

## SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** Standards Committee  
**AUTHOR/S:** Finance and Resources Director

10 May 2006

### ELTISLEY PARISH COUNCIL – REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION

#### Purpose

1. Four current members of Eltisley Parish Council seek a dispensation from the Standards Committee. No specific issue precipitated this request: it was made in response to an e-mail from the Monitoring Officer advising that members should leave the meeting for any matters relating to anything in the same road, e.g., school, verges, road maintenance, planning, etc.

#### Effect on Corporate Objectives

2.	Quality, Accessible Services	
	Village Life	The Standards Committee has the power to grant a dispensation upon request from a Parish Council.
	Sustainability	
	Partnership	

#### Background

3. Four of the seven current members of Eltisley Parish Council live in Caxton End, Eltisley. Should any matter arise on the Eltisley Parish Council agenda in which they had to declare a prejudicial interest, over half the membership of the Parish Council would be excluded from the meeting. The quorum is three.
4. The forthcoming 4 May 2006 Parish Council election is uncontested but only five nominees have been received for the seven seats. Of those five, three live in Caxton End. The Parish Council intends to co-opt for the two vacancies, but cannot guarantee that the co-opted members do not live in Caxton End.
5. Under the *Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee)(Dispensations) Regulations 2002*, a standards committee can grant a dispensation to a member if:
  - (a) the transaction of business of the authority would, on each occasion on which the dispensation would apply, otherwise be impeded by, or as a result of, the mandatory provisions because:
    - i) the numbers of members of the authority that are prohibited from participating in the business of the authority exceeds 50 per cent of those members that are entitled or required to participate; or
    - ii) the authority is not able to comply with any duty which applies under section 15(4) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989;
  - (b) the member has submitted to the standards committee a written request for a dispensation explaining why it is desirable.
6. All requests to a Standards Committee for dispensations are granted at the Committee's discretion.

### **Considerations**

7. Parish Council members must still declare an interest in matters in which they have been granted a dispensation. As a matter of good practice, members should also state that they have been granted a dispensation.

### **Options**

8. The Standards Committee may decide that any new member of the Parish Council who lives at Caxton End must apply for a dispensation, or it may grant a general dispensation to all current and future members of Eltisley Parish Council who live at Caxton End.

### **Recommendations**

9. To grant a dispensation to those members of Eltisley Parish Council who live at Caxton End, with the reminder that they are still to declare an interest in any matters concerning Caxton End and to note that they have received a dispensation for that interest.

**Background Papers:** the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: None

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