

## STANDARDS COMPLAINT DECISION NOTICE

<b>Complaint ref</b>	016012
<b>Subject Member</b>	Councillor M Brown
<b>Council</b>	Border Group Parish Council
<b>Date of decision</b>	12 September 2018
<b>Breach of the code (Y/N)</b>	Yes at A.3; E.4 and G.1

### DECISION

On 5 September 2018, the monitoring officer considered a complaint alleging that Councillor M Brown may have acted in breach of the code of conduct for members. The appointed independent person was consulted in considering the matter.

The monitoring officer and the independent person concluded that Councillor Brown did breach the code of conduct. The reasons for this are:

- Councillor Brown was recording the meetings of Border Group Parish Council. As a result of recording these meetings, Councillor Brown then used the recording to publically query and criticise the clerk over the accuracy of the minutes of the previous meeting.
- If there were any points of query over the accuracy between the written minutes and the audio recording, these points should have been raised with the clerk prior to the minutes being made public.
- By publically criticising the accuracy of the written minutes against the audio recording, Councillor Brown has breached the Border Group Parish Council code of conduct at the following points:
  - A.3 – she has not treated the clerk to the parish council with courtesy and respect
  - E.4 – by publically criticising the clerk, it could be construed as either bullying, harassment or intimidation
  - G.1 – as the chairman of the parish council at the relevant point in time, Councillor Brown’s actions do not actively promote and robustly support leadership principles

The Border Group Parish Council code of conduct can be found [here](#).

It is recommended that Councillor Brown apologise in writing to the clerk for her inappropriate behaviour at parish council meetings.