

FACT FINDING SUMMARY

Complaint from a councillor of Quorn Parish Council that another Member of Quorn Parish Council failed to observe the Member Code of Conduct

Complaint Ref: MC5 23/24

A complaint ('the complainant') was submitted by a Quorn Parish Councillor that another Member of Quorn Parish Council ('the subject Member') failed to observe the requirements of the Member Code of Conduct.

The complaint alleged that the subject Member had breached the code of conduct in a written statement of support for the Parish Manager. The statement related to a matter concerning a code of conduct matter also relating to Quorn Parish Council investigated in June 2023.

In their response the subject member stated that the statement was an incident report that had been supplied in 'strict confidence' as part of a separate investigation about the conduct of another Quorn Parish Councillor. That investigation had established no breach of Quorn Parish Council's Member Code of Conduct had taken place and the subject member stated they were unclear why some six months later that this confidential incident report had been submitted as that matter had been closed off. The subject member conceded that the language used in the confidential incident report was 'intemperate' but arose from sheer frustration at the behaviour displayed at the first meeting of the new Council which was the subject matter of the June 2023 investigation. Further stating that there continued to be underlying disagreements between individuals on the Parish Council that were affecting the health and wellbeing of others.

Having considered the complaint and the subject Members' response, the Deputy Monitoring Officer was of the view that further investigation would not be in the public interest or the best use of resources. The incident report related to a separate investigation from six months ago, and the complaint had highlighted wider cultural and relationship issues within the Parish Council. It may be helpful to engage an independent mediator who is experienced in group community resolution or for the Parish Council to draw up an action plan to move matters forward. Therefore, in conclusion the Deputy Monitoring Officer concluded that the complaint warranted no further investigation.

View of the Independent Person

An Independent Person, Mr Michael Gibson, was consulted and he agreed with the Deputy Monitoring Officer's view that this complaint should not be investigated further.

Karen Widdowson

Deputy Monitoring Officer

20th December 2023