

Preamble to Amendment to Fremington Parish Council Standing Orders

Standing Orders at Section 12 Disorderly Conduct, refer to councillors who may '...behave offensively or improperly in a meeting. This is underpinned by the **Code of Conduct** which at Section 5(c) gives a broader definition of what could be considered to be offensive behaviour through a definition of bullying.

Unfortunately, under the **Code of Conduct** there is no remedy to correct or resist such conduct outside of a Council meeting and particularly when the breach of the **Code of Conduct** is in written form, email or in digital media form between councillors.

The purpose of the amendment is to prevent or deal with offensive behaviour experienced at meetings or in written format in the future.

Proposed Amendment to Standing Orders

12 Disorderley conduct (*Needs broader definition to cover offensive or improper behaviour 1) during meetings and 2) in communications*).

Add at 12 a i) offensive or improper behaviour by members can be during a meeting
ii) offensive remarks can be in a communication to members whether in written form, email or other digital media

Amend 12 b by inserting i) ".....Standing Order 12(a) i) above....."

Add at 12 d and e

d " In the case of 12 (a) ii) where the Chairman or a councillor consider that a breach has occurred then a written request will be sent to the perpetrator of the breach requesting withdrawal of the offensive remarks. "

e Where a written request to withdraw an offensive remark as set out (d) above is not forthcoming the matter may be referred to the Monitoring Officer at District Council