

STANDARDS COMPLAINT DECISION NOTICE

Complaint ref	023537
Subject Member	Councillor J Smart
Council	Weston Under Penyard Parish Council
Date of decision	18 February 2022
Breach of the code (Y/N)	Yes

DECISION

On 18 February 2022, the monitoring officer considered a complaint alleging that Councillor Smart 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 concluded that Councillor Smart did breach the code of conduct.

Summary of complaint

The complainant alleged that Councillor Smart's behaviour at a site meeting held on 21 September 2021 to discuss a new gate within the parish council area was bullying and misogynistic.

Reasons for decision

The monitoring officer carefully considered the comments of both the complainant and the councillor. At a site meeting on 20 September 2021 the councillor agreed that the meeting could have run smoother and accepts that he did say that "it was best left to experienced constructors to deal with". It is clear that both parties felt insulted and criticised by each other during this meeting.

However as an elected member, the code of conduct for Weston under Penyard at 1.1 states that "I treat other councillors and members of the public with respect". I find that this did not occur on this occasion.

As the councillor has since resigned from the parish council, there are no recommendations.