

STANDARDS COMPLAINT DECISION NOTICE

Complaint ref	018793
Subject Member	Councillor Guy Smith
Council	Walford Parish Council
Date of decision	15 November 2019
Breach of the code (Y/N)	Yes

DECISION

On 7 November 2019, the monitoring officer considered a complaint alleging that Councillor Guy Smith may have acted in breach of the code of conduct for members. The appointed independent persons were consulted in considering the matter.

The monitoring officer and the independent person concluded that Councillor Smith did breach the code of conduct.

Summary of complaint

An allegation was received that Councillor Smith had failed:

- to submit a register of interest form since his election in January 2018 and again in May 2019; and
- the register of interest form when received did not include details of his wife's interests; and
- to declare Schedule 1 interests (discloseable pecuniary interests) at relevant meetings of Walford Parish Council:
 - 13 February 2019
 - 18 July 2019

Reasons for decision

The reason for the decision is that Councillor Smith had not submitted a declaration of interest form since his election in January 2018 and again in May 2019. This has now been rectified and a register of interest form is on the Herefordshire Council website and includes details of his wife's interests.

Councillor Smith had failed to declare Schedule 1 interests at meetings of Walford Parish Council when there were agenda items in connection with the Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch. Councillor Smith should have declared this interest and left the room for the item rather than participating and voting. This is because Councillor Smith had a direct interest in the matter under discussion due to the nature of his personal business and the location of his property to the canoe launch.

It is regrettable, whether or not in the absence of a parish clerk, that other parish councillors did not show support or leadership towards Councillor Guy Smith and other councillors at the Walford Parish meeting of 18th July 2019, and particularly when parish

councillors had received training on discloseable pecuniary interests (DPI) on 10 May 2019.

Recommended Action by Councillor Smith

It is recommended that Councillor Smith receive training from the Herefordshire Council Monitoring Officer in relation to Code of Conduct. This training has already taken place as part of the investigation into this complaint.