

Standards Committee

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REPORT

COMPLAINT TO STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND

1. Purpose of Report :

To report to the Committee the outcome of a complaint to the Standards Board for England.

2. Background :

2.1 A complaint was received by the Standards Board for England alleging that Councillor Rowe of West Dean Parish Council had failed to comply with the Parish Council's Code of Conduct in that he had:

- unlawfully discriminated against someone
- failed to treat others with respect
- brought his office or authority into disrepute
- improperly secured a disadvantage on another person

2.2 In November 2002 the Standards Board referred the complaint for investigation.

3. Outcome of the Investigation

3.1 The investigation was carried out and in relation to the allegations that the member unlawfully discriminated against someone and failed to treat others with respect the investigator found that there was no evidence of any failure to comply with the Code of Conduct. In relation to the other allegations the investigating officer found that no action needs to be taken.

3.2 The report confirming this finding was published on 10th February 2004 to Councillor Rowe, the Monitoring Officer and the complainant. It remains confidential and cannot be disclosed.

3.3 The investigator prepared a summary of the report and this was published on the Standards Board's web site in May 2004. A copy of the case summary is annexed to this report. In brief, however, Members are advised that it relates to disagreements concerning a conversion, some time ago, of a former village pub in West Dean to a private house.

4. Future action

Whatever the outcome of an investigation of the Standards Board it is suggested that the Committee takes the opportunity to consider whether any further advice or training should be given to Parish Councillors.

5. Recommendations :

It is recommended that the Committee:-

5.1 notes the report

5.2 considers whether any further advice or training should be given to Parish Councillors. in relation to the Code of Conduct

6. Background Papers

Case Summary published by the Standards Board for England and received on 26th May 2004.

7. Implications:

- **Financial:** None
- **Legal:** None
- **Human Rights:** None
- **Personnel:** None
- **Community Safety:** None
- **Environmental implications:** None
- **Council's Core Values:** being fair and equitable
- **Wards Affected:** Winterslow – West Dean Parish Council Area