

Summary of Member Code of Conduct Complaints Received in 2016/17

Date received	Complainant type (Public, Councillor or Organisation)	Subject Member Type – DMBC Councillor or Parish Councillor	Details of Allegation(s)	Outcome
12/04/16	Member of Public (x2)	DMBC Councillor	Failure by the Member to declare an interest as a member of the board of school governors in dealing with a ward matter (parking issues in vicinity of Primary School).	Finding was no breach of the Code (no further action).
15/04/16 DC1-16	Member of Public	DMBC Councillor	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Member called in 3 planning applications which had been referred to Planning Committee. 2. That the Member 'stirred up' public interest in the applications and was behind anonymous leaflets distributed around the village. 3. That the Member failed to declare an interest in the applications and withdraw from the Planning Committee meetings in question. 	<p>Informal investigation carried out – finding was no breach of the Code (no further action).</p> <p>Investigation findings included a suggestion that the Member be given advice re. declaring interests at Planning Committee in future.</p>
01/07/16	Organisation (Academy)	DMBC Councillor	The Academy was concerned that frequent tweets by the Subject Member complaining about bushes outside the school not being trimmed would bring the Academy and Trust into disrepute.	Finding was no breach of the Code of Conduct (no further action).

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25/08/16	Organisation (Neighbourhood Watch Group/ Action Group)	DMBC Councillor (x5)	Lack of engagement and support from the Ward Councillors with regard to the Groups' objections to a local planning application.	<p>Complaint dismissed. Not within jurisdiction – did not relate to an alleged breach of the Code (no further action).</p> <p>In response to further representations from the complainant, the MO offered to bring the matter to the attention of the 5 sitting ward members, by forwarding to them the original correspondence from the complainant.</p>
03/10/16 DC2-16	Member of Public	DMBC Councillor (x2)	That the Subject Members were prejudiced and not objective in considering a planning application at a Planning Committee meeting.	Finding was no breach of the Code on both counts (no further action).
04/11/16 DC3-16	Member of Public	DMBC Councillor	That the Subject Member was intimidating and rude towards the complainant in his dealings with her regarding the hiring of a local venue.	Complaint dismissed. Not within jurisdiction - private capacity (no further action)
10/01/17 DC1-17	Member of Public	DMBC Councillor (x3)	That the Subject Members failed to include on their Registers of Interests their seats as Directors/Trustees on an outside body.	Finding was no breach of the Code of Conduct (no further action).

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24/01/17 DC2-17	Member of Public	DMBC Councillor	That the Subject Member failed to declare an interest at meetings when the Local Development Framework Sites and Policies Development Plan was under discussion.	Finding was no breach of the Code of Conduct (no further action).
24/1/17 DC3-17	Member of Public	DMBC Councillor (x2)	That the Ward Councillors failed to report an incident of fly tipping and an abandoned vehicle, which amounted to 'dereliction of duty'.	Complaint dismissed. Not within jurisdiction – did not relate to an alleged breach of the Code (no further action).
15/6/16 PC1-16	Member of Public	Parish Councillor	<p>That the Subject Member called the complainant 'a liar' at a Parish Council meeting held in May 2016.</p> <p>Also, that on or around 20 April 2016 the Member disclosed confidential papers from their Parish Council to a third party (member of the public).</p>	The Member admitted the allegations made by the complainant. The MO therefore referred the matter to the Parish Council, recommending that the Parish Council should deal with the complaint alongside previous complaints against the same Member that it was already considering, in terms of any sanctions to be applied.
01/08/16 PC2-16	Parish Councillor	Parish Councillor	That the Subject Member failed to declare an interest at a Parish Council meeting due to the Member being a close friend of an individual whose business affairs were being discussed at that meeting.	Finding was no breach of the Code of Conduct (no further action).

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04/0816	Member of Public	Parish Councillor (x2)	The complaint centred on the way the Parish Council had considered and dealt with a complaint to them from the complainant about the opening of some correspondence.	Complaint dismissed. Not within jurisdiction – did not relate to an alleged breach of the Code (no further action).
12/10/16 PC3-16	Parish Councillor	Parish Councillor	That, whilst Chairing a Trustees meeting, the Subject Member failed to treat others with respect by raising his voice and pointing his finger, and effectively calling a member of the public a liar.	Finding was no breach of the Code of Conduct (no further action).
1/3/17 PC1-17	Member of Public	Parish Councillor (x3)	That the Subject Members were rude and intimidating towards members of the public and other Councillors at a Parish Council meeting held in February 2017.	<p>Complaint dismissed – allegations did not constitute breaches of the Member Code of Conduct.</p> <p>Complainant was advised, however, that, in light of the on-going frequency and number of complaints being received in connection with this Parish Council, the MO and Independent Person intend to attend a further meeting of the Parish Council in question to remind all Councillors of their duties and responsibilities as elected members and signatories of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct.</p>

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1/3/17 PC2-17	Parish Councillor	Parish Councillor (x3)	That the Councillors failed to declare interests in an item of business relating to the approval of Parish Council expenditure towards a specific project.	Finding was no breach of the Code of Conduct (no further action).
2/3/17 PC4-17	Member of Public	Parish Councillor (x3)	That the Subject Members were rude and intimidating towards members of the public and other Councillors at a Parish Council meeting held in February 2017.	<p>Complaint dismissed – allegations did not constitute breaches of the Member Code of Conduct.</p> <p>Complainant was advised, however, that, in light of the on-going frequency and number of complaints being received in connection with this Parish Council, the MO and Independent Person intend to attend a further meeting of the Parish Council in question to remind all Councillors of their duties and responsibilities as elected members and signatories of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct.</p>

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3/3/17 PC3-17	Parish Councillor (x8)	Parish Councillor	That the Subject Member failed to comply with various Standing Orders adopted by the Parish Council while chairing a Council meeting held in February 2017.	<p>Complaint dismissed – allegations did not constitute breaches of the Member Code of Conduct.</p> <p>Complainants were advised, however, that, in light of the on-going frequency and number of complaints being received in connection with this Parish Council, the MO and Independent Person intend to attend a further meeting of the Parish Council in question to remind all Councillors of their duties and responsibilities as elected members and signatories of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct.</p>
5/3/17 PC5-17	Member of Public	Parish Councillor	That the Subject Member used inappropriate language and behaviour towards the complainant during a public meeting.	<p>Complaint dismissed – allegations did not constitute breaches of the Member Code of Conduct.</p> <p>Complainant was advised, however, that, in light of the on-going frequency and number of complaints being received in connection with this Parish Council, the MO and Independent Person intend to attend a further meeting of the Parish Council in question to remind all Councillors of their duties and responsibilities as elected members and signatories of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct.</p>

