

# HOLME VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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## Press Statement

At its Extraordinary Council meeting of 23rd October 2019, Holme Valley Parish Council met to discuss complaints raised against one of its members, Councillor James Dalton.

Thirty complaints had been received from members of the public about comments made by Councillor Dalton on Twitter relating to nursing staff. An investigation into these complaints was subsequently undertaken through the Kirklees Council Monitoring Officer. The investigation found that Councillor James Dalton had through his comments breached Holme Valley Parish Council's Code of Conduct, and recommended that the Parish Council consider sanctions against the Councillor. After discussion at the meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019, the Parish Council agreed that the following sanctions will apply to Councillor Dalton:

- Removal from any Standing Committees or Working Groups on which he currently sits;
- Removal of his Holme Valley Parish Council email address, with any communications to him regarding Council matters hereafter to be made by post.

These sanctions will apply until at least the Annual Council meeting of May 2021.

For the Parish Council to consider removal of the sanctions at that time, the following conditions will need to be met in the interim by Cllr Dalton:

- 1) Attendance at the next Full Parish Council meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019 to answer for his actions in relation to this complaint;
- 2) The issue of a written public apology to the complainants acknowledging the impact of his tweets;
- 3) Deletion of the tweets on his Cllr James Dalton Twitter account which have been the subject of complaints;
- 4) Attendance on a diversity training course to be arranged at a convenient time.

Holme Valley Parish Council takes the nature of these complaints against Councillor Dalton extremely seriously and these sanctions are the most severe available under current powers. We hope that the Councillor will recognise the unacceptable nature of his recent communications and promptly address the conditions outlined. Holme Valley Parish Council's Code of Conduct is based on the principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership and every Councillor must recognise that inappropriate actions have consequences.

Mrs E Bennett  
Clerk - Holme Valley Parish Council