

# Case Summary - Ellistown and Battleflat Parish Council (NW Leicestershire)

**Case no.** SFE-000113  
**Member(s):** Councillor Alan Gamble  
**Date received:** 01 Dec 2010  
**Date completed:** 31 Mar 2011

## **Allegation:**

The member failed to treat others with respect

## **Standards Board outcome:**

The ethical standards officer found that the member did not breach the Code of Conduct.

## **Case Summary**

It was alleged that Councillor Gamble sent the clerk rude and demeaning emails regarding items that he wanted on the council meeting agenda. It was alleged that Councillor Gamble was rude and aggressive to the clerk at the council meeting and that he criticised her to the extent that she left the meeting.

It was also alleged that Councillor Gamble failed to respect the authority of the chair by ignoring her requests to behave in a more appropriate manner and that following the meeting, Councillor Gamble made a series of spurious and serious allegations against the chair to her employers in order to intimidate her into leaving the Council.

The Ethical Standards Officer found nothing in the emails between Councillor Gamble and the clerk, that could be described as disrespectful or bullying as understood by the Code.

The Ethical Standards Officer found that Councillor Gamble felt that certain members of the Council and the clerk, were deliberately targeting him for criticism during the meeting. Councillor Gamble's response to that was to counter the criticisms in a forceful manner, resulting in a heated meeting. The Ethical Standards Officer considered that Councillor Gamble's conduct was on occasion impolite, but not serious enough to be described as disrespectful.

The Ethical Standards Officer found that although Councillor Gamble had spoken to the chair's employer subsequent to the meeting, he did not initiate a complaint against

her. As such the Ethical Standards Officer considered that there is no foundation on which to base the allegation that he was trying to intimidate her into leaving the Council.

The Ethical Standards Officer considered that Councillor Alan Gamble did not fail to comply with Ellistown and Battleflat Parish Council's code of conduct.

## **Relevant paragraphs of the Code of Conduct**

Paragraph 3:

“(1) You must treat others with respect.

**26 May 2011**