



## **STATEMENT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF SANCTIONS TO PARISH COUNCILLOR LINDA DERRICK**

On 3 April 2023, Hughenden Parish Council voted by majority to apply all sanctions relating to Cllr Linda Derrick recommended by a Hearing Sub-Committee of Buckinghamshire Council.

On 19 January 2023, the Hearing Sub-Committee had found that Cllr Derrick breached the Parish Council's Member Code of Conduct in several respects in relation to three complaints made about her by two former employees of the Council and one former Councillor.

It was not open to the Parish Council to reconsider the investigation or to reach any different conclusions about it. Nor could the Council determine other sanctions to those recommended by the Sub-Committee. The Parish Council's role was to determine whether to apply the recommended sanctions, for the reasons given in the Buckinghamshire Council Decision Notice.

The Buckinghamshire Council Sub-Committee found that Cllr Derrick had breached the Member Code of Conduct in relation to each of three complaints, specifically in failing to show respect in each of the three cases, and bullying in the case of two employees.

The Panel also found that in two respects the Code of Conduct had not been breached; in one case Cllr Derrick was found not to have breached her duty to refrain from bullying, while in another case she was found not to have harassed an employee.

In censuring Cllr Derrick the Council agreed the following wording:

As a Parish Council, we have a legal duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct (as required by the Localism Act 2011 S.27). We adopted a Member Code of Conduct for this reason. As such, we take seriously the breaches of the Code and censure Councillor Derrick for them.

Councillor Derrick's conduct, in respect of these breaches, fell short of the Standards in Public Life expected of us as councillors. The Parish Council is committed to delivering the best possible service to the people of Hughenden Parish. This can only be done through councillors and staff working together productively and respectfully. The Council values good governance and welcomes the advice and professionalism of our staff.

We trust that Cllr Derrick will learn from this experience and abide by the Code of Conduct in future.