

# **Ethical Governance and Personnel Committee**

## **DECISION NOTICE: BREACH OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

**Reference 2023-14**

**Subject Member:** Councillor Russ Roberts, Barwell Parish Council

### **Complaint**

The committee considered a complaint which alleged that Councillor Roberts had breached the code of conduct by using aggressive and unnecessary language in text messages to a member of the public.

### **Decision**

Members agreed that the subject member had been acting in their capacity as councillor when the exchange took place. They also had copies of the messages as evidence and therefore felt that no further investigation was required as it was clear that the language used was in breach of the code of conduct. The response to the complaint from Councillor Roberts was taken into account but it was felt that this didn't mitigate the language used and it was unacceptable for a councillor to use such language regardless of the circumstances.

It was moved by Councillor J Crooks and seconded by Councillor Walker that Councillor Roberts be asked to apologise and to attend training.

As Councillor Roberts has failed to apologise, the complaint and the decision of the Committee is now to be made public.

**Monitoring Officer**

October 2023