

STANDARDS DISPENSATION SUB-COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS DISPENSATION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 MAY 2011 AT COMMITTEE ROOM VII - COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE.

Present:

Mr Michael Cronin, Cllr Ian McLennan and His Hon David MacLaren Webster QC

Also Present:

Nina Wilton – Deputy Monitoring Officer

8. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

9. Consideration of a dispensation request - Councillor Georgina Helyer of Steeple Langford Parish Council

The Deputy Monitoring Officer introduced the report and explained that Councillor Helyer is a member of Steeple Langford Parish Council and also a trustee of Steeple Langford Allotment Trust.

Four of the seven Steeple Langford Parish Council members are trustees of the allotment trust and two are allotment holders.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer explained the law and guidance relevant to this request and advised that Councillor Helyer had a personal and prejudicial interest in matters relating to the financial position of the allotments arising from her position as a trustee.

She reminded the Sub-Committee that, in reaching a decision, they must have regard to guidance from Standards for England and to the public interest.

Resolved:

To grant a dispensation to run until the next election in May 2013, subject to their being no material change in the circumstances under which this dispensation is granted.

10. **Consideration of a dispensation request - Councillor David Grover of Steeple Langford Parish Council**

The Deputy Monitoring Officer introduced the report and explained that Councillor Grover is a member of Steeple Langford Parish Council, an allotment holder and also lives next door to the allotment site.

Four of the seven Steeple Langford Parish Council members are trustees of the allotment trust and two are allotment holders.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer explained the law and guidance relevant to this request and advised that in her opinion Councillor Grover did have a personal and prejudicial interest in matters relating to the financial position of the allotments arising from his position as an allotment holder and the fact that he lived next door to the allotment site.

She reminded the Sub-Committee that, in reaching a decision, they must have regard to guidance from Standards for England.

The Sub-Committee discussed the nature of Councillor Grover's prejudicial interest and concluded that it was so substantial that the granting of a dispensation would be likely to prejudice the public confidence in the conduct of Steeple Langford Parish Council's business.

Resolved:

Not to grant a dispensation as the sub-committee did not consider that it was in the public interest to do so.

11. **Consideration of a dispensation request - Councillor Christopher Andrews of Steeple Langford Parish Council**

The Deputy Monitoring Officer introduced the report and explained that Councillor Andrews is a member of Steeple Langford Parish Council and also a trustee of Steeple Langford Allotment Trust.

Four of the seven Steeple Langford Parish Council members are trustees of the allotment trust and two are allotment holders.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer explained the law and guidance relevant to this request and advised that Councillor Andrews had a personal and prejudicial interest in matters relating to the financial position of the allotments arising from his position as a trustee.

She reminded the Sub-Committee that, in reaching a decision, they must have regard to guidance from Standards for England.

Resolved:

To grant a dispensation to run until the next election in May 2013, subject to their being no material change in the circumstances under which this dispensation is granted.

12. Consideration of a dispensation request - Councillor Debbie Pemberton of Steeple Langford Parish Council

The Deputy Monitoring Officer introduced the report and explained that Councillor Pemberton is a member of Steeple Langford Parish Council and also a trustee of Steeple Langford Allotment Trust.

Four of the seven Steeple Langford Parish Council members are trustees of the allotment trust and two are allotment holders.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer explained the law and guidance relevant to this request and advised that Councillor Pemberton had a personal and prejudicial interest in matters relating to the financial position of the allotments arising from her position as a trustee.

She reminded the Sub-Committee that, in reaching a decision, they must have regard to guidance from Standards for England.

Resolved:

To grant a dispensation to run until the next election in May 2013, subject to their being no material change in the circumstances under which this dispensation is granted.

13. Consideration of a dispensation request - Councillor Rob Parry of Steeple Langford Parish Council

The Deputy Monitoring Officer introduced the report and explained that Councillor Parry is a member of Steeple Langford Parish Council and also an allotment holder.

Four of the seven Steeple Langford Parish Council members are trustees of the allotment trust and two are allotment holders.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer explained the law and guidance relevant to this request and advised that in her opinion Councillor Parry did have a personal and prejudicial interest in matters relating to the financial position of the allotments arising from his position as an allotment holder.

She reminded the Sub-Committee that, in reaching a decision, they must have regard to guidance from Standards for England.

The Sub-Committee discussed the nature of Councillor Parry's prejudicial interest and concluded that it was so substantial that the granting of a dispensation would be likely to prejudice the public confidence in the conduct of Steeple Langford Parish Council's business.

Resolved:

Not to grant a dispensation as the sub-committee did not consider that it was in the public interest to do so.

(Duration of meeting: 9.30 - 10.00 am)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Pam Denton, of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 718371, e-mail pam.denton@wiltshire.gov.uk

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