

STANDARDS COMPLAINT DECISION NOTICE

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| Complaint ref | 023634 |
| Subject Member | Councillor N Hiscutt Blackmore |
| Council | Madley 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 Hiscutt-Blackmore 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 Hiscutt Blackmore did breach the code of conduct.

Summary of complaint

The complainant alleged that Councillor Hiscutt Blackmore's tone and wording in emails to them was of a bullying nature. It was also alleged that the councillor had failed to register his declaration of interest form.

Reasons

The monitoring officer carefully considered the comments of both the complainant and the councillor.

The statements made were of a personal nature and did show a lack of respect to the complainant. This is contrary to the Madley Parish Council Code of Conduct at number 2, Bullying, harassment and discrimination, 2.1, I do not bully any person so I am finding a breach of the code of conduct. The councillor has apologised and has indicated that they would be content to apologise again to the complainant. My recommendation is that Councillor Hiscutt-Blackmore does provide a further written apology to the complainant.

With regard to the declaration of interest form, this has now been rectified and a form is available on the Herefordshire Council website.