

MEMBER CONDUCT COMPLAINT FORM

Please refer to our “Information for Complainants” document for more information before completing this form. This is available on our website or from the Council’s Monitoring Officer.

Your details

1. Please tell us your name and contact details:

Title:	Mr
First name:	Colin
Last name:	Wileman
Address:	2 Carpenter Close Brizlincote Burton upon Trent DE15 9AL
Daytime telephone:	07572685741
Evening telephone:	
Mobile telephone:	
Email address:	Colin.Wileman@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk

We will usually tell the following people that you have made this complaint:

- the Member(s) you are complaining about;
- the Council’s Monitoring Officer; and
- the parish or town clerk (if your complaint is about a parish or town council Member).

We will tell them your name and give them a summary of your complaint. We will give them full details of your complaint where necessary or appropriate. Your address and/or contact details will not usually be released unless this is necessary to deal with your complaint.

If you have serious concerns about your name or details of your complaint being released, please complete Section 5 of this form. **Anonymous complaints will not be considered.**

2. Please tell us which Complainant type best describes you:

- Member of the public
 Elected or co-opted Member of an authority
 Independent Member of the Standards Committee
 Member of Parliament
 Local authority Monitoring Officer

Other council officer or authority employee

Other (please state: _____)

Your complaint

3. Please provide us with the name of the Member(s) you believe have breached their Code of Conduct and the name of their authority (please use a separate sheet for additional Members):

Title	First name	Last name	Council or authority name
Mrs	Deniece	Florence-Jukes	ESBC

4. Please explain in this section (or on separate sheets) what the Member has done that you believe breaches their Code of Conduct. If you are complaining about more than one member you should clearly explain what each individual person has done that you believe breaches their Code of Conduct.

It is important that you provide all the information you wish the Council to take into account when it decides whether to take any action on your complaint. For example:

- You should be specific, wherever possible, about exactly what you are alleging the Member said or did. For instance, instead of writing that the Member insulted you, you should state what they said to you.
- You should provide the dates of the alleged incidents wherever possible. If you cannot provide exact dates it is important to give a general timeframe.
- You should confirm whether there were any witnesses to the alleged conduct and provide their names and contact details if possible.
- You should provide any relevant background information.

Please give details of your complaint. Please also refer to any documents which you are submitting in support of your complaint. Continue on a separate sheet if there is not enough space on this form.

Complaint against Cllr Florence-Jukes

This complaint is in two parts, the first is about potential breaches of the East Staffordshire Borough Council (ESBC) Code of Conduct (the “**Code**”) and the second is in relation to a breach of s106 Representation of the People Act 1983. The decision notices referred to in this complaint are attached for ease of reference.

Potential breaches of the Code

At Agenda item 10 of ESBC Annual General Meeting of 26 April 2021 (the “**Meeting**”), Cllr Florence-Jukes spoke about my record as Mayor of East Staffordshire. I am deeply hurt by Cllr Florence-Jukes’ remarks made in her official capacity as Councillor in a public forum about my conduct. I therefore wish to make a complaint about the entirety of her remarks which start 48 minutes and 50 seconds into the Meeting. It is my view that Cllr Florence-Jukes has breached paragraph 3.1 of ESBC’s Code of Conduct (the “**Code**”) – “Councillor’s must treat each other with respect” and that Cllr Florence-Jukes has not upheld the general principles of Honesty and Leadership which are set out in Appendix 1 of the Code. In breaching these paragraphs of the Code, Cllr Florence-Jukes has also breached 3.9 of the Code by bringing the Council into disrepute. I would be grateful if ESBC were to review Cllr Florence-Jukes’ remarks, to assess whether a breach of the Code has occurred.

Given the nature of the hurtful remarks made, it has taken me some time to bring myself to review the recording of the meeting, however I have now done so and I would like to draw your attention to the following remarks made by Cllr Florence-Jukes about my conduct:

1. Cllr Florence-Jukes states as fact that I am a bully. Cllr Florence-Jukes’ speech as a whole would suggest to the average viewer/listener to the Meeting that I am a bully. She specifically comments that I “bullied opposition members”. These allegations of bullying are untrue, defamatory and deeply hurtful. Cllr Florence-Jukes was informed by ESBC’s monitoring officer on 19 March 2021, in response to Cllr Florence-Jukes’ complaint against me about bullying that I had not breached the Code and that I “conducted the meeting in a firm but courteous manner”. Cllr Florence-Jukes was informed of the Council’s Monitoring Officer’s decision that I had not breached the code and yet Cllr Florence-Jukes has continued to allege in public that I am a bully. Cllr Florence-Jukes has not taken on board the decision of the Monitoring Officer and has made a damaging false statement against me. It is my view that Cllr Florence-Jukes has failed treat me with respect and has not been truthful. This is a breach of 3.1 of the Code and the General/Nolan Principles.
2. Cllr Florence-Jukes stated:

“He [Cllr Wileman] deliberately mispronounced Cllr Grosvenor’s name, a councillor that he has known for however many years at the last couple of

meetings, he's decided to call him "Gross Snore" which is a complete insult to him personally and I think is belittling".

I did not deliberately mispronounce Cllr Grosvenor's name and I did not belittle him. This is another false statement made by Cllr Florence-Jukes about my conduct. Cllr Grosvenor submitted a complaint to the Council's Monitoring Officer about this issue and the Monitoring Officer's decision in consultation with the independent person was that the complaint did not disclose a potential breach of the Code and that there was no evidence to support the grounds of the complaint. The commentary in the decision notice (2021/005) dated 19 March 2021 found that I had pronounced Cllr Grosvenor's surname as "Cllr Grozevenor" and not "Gross Snore" as Cllr Florence-Jukes alleges – I would never seek to deliberately mispronounce someone's name as this is childish behaviour that should have no place in the council chamber. It is my view that Cllr Florence-Jukes has not been truthful and is therefore in breach of the General/Nolan Principle of truthfulness when suggesting that I had deliberately mispronounced Cllr Grosvenor's surname and that I had belittled him.

3. Cllr Florence-Jukes states as fact below that I abused my position of Mayor. This is false.

"Also he has abused his position as mayor by on his personal Facebook page, displaying a profile picture of him in his mayoral regalia in his robes and his chains and at the same time advertising his private gardening business. That's a major misjudgement of his role as councillor and I think that is a real abuse of his role as councillor."

Cllr Grosvenor complained to the Council's Monitoring Officer about this conduct outlined above by Cllr Florence-Jukes. The Monitoring Officer in consultation with the independent person concluded that there was no evidence of a breach of the Code. Despite this decision notice being dated 19 March 2021, Cllr Florence-Jukes stated as fact that I had abused my position as Mayor. This is deeply damaging and hurtful – I have always sought to uphold standards as Mayor and it has been an absolute honour to be Mayor of East Staffordshire. It is deeply disrespectful for Cllr Florence-Jukes to state as fact that I abused my position as Mayor when this has been proven not to be the case. I believe that Cllr Florence-Jukes is in breach of 3.1 of the code and the general/nolan principles of Honesty and Leadership.

In respect of these potential breaches of the Code, if the breaches are confirmed, I request that Cllr Florence-Jukes is required to make a full apology to me in Full Council for each breach of the Code which is the same forum used by Cllr Florence-Jukes to make her remarks.

Potential breach of s106 Representation of the People Act 1983

On the date of the Meeting, I was also a County Council candidate for local elections on 6 May 2021. As outlined above, Cllr Florence-Jukes has made false statements of fact about me 10 days before Polling Day. I believe that Cllr Florence-Jukes made these false statements about my conduct to affect my election result and is therefore in breach of s106 of the Representation of the People Act 1983. I do not believe Cllr

Florence-Jukes had any reason to believe that the statements of fact made about me were true. I ask that the Council investigate this potential breach of s106 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and also report this matter to the Electoral Commission.

Only complete this next section if you are requesting that your identity is kept confidential

5. In the interests of fairness and natural justice, we believe members who are complained about have a right to know who has made the complaint. We also believe they have a right to be provided with details of the complaint. We are unlikely to withhold your identity or the details of your complaint unless there is a very good reason to do so. We will only withhold your identity or the details of your complaint if we think that it is in the public interest to do so.

Please note that requests for confidentiality or requests for suppression of complaint details will not automatically be granted. The Monitoring Officer will consider your request alongside the substance of your complaint. We will then contact you with the decision. If your request for confidentiality is not granted, we will usually allow you the option of withdrawing your complaint.

However, it is important to understand that in certain exceptional circumstances where the matter complained about is very serious, we can proceed with an investigation or other action and disclose your name even if you have expressly asked us not to.

Please provide us with details of why you believe we should withhold your name and/or the details of your complaint:

N/A

Additional Help

6. Complaints must be submitted in writing. This includes fax and electronic submissions. However, in line with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 2000, we can make reasonable adjustments to assist you if you have a disability that prevents you from making your complaint in writing.

We can also help if English is not your first language.

If you need any support in completing this form, please let us know as soon as possible.

When you have completed this form, please send it to The Chairman of the Standards Committee c/o Angela Wakefield, Monitoring Officer, East Staffordshire Borough Council, Town Hall, Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire DE14 2EB or fax: 01283 508388 or email:

monitoring.officer@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk.

Continuation Sheet