town Councils): April 2022 – March 2023

Complaints

- 1-2 (same subject), 3, 8-9 and 14-15 - all relate to Cllr A
- 4-5 – Cllr B
- 6 – Cllr C
- 7 – Cllr D
- 10 – Cllr E
- 11 – Cllrs F and G
- 12 – Cllr H
- 13 – Cllr I

The Parish Councils

The complaints below related, variously, to members from the following councils:

- Buckingham Town Council
- Hughenden Parish Council
- Lane End Parish Council
- Little Missenden Parish Council
- Stoke Hammond Parish Council
- Stoke Mandeville Parish Council

Complaints 3-14 completed within timeframes. Complaints 1-2, and their context, are referenced in the report. Shading = previously reported to Committee. Unshaded = not previously reported to Committee.

Complaint	Date of Complaint	Date Closed	Origin	Length/Stage Concluded	Allegation/Code Principle	Breach?
1.	27/06/21	02/03/23	Officer	Stage 3 – Hearing Sub-Committee	Respect and Bullying – through insistence on seeing documentation	Yes – respect and bullying

Complaint	Date of Complaint	Date Closed	Origin	Length/Stage Concluded	Allegation/Code Principle	Breach?
				13 months, (complaint process begun 03/02/22)		
2.	24/07/21	02/03/23	Fellow councillor	Stage 3 – Hearing Sub-Committee 13 months (complaint process begun 03/02/22)	Respect and Bullying – as in 1. And also in posting blog posts critical of the employee	Yes – respect No - bullying
3.	28/02/22	02/03/23	Officer	Stage 3 – Hearing Sub-Committee 12 months	Respect, Bullying and Harassment – insistence that would only meet employee if witnessed or recorded	Yes – respect and bullying No - harassment
4.	20/06/22	23/08/22	Public	Stage 1 2 months	Respect - disrespect and bullying by making untrue allegation about fellow councillor in a meeting	No finding needed – apology given as informal resolution
5.	06/07/22	23/08/22	Public	Stage 1 1.5 months	Respect - disrespect by making untrue allegation about fellow councillors in a meeting	No finding needed – apology given as informal resolution

Complaint	Date of Complaint	Date Closed	Origin	Length/Stage Concluded	Allegation/Code Principle	Breach?
6.	13/07/22	19/08/22	Public	Initial Assessment 1 month (1 week outside target – needed to research context)	Respect - disrespect in aggressively challenging persons who queried the councillor's attendance and actions	No evidence of undue challenge sufficient to engage the Code; reminded to accept scrutiny.
7.	01/08/22	10/08/22	Public	Initial Assessment 7 days (within target)	Respect - disrespect in seeming to criticise a shouted comment from the public gallery	No evidence of disrespect; free speech; no case to answer.
8.	30/08/22	15/09/22	Public (recent former colleague councillor)	Initial Assessment 2 weeks (within target)	Disclosed confidential information – correspondence between councillors	No evidence of confidentiality; no case to answer.
9.	30/08/22	15/09/22	Public (as in 4. above)	Initial Assessment 11 days (within target)	Respect - disrespect in communications – implied threat ('angering the subject councillor was unwise').	No evidence of disrespect sufficient to engage Code; robust speech; no case to answer.
10.	31/08/22	21/09/22	Fellow councillor	Initial Assessment 15 days (within target)	Respect – disrespecting a disability; failure to declare interest about involvement	No evidence of disrespect; no declarable interest existed;

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					with community groups.	no case to answer
11.	31/08/22	21/09/22	Fellow councillor	Initial Assessment 15 days	Failure to declare interest about involvement with community groups	No declarable interest existed; no case to answer.
12.	20/09/22	21/10/22	Fellow councillor	Stage 1 1 month	Respect - disrespect through allegation of making untrue statement	Apology given. No public interest in further stages.
13.	09/01/23	06/03/23	Buckinghamshire Councillor	Stage 1 8 weeks	Bullying – threatening behaviour: swearing and physical intimidation	No. No witness to corroborate varying accounts.
14.	10/02/23	ONGOING	Anonymous	Stage 2 Currently within timeframes	Respect, disrepute, misuse of information - published personal data online via a blog about a complainant	Stage 2 ongoing to determine if Stage 3 investigation should occur (potentially reporting to a Hearing Sub-Committee)
15.	22/03/23	03/04/23	Anonymous	Initial Assessment 7 days	Respect – mishandling employment matter	No. No evidence of irregularity