

Warwick District Council Register of Code of Conduct Complaints

Register of complaints made to the Monitoring Officer of Warwick District about Warwick District Councillors and Town/Parish Councillors of Town/Parish Council's within Warwick District between May 2015 and May 2019.

Ref	1/2015-2019	Date received	14/10/2015
Complainant	Member of the public	Council	Warwick Town Council & Warwick District Council
Complaint	<p>(1) Comments were made by a Councillor that failed to treat people with respect</p> <p>(2) Comments were made by two Councillors on a planning application at Warwick Town Council when they were on the District Council's Executive and should not have done this</p> <p>(3) When considering a planning applications a number of the Councillors failed to declare that they had received hospitality from the applicant</p>		
Outcome	<p>The complaint was considered by the Monitoring Officer and after consideration of the matter with an Independent Person (RT) appointed the Council, concluded that no further action should be taken.</p> <p>This was with the exception that all Warwick District Councillors along with their Parish and Town Council colleagues will be reminded of the need to keep their declarations of interest up to date.</p> <p>With regard to (1) the Councillor in question had apologised for the comment made on the evening it was made.</p>		
Date Closed	18/11/2015		

Ref	2/2015-2019	Date received	28/2/2016
Complainant	Member of the public	Council	Warwick District Council
Complaint	A member of Warwick District Council failed to show respect to a member of the public and acted unlawfully at Council meeting when trying to prevent them from recording the meeting.		
Outcome	<p>The complaint was considered by the Monitoring Officer and discussed it with an Independent Person (BM) appointed by the Council. It was decided that it did not merit formal investigation. Therefore no further action will be taken other than apprising the Councillor of the law when it comes to recording Council meetings. The reasons for the decision are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The right to record the meeting was dealt with very quickly ensuring that there was no interference with the rights of the complainant i.e. the complainant did not suffer a detriment. • The alleged verbal exchange between the complainant and the Councillor may well be contested and there appear to be no independent witnesses. Even if independent witnesses could be found, it was not considered that the alleged breach to be proportionate to the officer resource involved in trying to establish what was said, and in what tone and manner. <p>Even if it was established there was a breach, precedent shows that at the most a Hearings Panel would require a written apology and it was not considered that this outcome would be proportionate to the cost of running an investigation and hearing given the content of the alleged breach.</p>		
Date Closed	3/3/2016		

Ref	3/2015-2019	Date received	1/3/2016
Complainant	Member of the public	Council	Weston-Under-Wetherley
Complaint	That a Councillor is failing to treat a member of the public with respect and intimidating or attempting to intimidate or bully a member of the public by posting publishing untrue criticism statements and defamatory statements.		
Outcome	<p>The Monitoring Officer considered the complaint and discussed it with an Independent Person (RT) appointed by the Council. The Monitoring Officer decided that it did not merit formal investigation and therefore no further action will be taken.</p> <p>The reason for the decision is as that even if it was accepted that the Councillor was the publisher of the website items (which would require an investigation in itself):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The article complained of reported faithfully the statement made at a public meeting by the Chairman of the Parish Council and therefore the 'lack of respect' (if there was any) stems from the original statement rather than the publication; and o Neither in the statement at the Council meeting, nor in the web publication were you named and the content does not in itself threaten any action. 		
Date Closed	29/3/2016		

Ref	4/2015-2019	Date received	15/5/2017
Complainant	Members of the public	Council	Warwick District Council and Weston-Under-Wetherley
Complaint	The Councillor had posted offensive tweets during the Eurovision song contest on 13 May 2017		
Outcome	The complaint was closed following the Councillors resignation on 17/5/2017.		
Date Closed	17/5/2017		

Ref	5/2015-2019	Date received	10 January 2019
Complainant	A Warwick District Councillor	Council	Warwick District Council
Complaint	The Councillor had a letter published in a local newspaper in which it was alleged that inappropriate and disrespectful language was directed towards Gypsy & Travellers.		
Outcome	Following a meeting between the Councillors, their respective Group Leaders, the Monitoring Officer and Independent Person (BM) the Monitoring Officer decided that no further action should be taken. This was because the Councillor complained about recognised the wording in their letter should have been clearer.		
Date Closed	5/2/2019		

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