

Assessment Decision Ref 2025-057

Complainant:	Kirklees Council Monitoring Officer
Subject Member:	Denby Dale Parish Councillor Glenn Hirst
Consultees:	N/A
Decision Makers:	Councillor Bill Armer (Chair of Standards), Samantha Lawton (Monitoring Officer), Mike Stow (Independent Person)

This decision notice relates to the previous three complaints that were upheld about Denby Dale Parish Cllr Glenn Hirst, with reference 2024-055.

To date, Cllr Hirst has failed to comply with the sanctions that were imposed in respect of those upheld complaints.

As Monitoring Officer, I have considered what action should be taken in respect of this matter and have determined that there are sufficient grounds to consider a further breach of the Code of Conduct in respect of Cllr Hirst's failure to comply with the sanctions that were put in place by decision notice 2024-055.

The relevant Code of Conduct is that of Denby Dale Parish Council.

The breach that has been alleged is of:

8. Complying with the Code of Conduct

As a Councillor:

8.2 I cooperate with any Code of Conduct investigation and/or determination

In coming to their decision, the decision makers gave consideration to the correspondence between the Monitoring Officer and Cllr Hirst following the publication of the initial decision notice.

It is accepted that some confusion may have been caused inadvertently by the Monitoring Officer in her correspondence, but the decision makers are of the view that, whilst this may have excused a delay in Cllr Hirst complying with the sanctions, clarification was provided to him and there was then no reasonable excuse for him failing to comply after this.

Conclusion/Decision

In respect of this further complaint it was held that Cllr Hirst was acting in his capacity as a Parish Councillor.

It was reiterated by the decision makers that it was not inappropriate for Cllr Hirst to engage with members of the public or other Councillors through social media, but that it was his manner of doing so that was inappropriate and it was this that the previous sanction sought to address.

The view of the decision makers was that Cllr Hirst was deliberately avoiding engagement with the Monitoring Officer following the publication of decision notice 2024-055.

The decision makers find that the following breach of the Code of Conduct occurred:

8. Complying with the Code of Conduct

As a Councillor:

8.2 I cooperate with any Code of Conduct investigation and/or determination

Sanctions

To this end, the following sanctions are to be applied:

- The need for Cllr Hirst to comply with the original sanctions imposed by decision notice 2024-055 will be reiterated to him.
- It will be recommended to DDPC that Cllr Hirst is removed from any Committee posts that he holds until such time as he has complied with the sanctions imposed by decision notice 2024-055

For reference, those sanctions were:

- Cllr Hirst will be asked to remove the Facebook posts complained of if these are still visible.
- Cllr Hirst will be asked to issue an apology in respect of his behaviour to both Cllr Hirst and Cllr McKerchar.
- Cllr Hirst will also be asked to apologise to Denby Dale Parish Council for bringing it into disrepute.
- Cllr Hirst will be asked to undertake some suitable training that will cover best practice for councillors and social media use. The Monitoring Officer

would suggest that any such training should be open to all Parish Council members to attend.

This decision notice will be published on the Kirklees Standards complaints page and the entry will be updated as and when Cllr Hirst complies with the sanctions.

Signed: Samantha Lawton

Dated: 27th June 2025

Samantha Lawton

Monitoring Officer