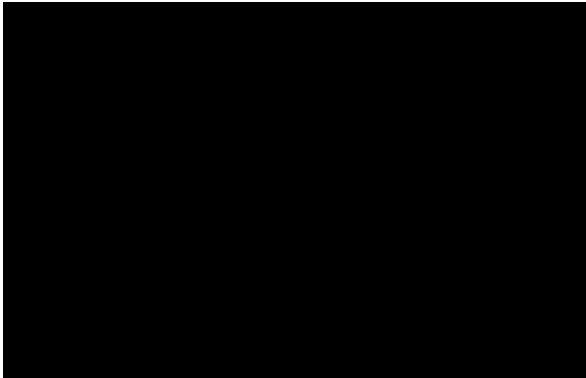




COMPLAINT FORM : CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

A. Your details

1. Please provide us with your name and contact details. Anonymous complaints will only be considered if there is independent evidence to substantiate the complaint.

Title:	MRS
First name:	SUE
Last name:	WETHERALL
Address:	
Contact telephone:	
Email address:	
Signature:	
Date of complaint:	6 October 2015

Your address and contact details will not usually be released unless necessary or to deal with your complaint.

The following people may see this form:

- Monitoring Officer of the Council
- Standards Committee members
- Council's Independent Person(s)
- The subject member(s)
- the Parish Clerk (if applicable)

If you have serious concerns about your name and a summary, or details of your complaint being released, please complete **Section C** of this Form and also discuss your reasons or concerns with the Council's Monitoring Officer.

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Please tell us which complainant type best describes you:

- A member of the public
- An elected or co-opted Member of the Council
- An independent member of a Standards Committee
- A Member of Parliament
- A Monitoring Officer
- Other council employee, contractor or agent of the Council
- Other ()

2. Equality Monitoring Form - please fill in the attached form.

B. Making your complaint

3. Please provide us with the name of the Member(s) you believe have breached the Council's Code of Conduct:

Title	First name	Last name
MRS	SELINA	BANNERMAN

4. Please explain in this section (or on separate sheet(s)) what the Member is alleged to have done that you believe breaches the Code of Conduct. If you are complaining about more than one Member you should clearly explain what each individual person has done, with dates / witnesses to substantiate the alleged breach.

It is also important that you provide all the evidence you wish to have taken into account. For example:

- You should be specific, wherever possible, about exactly what you are alleging the Member said or did. For instance, instead of writing that the Member insulted you, you should state what it was they said or did to insult you.
- You should provide the dates of the alleged incidents wherever possible. If you cannot provide exact dates it is important to give a general timeframe.

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

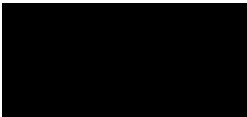
- You should confirm whether there are any witnesses to the alleged conduct and provide their names and contact details if possible.
- You should provide any relevant background information or other relevant documentary evidence to support your allegation(s).

Please provide us with the details of your complaint. Continue on a separate sheet if there is not enough space on this form.

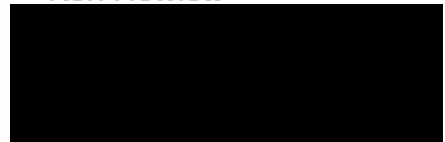
* Please see attached statement.

Witnesses:

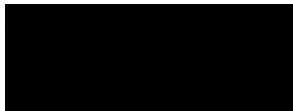
Alexandra Farmer



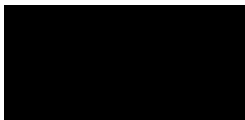
Ken Howlett



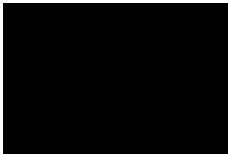
Fred Pavey



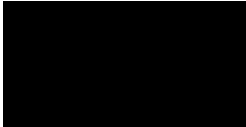
Marianne O'Neill



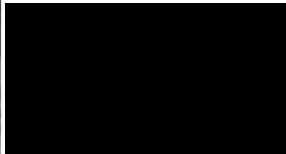
Barry Brett



Sally Barra



Karen Cope



EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

C. Confidentiality of complainant and the complaint details

Only complete this next section if you are requesting that your identity is kept confidential

5. In the interests of fairness and in compliance with the rules of natural justice, we believe Members who are complained about have a right to know who has made the complaint and the substance of the allegation(s) made against him / her. We are, therefore, unlikely to withhold your personal details or the details of your complaint unless you have good reasons to believe that you have justifiable grounds, for example:
- to believe you may be victimised or harassed by the Member(s) against whom you are submitting a written complaint (or by a person associated with the same); or
 - may receive less favourable treatment from the Council because of the seniority of the Member against whom you are submitting a written complaint in terms of any existing Council service provision or any tender / contract that you may have or are about to submit to the Council.

Please note that requests for confidentiality or requests for suppression of the personal and complaint details will not automatically be granted. The Assessment Sub-Committee will consider the request alongside the substance of your complaint and the Monitoring Officer will then contact you with the decision. If your request for confidentiality is not granted, we will usually allow you the opportunity, if you so wish, of withdrawing your complaint.

However, it is important to understand that - in exceptional circumstances, where the matter complained about is very serious - we may proceed with an investigation (or other action) and may have no choice but to disclose your personal and complaint details, because of the allegation(s) made, even if you have expressly asked us not to.

Please provide us with details of why you believe we should withhold your name and/or the details of your complaint:

(Continue on separate sheet(s), as necessary)

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

D. Remedy sought

7. Please indicate the remedy or remedies you are looking for or hoping to achieve by submitting this complaint.

That there should be an audit of the expenditure to the pavilion in the light of the request of fund raising which was specifically for the building and not for the capital items, running costs or maintenance.

There appears to be no authorisation or agreement by the Parish Council of some of the expenditure, which has now taken place.

(Continue on separate sheet(s), as necessary)

E. Additional information

8. Complaints must be submitted in writing. This includes fax and electronic submissions. Frivolous, vexatious and politically motivated tit-for-tat complaints are likely to be rejected.
9. In line with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, we can make reasonable adjustments to assist you if you have a disability that prevents you from making your complaint in writing. We can also help if English is not your first language.
10. If you need any support in completing this form, please contact the Monitoring Officer as soon as possible.

Monitoring Officer Contact details:

The Monitoring Officer – Simon Drinkwater
East Herts Council
Wallfields
Pegs Lane
Hertford
SG13 8EQ

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Monitoring Form – Local Assessments of Complaints Standards Committee - Assessment Sub Committee

Working towards equal opportunities

East Hertfordshire District Council is committed to a policy of equality of opportunity in both employment and service provision. We seek to ensure that no person receives less favorable treatment on the grounds of gender, race, or ethnic origins, marital status, disability, age, sexual orientation, family responsibilities, religion, trade union involvement or political belief or is disadvantaged by conditions or requirements which cannot be shown to be justifiable.

White

White British
White Irish
Any other White
background

Mixed

White and Black
Caribbean
White and Black
African
Any other mixed
background

Asian

Indian
Pakistani
Bangladeshi
Any other Asian
background

Black

Caribbean
African
Any other Black
background

Chinese

or other
ethnic
group
Chinese
Other

*Categories used are those utilised by
the Office of Population Censuses and
Surveys

Do you have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on your ability that you wish to declare under the Disability Discrimination Act?

Yes

No

STATEMENT

On Tuesday 6th October 2015 I attended the Much Hadham Parish Council meeting held at the Mission Hall, Green Tye.

My reason for attending was to pose a question to the committee during the 20-minute residents comments part of the agenda.

As soon as the question time started Alex Farmer, a local resident, raised questions as to accountability of the pavilion committee. Councillor Bannerman was extremely rude and offhand in her replies, saying to the Chair in a loud voice "what is she criticising now" (referring to Mrs Farmer).

Then came my turn to ask a question. I had purchased 5 bricks, costing £50, for my family under the "buy a brick" appeal which was advertised by the PC as "*we would like every member of the Parish to 'own' a piece of the building by purchasing a 'brick'*" (to pay for the building/loan costs of the pavilion, which I thought was a good idea).

I wanted to be reassured by the committee that the donated monies were to be used only for the main refurbishment /building of the pavilion and to pay off the loan and not for running or maintenance costs. Councillor Bannerman's response, several times, was that we could have our money back if we were not happy. Having money back for me was not the issue or one I would have wished to pursue. I told the committee that I merely wanted confirmation that our money was being spent, as we believed it was going to be, on the "main build"; I said this is what had been sold to us and that I felt very "uncomfortable" with the way things were. Councillor Bannerman disputed this and said it had been made clear from the outset that monies would be used for "other" expenses. I in turn disagreed with her.

Whilst the next question was being asked, Cllr Bannerman left her seat at the PC table and started to walk to the back of the hall toward where I was sitting. The next thing I knew she thrust £50 onto my lap and walked back to her place next to the Chairman.

I was thoroughly insulted and intimidated by this act and went up to the PC table taking the money back, telling them that I had lived in the village for over 40 years and had never been so publicly insulted by anyone and that Councillor Bannerman had no right to just give £50 back without the authorisation of the PC Committee. I said that I have the democratic right to ask a question about any expenditure by the Parish Council and that it was not her place to make a decision to just come and thrust money at me in the hope that I will go away and shut up. She then added that she would come and push the money through my letterbox to make me take it back. I told her that she was a bully and spoke to people in a most disrespectful manner. This was an act of sheer aggression and loss of control by Councillor Bannerman. I felt that her actions were of a bullying nature and showed little or no respect to a member of the public. The Chair did nothing to reprimand her.

Notwithstanding gratifying and discernable murmurings of support from amongst the assembled company I then left the hall feeling very shaken, upset and tearful and spent the rest of the night feeling apprehensive that she might come to my home, as she had threatened to do.

Apparently, later in the evening, she publicly apologised for her behavior and said she would come and see myself and another lady, to whom she had also been rude, to apologise the following morning. Apparently Councillor Bannerman also added that she would not apologise for anything the pavilion committee had done. I understand that later in the evening Councillor Hunt, who is an extremely fair man, apologised on behalf of the committee for the behaviour towards some of the residents earlier that evening.

Councillor Bannerman did knock on my door the next day to apologise. I have to say that I find it hard to accept such dreadful threatening behaviour from anyone, let alone a Councillor who is surely there to represent and help the residents of Much Hadham and not threaten them? I am not a vindictive person but I do feel that in this instance an apology is not sufficient and that a proper enquiry is called for as I did not receive an adequate answer to my enquiries or explanations as to where the money for expenditure was actually coming from or what the buy a brick funds had been spent on.



Sue Wetherall

9th October 2015