

SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS TO STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEES (INITIAL ASSESSMENT)

Date and Members of Sub-Committee	Subject Member	Alleged Breach(es)	Main Points Considered	Decision
<p>10th February 2010 Mr. D. Williams (Chairman) Mr. K. Fairbrother Cllr. Mrs. J. Mead</p>	<p>Parish Councillor</p>	<p>Paragraph 5 You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute.</p> <p>Paragraphs 9, 10 and 12 Failure to disclose a personal and prejudicial interest.</p>	<p>The Complainant stated that the Councillor failed to keep signed Minutes of Parish Council Sub-Committee Meetings and lied to the Parish Council and other people regarding what took place at these meetings.</p> <p>The Complainant explained that discussions regarding the proposed takeover of a facility had been shrouded in secrecy. The Complainant stated that apart from the Parish Council Sub-Committee, Members of the Parish Council had never been afforded the opportunity to sit around a table with the proposers of the takeover to ask questions and receive answers.</p> <p>The Complainant went on to claim that, to their knowledge, the Parish Council had never voted by a show of hands on a resolution to exclude the press and public from discussions regarding the takeover of the facility.</p> <p>The Complainant stated that they had had initial correspondence that stated that the proposal regarding the facility originated from the Parish Plan Committee. The Complainant stated that after making some enquiries on the internet, a number of Parish Councillors were on the Parish Plan, as were the individuals making the management proposals for the facility. The Complainant stated that this group now called itself the Village Plan Committee (VPC).</p>	<p>Paragraph 5 The information provided by the Complainant did not contain sufficient nor corroborative details to meet the threshold for an incident that could be regarded as a potential breach of the Code and it was therefore not intended to refer the complaint for investigation or other action.</p> <p>Paragraphs 9, 10 and 12 The issue was not considered to be sufficiently serious to warrant further action.</p>

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			<p>The Complainant stated that at the next meeting of the Parish Council, they questioned if the Councillors who were Members of the Parish Plan Committee should have declared an interest in the new management proposal, as Members of the Parish Plan. The Complainant stated that they were informed that the proposal by the VPC was not linked to the Parish Plan, even though the Complainant claimed the original document in December 2008 clearly stated that the group was representing the Parish Plan.</p> <p>The Complainant stated that irrespective of the impact of declaring an interest, they felt that Councillors should have declared their link with the Parish Plan Committee at the start, as it may have influenced the choice of Members and attendance at the facility management Sub-Committee meetings.</p> <p>The Complainant stated that regarding the Parish Council Members who were group leaders of the Parish Plan, they did not declare an interest and that from the Parish Plan website, one of the group leaders of the Development and Business Section was the subject Member.</p> <p>The Standards Sub-Committee (Initial Assessment) can only deal with complaints regarding the alleged behaviour and conduct of a Member and, therefore, any issues raised in the complaint that are not covered by the Members' Code of Conduct cannot be addressed and should be pursued separately.</p>	

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			<p>In particular, queries regarding how meetings have been convened and undertaken, the status of those meetings, what has or has not been tabled for discussion, including whether voting has been recorded and Minutes kept and signed, will need to be addressed to the Parish Council via the Proper Officer, the Clerk.</p>	
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			<p>The Standards Sub-Committee (Initial Assessment) can only deal with complaints regarding the alleged behaviour and conduct of a Member and, therefore, any issues raised in the complaint that are not covered by the Members' Code of Conduct cannot be addressed and should be pursued separately. In particular, queries regarding how meetings have been convened and undertaken, the status of those meetings, what has or has not been tabled for discussion, including whether voting has been recorded and Minutes kept and signed, will need to be addressed to the Parish Council via the Proper Officer, the Clerk.</p>	