

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: MC4 23/24

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

Complaint A alleged that the subject Member had stated that he was in possession of a complaint against the complainant and a parish council employee ('complaint B'), but when advised of the process for dealing with complaint B set out in the parish council's Complaints Procedure, the subject Member failed to follow that advice and also failed to inform both parties about the nature of the concerns raised against them within complaint B.

The complainant stated that they believed the subject Member's actions in relation to complaint B were in contravention of the Nolan Principles of Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty and Leadership.

In his response to complaint A the subject Member stated that there was a conflict between the terms of reference of the HR committee, which stated that it was responsible for complaints, and the complaints procedure, and he had therefore been seeking to arrange for a meeting of the HR Committee to consider what to do about the complaint.

He stated that he could not therefore see how he had breached the Code of Conduct.

Having considered complaint A and the subject Member's response, the Monitoring Officer was of the view that complaint A largely stemmed from procedural issues relating to the subject Member's handling of complaint B, and that this could potentially be resolved informally if both parties could agree a way forward to deal with that complaint.

The Monitoring Officer therefore met with the complainant and the subject Member and facilitated a discussion, during which both parties agreed a process for dealing with complaint B.

The member conduct complaint (complaint A) was therefore resolved informally with the agreement of both parties.

View of the Independent Person

An Independent Person, Mr Michael Gibson, was consulted and agreed that the informal resolution was a satisfactory resolution of complaint A.

Adrian Ward
Monitoring Officer

Date: 14 September 2023