

Epping Forest Assessments Subcommittee – Active Cases

As at: 14 March 2013

Year	No.	Case reference no.	Case status	Received - (dd/mm/yy)	Investigator
2012	9	EFDC 5/2012	<p>NEW – linked to 7/2012</p> <p>Complaint by District Councillor about the conduct of a Parish Councillor at an Area Planning Subcommittee in March. The Parish Member involved had to be asked to leave meeting after verbal altercation.</p> <p>Complaint made on basis of sections 1, 2(b) and (c) and 5 of the CoC</p> <p>Meeting was a webcast meeting.</p> <p>Assessment Subcommittee held 9 May – referred to investigation on basis of paragraphs 3(1) and 5.</p> <p>Investigation phase completed. Final report received. After consultation with IP's MO passed the report to the Parish JSC for a hearing.</p> <p>In the meantime subject member had ceased to be a Councillor as she failed to attend Parish meetings for six months. Locally it was known that she had also moved without giving us or the Parish forwarding details.</p> <p>Parish JSC Panel held on 12.3.13. I. Willett presented investigation report. C O,Boyle advised Panel. Panel found that the member had breached the Code of Conduct and requested that the Parish Council publish the decision on its website and in other appropriate places.</p>	10/4/12	E Whitfield - ECC

2012	11	EFDC 7/2012	<p>linked to 5/2012</p> <p>Complaint by District Officer about the conduct of a Parish Councillor at an Area Planning Subcommittee in March. The Parish Member involved had to be asked to leave meeting after verbal altercation.</p> <p>Complaint made on basis of sections 1, 2(b) and (c) and 5 of the CoC</p> <p>Meeting was a webcast meeting.</p> <p>See 5/2012 above</p>	10/4/2012	E Whitfield - ECC
2012	12	EFDC 8/2012	<p>Complaint by three Councillors (Two Parish and One District) about the conduct of two Parish Councillors. Incidents complained of relate to:</p> <p>(i) A discussion between a Councillor and a senior local public figure during which the Councillor is alleged to have used inappropriate language; and</p> <p>(ii) That during a Parish Council meeting the supporting of offensive comments made by the public directed at other members.</p> <p>(iii) Rude remarks made to another member; and</p> <p>(iv) Threatening words/behaviour towards another Parish Councillor.</p> <p>Referred for investigation</p> <p>February update:</p> <p>Investigation progressing, several interviews have taken place. One subject member is not cooperating with the investigation. Further interviews may need to be conducted.</p>	1/10/12	Brian Keane

			One witness indicated an unwillingness to be involved in the investigation.		
2013	1	EFDC 1/2013	<p>Complaint by a Parish Council staff member about the conduct of one of its members at a Parish Function.</p> <p>Allegation that the subject member had shouted at the complainant, a member of Parish Council staff, in front of others making the staff member feel upset and humiliated. Additionally that during a further discussion, the subject member had told the Parish Chairman that the staff member was incompetent and would tell all the members at the meeting that they were incapable of doing her job.</p> <p>After consideration of the issue and taking a view from the IP's the MO decided that 'other action' was appropriate. A meeting was arranged between the parties on 18 January 2013. The matter is now closed.</p> <p>No further update – to be removed from the schedule.</p>		
2013	2	EFDC 2/2013	<p>Complaint by a Parish Councillor about another Parish Councillor.</p> <p>Allegation that the subject member had told a local resident erroneously that the complainant had a personal interest in a site; that the complainant had used his position as an elected member to block residential development on the site; and that the complainant has misrepresented the reasons why he had assumed parish responsibility for the site.</p> <p>The matter is still being considered by the Monitoring Officer.</p>		