

## STANDARDS COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 9 DECEMBER 2009

### DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Standards Committee held on Wednesday, 9 December 2009. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Holly Adams.

#### 1. **IMPACT OF SUSPENSION ON MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES**

The Standards Committee **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL AND TO THE INDEPENDENT PANEL ON MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES** that the South Cambridgeshire District Council Members' Allowances Scheme be amended as follows:

- (a) Insert as paragraph 3 (2): "Where a member is fully suspended from his or her responsibilities or duties as a member of this authority in accordance with part III of the Local Government Act 2000 or regulations made under that Part, the part of basic allowance payable to him or her in respect of the period for which he or she is suspended will be withheld by the authority."
- (b) Insert as paragraph 4 (4): "Where a member is suspended from his or her responsibilities or duties as a member of an authority in accordance with part III of the Local Government Act 2000 or regulations made under that Part, and where that member receives a special responsibility allowance, the special responsibility allowance payable to him or her in respect of the period for which he or she is suspended will be withheld by the authority."
- (c) Insert as paragraph 4 (5): "Where a member is partially suspended from his or her responsibilities or duties as a member of an authority in accordance with part III of the Local Government Act 2000 or regulations made under that Part, and where that member receives a special responsibility allowance for responsibilities or duties relating to body to which the partial suspension has been applied, the special responsibility allowance payable to him or her in respect of the period for which he or she is partially suspended will be withheld by the authority."
- (d) Insert after paragraph 23: "Where a member is suspended or partially suspended from his or her responsibilities or duties as a member of an authority in accordance with part III of the Local Government Act 2000 or regulations made under that Part, that member will not be able to claim for dependants' carers' and travel and subsistence allowances for duties and responsibilities relating to the body or bodies from which the member has been suspended."

#### 2. **HORSEHEATH PARISH COUNCIL: REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

The Standards Committee **AGREED** to grant dispensations from any items concerning land availability for low-cost (affordable) housing and planning applications on exception sites to Horseheath Parish Councillors R Daynes, DV Gouldstone, M Howell, D Lindsell, S Miller and C Newman until May 2011, the duration of the current Parish Council, or until specific sites had been identified, whichever is sooner, with the reminder that they were still to declare an interest in such items and that they must also declare that they had received a dispensation for that interest.

**3. GAMLINGAY PARISH COUNCIL: REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

The Standards Committee **AGREED** to grant to Gamlingay Parish Councillors Mrs J Colebrook, Mrs C Emery, Mr M Giles, Mrs S Groom, Mrs M Halliday, Mrs S Round, Mr I Simpson, Mr N Telford-Reed, Mr C Tomsett and Mrs JW Wright four-year dispensations from any financial or regulatory matters relating to Gamlingay Community Centre, with the reminder that they are still to declare an interest in any such matters and to declare that they have received a dispensation for that interest.

The Standards Committee **AGREED** to advise Gamlingay Parish Council that any new elected or co-opted parish councillors should apply for similar dispensations immediately upon election or co-option.

**4. FEEDBACK FROM PARISH LIAISON WORKING GROUP**

The Standards Committee **AGREED** that the Parish Liaison Working Group should prepare a questionnaire, for distribution to all parish councils and meetings in spring 2010, to help identify areas of best practice and areas where support and advice was needed, this questionnaire to be brought to the Standards Committee at its March 2010 meeting before distribution.