

Complaint 3

Item 9 of the Midgham Parish Council minutes of their December meeting states:

Woolhampton Treatment Works - Clerk circulated a copy letter from Mr T Renouf, Chairman of Woolhampton re treatment works requesting that all current and future developments in the parishes that drain into these works only be granted subject to a strict condition being applied whereby an on-site bio digester treatment is used. The issue was discussed and agreed that all such applications would obviously take into consideration such matters.

The investigator's opinion that Midgham PC did not respond as Woolhampton Councillors would have liked and had dismissed the concern in a way that was negative is clearly contradicted by the Minutes.

Cllr Spackman was at the Midgham meeting but chose to mislead the Parish Council by reporting that the letter had been dismissed by the Chairman Cllr Lombardo, who was not interviewed, as being 'silly'.

This is not just an injudicious remark but clearly an attempt to bring the Chairman and the Parish Council into disrepute and as such is a breach of the code.

Complaint 4

The investigator's opinion is that Cllr Spackman's use of the word 'abandoned' on his Facebook page rather than 'put on hold' is merely a difference of emphasis.

However, 'abandon' means *to give up completely* and 'put on hold' means *to postpone*. This is a change of meaning not a change of emphasis!

Cllr Spackman was not at the meeting at which this was decided by WPC but when subsequently advised of his error he refused to amend the page.

This was an attempt to bring the Parish Council into disrepute and not, as suggested, a non-collegiate frolic. It was a deliberate breach of the code.

Complaint 8

Cllr Spackman forwarded to members a message he claimed to have received from the Woolhampton Neighbourhood Watch Group which stated that **'Woolhampton continues to experience higher levels and more serious crimes compared to neighbouring parishes'**.

Because of the alarming nature of the message Cllr Spackman was asked for contact details. He claimed he was prevented from giving the names of any Group contacts by the Data Protection Act.

Subsequently, the West Berkshire Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, Mrs Angela Money confirmed that the Group did not exist.

The investigator concludes that the 'theme' of this complaint is a difference of interpretation of the statistics. That is incorrect – the complaint does not dispute any statistics but hinges solely on Cllr Spackman's attempt to wilfully deceive his fellow councillors and the public.

Whilst it can be considered to be bad behaviour it is also a serious breach of the code.

