

Warwick District Council – Register of 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

Once a complaint has been concluded the details of the complainant and Councillor will be listed. This list will be maintained in accordance with the complaints procedures adopted by this Council.

Ref	Date received	Complaint	Outcome & Date closed
1/2012 (Formerly LSF.19.2012)	6 January 2012	A complaint was received from Council Officer, Mrs A Wyatt, that Warwick District Councillor, Councillor Bertie MacKay, had made comments, which appear to have been bullying and showing lack of respect to an officer and compromised her impartiality as an officer of the Council.	The matter was investigated and Councillor MacKay has apologised to the complainant and the Council for his actions which had compromised the impartiality of Mrs Wyatt in her role as Benefits and Fraud Manager for the Council. The case was closed on 6 March 2013. The cost of the investigation for this case was £5775.30
2/2012 (Formerly LSF.22.2012)	11 May 2012	A complaint was received from Mr Lewis, a member of the public, of Haseley Knob regarding the conduct of Warwick District Councillor, Mrs Gallagher in relationship to a certificate of lawfulness.	Following an investigation the complaint was withdrawn by the complainant, Mr Lewis of Haseley Knob. Because the complaint was withdrawn this means there was no complaint to consider and the case was closed on 29 June 2013. The full cost of the case was approximately £10,000.00.

3/2012 (Formerly LSF.24.2012)	25 April 2012	A complaint from a Parish Council, was received regarding the conduct of a Rowington Parish Councillor, in relationship to communications with residents and conduct at meetings.	<p>Following an investigation Councillor Mrs Weir accepted the investigating Officers report and has apologised to the Parish Council for the comments made in a letter to local residents.</p> <p>The cost of the investigation was £3873.20</p>
4/2012	18 October 2012	A complaint was received from the Chief Executive of the District Council regarding a potential breach of the Council's ICT policy by a Warwick District Councillor.	Following an independent investigation of the complaint it was found that no breach of the code had occurred. The case was closed on 31 January 2013.
5/2012	8 October 2012	A complaint, from a member of the public, has been received regarding the conduct of two District Councillors at a Community Forum.	<p>The complaint into the conduct of the Councillor Mrs Bromley was considered at Hearing on 15 November 2013. It was found that a breach of the Code of Conduct had occurred and sanctions were issued. The full decision notice can be found Hearing Panel 15 November 2013</p> <p>Following consultation with the Independent Person the Deputy Chief Executive has determined that complaint about the other Councillor should close, because no breach of the Code of Conduct was found by the Investigating Officer.</p> <p>The final invoice for this investigation along with 5a/2012 £2246.18.</p>

			<p>This matter was also considered by the Standards Committee on 30 January 2014 because Councillor Mrs Bromley had failed to apologise in line with the original decision notice. Details of that meeting can be found at the link below:</p> <p>Standards Committee 30 January 2014</p>
5a/2012	November 2012	<p>A complaint has been received from the Chief Executive of Warwick District Council about the Conduct of Warwick District Councillor regarding (a) the failure to acknowledged receipt and understanding of the new code of conduct and (b) failure to adhere to the Member officer protocol and therefore breaching the new code of conduct.</p>	<p>The complaint into the conduct of the Councillor Mrs Bromley was considered at Hearing on 15 November 2013. It was found that a breach of the Code of Conduct had occurred and sanctions were issued. The full decision notice can be found</p> <p>Hearing Panel 15 November 2013</p> <p>The final cost of this investigation along with was 5/2012 £2246.18.</p> <p>This matter was also considered by the Standards Committee on 30 January 2014 because Councillor Mrs Bromley had failed to apologise in line with the original decision notice. Details of that meeting can be found at the link below:</p> <p>Standards Committee 30 January 2014</p>

6/2012	24 October 2012 and 1 November 2012	Two complaints, from members of the public, have been received regarding the conduct of a Weston Under Wetherley Parish Councillor regarding their conduct in relationship to a matter considered by the Parish Council.	<p>The matter was closed on 16 January 2013 because at the time of the incident the Council had not adopted a Code of Conduct.</p> <p>The cost of this investigation was £533.60</p>
7/2013	25 January 2013	A complaint, from a member of the public, was received, regarding the conduct of Warwick District Councillor during a Planning Committee meeting.	<p>The matter was considered and closed by the Deputy Monitoring Officer on 20 February 2013 who found that no action should be taken.</p> <p>The complainant asked the Local Government Ombudsman to consider the complaint. The Local Government Ombudsman determined that the Councillor's actions have not caused significant injustice the Ombudsman has decided not to investigate.</p>
8/2013	8 March 2013, 13 March 2013 and 20 March 2013	Three complaints, from two members of the public and a parish council, have been received regarding the Conduct of a Warwick District Councillor at a Warwick District Council Planning Committee meeting.	<p>The matter was considered and closed by the Deputy Monitoring Officer on 23 May 2013 who found that no action should be taken.</p> <p>A complainant asked the Local Government Ombudsman to consider the complaint. The Local Government Ombudsman determined that the Ombudsman will not investigate this complaint about the Council's refusal to investigate a complaint about the actions of a councillor. I do not consider the injustice suffered by the complainant is sufficient to warrant the</p>

			public expense of an investigation by the Ombudsman.
9/2013	10, 11 and 12 March 2013	<p>Three Complaints, one from the Clerk of the Council, one from a Councillor and one from a member of the Public, have been considered regarding the conduct of Councillor Mrs Lesley Mobbs of Weston Under Wetherley Parish Council.</p> <p>Two complaints, one from the Clerk to the Council and one from a Councillor regarding the conduct of Councillor Coles.</p>	<p>The complaints and investigating officers report were considered at Hearing Panels on 28 April 2014</p> <p>The Panels found the Councillors to be in breach of the Code of Conduct for the Parish Council and copies of the full decisions can be found at the links below:</p> <p>Councillor Coles decision</p> <p>Councillor Mobbs decision .</p> <p>The case was closed on 22 May 2014 following the decision of the Parish Council to adopt the recommendations of the Hearing Panel.</p>
10/2013	10 and 15 May 2013	Two complaints, from Councillors, have been made regarding the comments made by Councillor Taylor of Burton Green Parish Council.	Councillor Taylor has recognised the misjudgement in his views and has apologised in writing to the Councillors, the Clerk to the Council and apologised to the Council at their meeting in September 2013. Councillor Taylor also agreed to attend training on the Code of Conduct.
11/2013	12 July 2013	A complaint, from the Chief Executive, has been received regarding the views expressed "what have you got to be scared of Andrew" and "how much did they pay you" by Warwick District Councillor Bob Dhillon at a public meeting.	The Council considered the complaint and found Councillor Dhillon had breached the Code of Conduct in several ways.

			<p>The Council; censured Councillor Dhillon by Motion; have required him to apologise to Council on 26 September; and instructed that he should undertake further training and pay half the cost of this.</p> <p>In addition the Council endorsed its support and confidence in the integrity of the Monitoring Officer.</p> <p>The cost of the legal advice on this matter was £1,166.25.</p> <p>The case was closed on 23 October 2013.</p>
12/2013	9 August 2013	A complaint has been received, from the Chief Executive, that a Warwick District Councillor, Councillor Dhillon had claimed expenses, over a five year period, that he was not entitled to, totalling £249.07 and had received an expenses payment of £45.00 in error.	<p>Councillor Dhillon has repaid the money to the Council and following an explanation and apology from Councillor Dhillon the complaint was withdrawn.</p> <p>The case was closed on 21 October 2013</p>
13/2013	23 August 2013	A complaint was received from a member of the public regarding comments made by Councillors at Warwick District Council meeting.	<p>The three Councillors have written to the complainant about their actions recognising their behaviour was not appropriate.</p> <p>The case was closed on 10 December 2013.</p>
14/2013	12 August 2013	A complaint has been received from a Councillor about the conduct of Warwick District Councillor in relationship towards their actions towards a fellow Councillor.	The Deputy Monitoring Officer has closed this case, on 10 December 2013, because the complainant did not provide the detail of the complaint that he had requested.

15/2013	30 August 2013	A complaint has been received, from an officer, regarding allegations made by a Warwick District Councillor in a witness statement to a Code of Conduct complaint.	<p>The matter has been closed at the request of the complainant because they did not feel that the Councillor would recognise the impact of their comments even if a breach of the Code was found following an investigation.</p> <p>The case was closed on 10 December 2013</p>
16/2013	5 November 2013	A complaint has been received, from a Councillor, about the language used by a Whitnash Town Councillor in a series of emails.	The case was closed in April 2014. This followed requests for the Councillor to apologise which were not agreed to. However the individual ceased to be a Council in April 2014 and therefore no further action could be taken.
17/2014	5 February 2014	A complaint has been received, from a member of the public, about the conduct of four Bishop's Tachbrook Parish Councillors.	<p>It was determined by the Deputy Monitoring, following consultation with the Independent Person:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That in relation to one Councillor there was no breach of the Code of Conduct. • The complaint about Councillor Leeke he had failed to declare a personal interest at a meeting and he was reminded of his obligations to do this at future meetings; • The complaint about Councillor Mrs Gabbitas found she had failed to declare a Personal and Prejudicial interest, and leave the room, when the Council determined funding for the St Chads Centre of which she is a member of the Trust Board. <p>Councillor Gabbitas was reminded of</p>

			<p>her obligations under the Code of Conduct and required to apologise to the Parish Council in writing;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Complaint about Councillor Loveday and the need to declare an interest when determining matters regarding the St Chads centre was a finely balanced decision. On balance he needed to declare a personal and prejudicial interest and leave the room, but it was understood why he had taken the view of requiring a personal interest. Therefore Councillor Loveday was reminded of his obligations under the Code of Conduct. <p>The case was closed on 30 April 2014.</p>
18/2014	March 2014	Three complaints have been received from a Councillor about the conduct of three of their fellow Whitnash Town Councillors	The Deputy Monitoring Officer has written to the Councillors involved advising them of future conduct and the Town Clerk relating to minor governance matters. The case has been closed.
19/2014	August 2014	A complaint has been received, from a member of the public into the conduct of a Rowington Parish Councillor regarding Planning Applications.	The Deputy Monitoring Officer, after consultation with the Independent Person, has determined that no further action should be taken.
20/2014	June 2014	A complaint has been received, from a member of the public, regarding the involvement of a member in St Mary's Lands Warwick.	The Deputy Monitoring Officer, after consultation with the Independent Person, has determined that no further action should be taken.

24 October 2014