

### STANDARDS COMPLAINT DECISION NOTICE

<b>Complaint ref</b>	IAT 016441
<b>Complainant</b>	Mrs T Iwanczuk
<b>Subject Member</b>	Councillor G Fielding
<b>Council</b>	Cradley Parish Council
<b>Date of decision</b>	7 September 2018
<b>Breach of the code (Y/N)</b>	No

#### DECISION

On 23 August 2018, the monitoring officer considered a complaint alleging that Councillor G Fielding may have acted in breach of the code of conduct for members. The appointed independent person was consulted in considering the matter.

The monitoring officer and the independent person concluded that Councillor Fielding did not breach the code of conduct. The reasons for this are:

- The lengthsman stored his vehicle on Councillor Fielding's drive as he did not have sufficient space at his home when it was not in use in Cradley.
- The materials purchased or supplied for the lengthsman work in connection with Cradley parish council were also stored in Councillor Fielding's garage due to the lack of local facilities.
- Councillor Fielding has stated that since the lengthsman ceased going to Cradley in October 2017, he has had no communication with him.
- The lengthsman contract expired in March 2018 and the current lengthsman did not take part in the tender process for the new contract.
- There was a discussion in connection with the lengthsman contact at parish council meeting in April 2018 and the acting clerk for the meeting advised that there was no requirement for Councillor Fielding to declare an interest.
- The lengthsman was not a member of the councillor's family or on the evidence provided a person with whom the councillor had a close association.

The section of the Cradley Parish Council code of conduct considered was 11 (a) which states

"A decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial standing of you or a member of your family or a person with whom you have a close association to a greater extent than it would affect the majority of the Council Tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the Ward or electoral area for which you have been elected or otherwise of the Authority's administrative area"