

# Case Summary - Daventry District Council

**Case no.** 07649  
**Member(s):** Councillor John Golding  
**Date received:** 15 Oct 2009

## **Allegation:**

The complainant alleged that Councillor Golding: Was verbally abusive to a fellow Parish Councillor after viewing a tree the morning after a Parish Council meeting at which the issue of a planning application relating to the tree had been discussed; Forced a Parish Councillor to reveal confidential information during a meeting of the Parish Council; Invented two complaints that he stated he had received from residents and raised these at a meeting of the Parish Council; and Through consistent disagreements and confrontations had forced a clerk to the Parish Council to resign.

## **Standards Board outcome:**

The ethical standards officer found that the member did not breach the Code of Conduct. The ethical standards officer recommended that training be made available to Staverton Parish Councillors.

## **Case Summary**


**The ethical standards officer investigated the circumstances surrounding the allegations and interviewed relevant witnesses. The ethical standards officer found that:**

1. The altercation during where Councillor Golding was allegedly abusive did not occur while he was acting or claiming to act in his official capacity as a Councillor and therefore was not subject to the Code of Conduct.
2. Councillor Golding did not unduly force a fellow Councillor to reveal confidential information and there was no evidence that his behaviour in Parish Council meetings had been inappropriate;
3. Councillor Golding had received two expressions of concern from local residents which he subsequently raised as complaints at a meeting of the Parish Council.
4. Whilst there was a series of disagreements between a former clerk and Councillor Golding, Councillor Golding's conduct towards the clerk was never disrespectful or bullying.

Accordingly, the ethical standards officer found that Councillor Golding did not breach the Code of Conduct. The ethical standards officer recommended that the

monitoring officer of Daventry District Council make training on the code of conduct available to Staverton Parish Council members in order to improve the running of the Parish Council.

## Relevant paragraphs of the Code of Conduct

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