

## STANDARDS COMPLAINT DECISION NOTICE

<b>Complaint ref</b>	019461
<b>Subject Member</b>	Councillor J A Kernahan
<b>Council</b>	Vowchurch Parish Council
<b>Date of decision</b>	5 February 2020
<b>Breach of the code (Y/N)</b>	No

### DECISION

On 5 February 2020, the monitoring officer considered a complaint alleging that Councillor Kernahan 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 Kernahan did not breach the code of conduct.

#### Summary of complaint

An allegation was received that Councillor Kernahan had:

- Failed to complete a declaration of interest form;
- Failed to declare a close personal association with a land owner in connection with a public footpath in the parish council area at relevant parish council meetings.
- Made an inaccurate statements at parish council meetings in relation to an issue with a footpath.

#### Reasons for decision

Councillor Kernahan did complete a form and returned them to Herefordshire Council. Unfortunately, these forms were not received by the relevant department and therefore not uploaded onto the website. The fact that the form was not received by the relevant department of Herefordshire Council is not a matter for Councillor Kernahan.

No evidence has been provided to show that there is a close personal association with the landowner in question.

Councillor Kernahan has provided information to show that the statements he made at a parish council meeting were accurate based on the information supplied to him.