

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Standards Committee

8 November 2006

AUTHOR/S: Chief Executive / Democratic Services Officer

CROXTON PARISH COUNCIL – REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION

Purpose

1. Three current members of Croxton 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.

Background

2. Three of the five current members of Croxton Parish Council live in High Street, Croxton. Should any matter arise on the Croxton 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.
3. 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.
4. All requests to a Standards Committee for dispensations are granted at the Committee's discretion.

Considerations

5. 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

6. The Standards Committee may decide that any new member of the Parish Council who lives in High Street must apply for a dispensation, or it may grant a general dispensation to all current and future members of Croxton Parish Council who live in High Street.

Implications

7.	Financial	None
	Legal	None
	Staffing	None
	Risk Management	None
	Equal Opportunities	None

Consultations

8. None.

Effect on Annual Priorities and Corporate Objectives

9.	Affordable Homes	None
	Customer Service	None
	Northstowe and other growth areas	None
	Quality, Accessible Services	None
	Village Life	The Standards Committee has the power to grant a dispensation upon request from a parish council.
	Sustainability	None
	Partnership	None

Recommendations

10. To grant a dispensation to those members of Croxton Parish Council who live in High Street, namely Mr A Lintott, Mr S Ingram and Mrs N Spenser, with the reminder that they are still to declare an interest in any matters concerning High Street 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:

Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee)(Dispensations) Regulations 2002
Letter from Croxton Parish Clerk

Contact Officer: Holly Adams – Democratic Services Officer
Telephone: (01954) 713030