

South Cambridgeshire Hall  
Cambourne Business Park  
Cambourne  
Cambridge  
CB23 6EA

t: 08450 450 500  
f: 01954 713149  
dx: DX 729500 Cambridge 15  
minicom: 01480 376743  
[www.scambs.gov.uk](http://www.scambs.gov.uk)

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South  
Cambridgeshire  
District Council

standards committee

## Parish Council Member's Application for a Dispensation

To: Standards Committee, South Cambridgeshire District Council

Under Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000, a member who has a prejudicial interest in a matter which is under consideration may not participate in the consideration of that matter by the Parish Council unless he / she has first obtained a dispensation from the Standards Committee of South Cambridgeshire District Council. The powers to grant a dispensation are governed by the Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) (Dispensation) Regulations 2002. You may apply for a dispensation by completing this form and sending it to the Monitoring Officer of South Cambridgeshire District Council. Please do so as soon as you are aware of the possible conflict, before South Cambridgeshire District Council Standards Committee is due to meet and before the matter is due to be considered by the Parish Council. Please complete the attached form as fully as possible as the request for dispensation must be written and explain why the dispensation is desirable.

Please note that for Standards Committee to conclude that it is appropriate to grant a dispensation it must have regard to the reason for the request, the content of the written application and to all the other circumstances of the case.

***If you are granted a dispensation, please note that the Standards Committee must be notified if the circumstances under which it was granted change.***

Your Name and Parish Council / Meeting:

Richard Halpin

Gamlingay Parish Council

What is the matter which is shortly to be considered and in respect of which you seek a dispensation?

Gamlingay Community Centre – various issues regarding a major refurbishment programme.

Is this matter to be considered by the Parish Council as a whole or by a sub-committee? If the latter please provide the name of the sub-committee.

Parish Council as a whole and by Planning and Finance and General Purposes Committees.

What is the nature of your prejudicial interest?

The Parish Council as a whole is the sole holding/custodian trustee of the Community Centre.

What is the date of the meeting at which this matter is to be considered?

The Community Centre is a standing agenda item at all full council meetings and appears regularly on agendas of the committees named above.

The grounds for dispensation is that the number of Members of the body that are prohibited from participating in the business of the authority exceeds 50% of those Members that are entitled or required to so participate. Please provide details confirming this:

The Parish Council as a corporate body is the sole holding/custodian trustee of the Community Centre, therefore all its members would be prohibited from participating in some discussions – due to prejudicial interests - without this dispensation.

Do you seek a dispensation just for the one meeting or for a longer period? If longer, please state a period not exceeding four calendar years.

Four calendar years with immediate effect.

Please set out below the reasons why you consider the Standards Committee should grant this dispensation:

The Parish Council is seeking to enhance community facilities within the village with a major refurbishment project for the Community Centre, transforming it into an Eco - Hub. This will involve financial input from the Parish Council, grant applications to external bodies and potentially borrowing money. Planning applications for the Hub will be considered by the Parish Council planning committee and its Finance committee will consider the impact of spending. Members need clarification that they are all entitled to discuss and vote on all issues pertaining to the Community Centre/Hub.

Signed:

Date: .....

R Halpin (signature)

11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2010