

## STANDARDS COMPLAINT DECISION NOTICE

<b>Complaint ref</b>	020398
<b>Subject Member</b>	Councillor Billie Jones
<b>Council</b>	Clifford Parish Council
<b>Date of decision</b>	3 August 2020
<b>Breach of the code (Y/N)</b>	Yes

### DECISION

On 3 August, the monitoring officer considered a complaint alleging that Councillor Jones 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 Jones did breach the code of conduct.

#### Summary of complaint

An allegation was received that Councillor Jones

- Failed to declare a schedule 1 interest at relevant meetings of the parish council.
- discussed one item on the minutes of the February 2020 meeting of the Clifford Parish Council where she had declared a schedule 1 interest.

#### Reasons for decision

Councillor Jones has acknowledged that she owns agricultural land adjoining the planning applications in question. Where a councillor owns land adjoining a planning application, they would be deemed to have a direct interest in the matter being discussed and should declare a Schedule 1 interest.

Commenting on the accuracy of the minutes for an item that you have an interest in, is a breach of the code. Councillor Jones had an interest in the matter and therefore even the minutes being approved at the next meeting is covered by the interest and there should have been no participation.