

**ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE**

DECISION

Alleged Breaches of the Code of Conduct by Councillor Andy Erskine

Introduction

1. On 24 July 2019 the Sub-Committee considered a report regarding alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct by Councillor Andy Erskine.
2. The report dealt with two issues. It was alleged that at a meeting of Little Clacton PC, Cllr Erskine had behaved in a way which was:
 - (i) ***Bringing the office of Councillor into disrepute.*** *The investigator had concluded that this was not proven and therefore this was not for the Sub-Committee to consider.*
 - (ii) ***Failing to treat others with respect*** *which would be a breach of paragraph 24.2.1 of the Code.*
3. The issues had been referred to the sub-committee by Paul Turner, the Monitoring Officer of Essex County Council.

Facts:

4. The Sub-Committee considered the issues and heard the submissions of the Deputy Monitoring Officer, Katie Bray and Councillor Erskine (who was supported by the Hearing by Cllr Dick Madden). The Sub-Committee noted that the facts were not in dispute.

Breach of the Code

5. The Sub-Committee noted Cllr Erskine's concession that his behavior at the Parish Council meeting was a breach of the Code. They agreed he had been in breach of paragraph 24.2.1 of the Code of Conduct

Consideration of Sanction

6. Having accepted the concession and found a breach of the Code, the Sub-Committee went on to consider what action should be taken. They considered the sanctions available to them.

7. The Committee noted Cllr Erskine's health issues and that those spoken to said that he had been not well on the evening in question.

Decision on Sanction to be imposed:

8. The Committee were pleased that Cllr Erskine has accepted that there had been a breach of the code and that he had offered to apologise to the Parish Council. The Committee decided that Cllr Erskine should apologise in writing to the Parish Council to the Chairman and the Clerk.
9. This decision will be published on the Council's website in accordance with the procedures adopted by the sub-committee.