

Standards Committee

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REPORT

COMPLAINTS TO STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND

1. Purpose of Report :

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

2. Background :

- 2.1 A complaint was received by the Board alleging that Councillors Edward Draper, Anthony Brown - Hovelt and Jeremy Hooper were in breach of Salisbury District Council's Code of Conduct in that members of Western Area Committee rejected a planning application for the erection of a house on a paddock and to use the proceeds from that to restore a nearby hut for use as a village hall on spurious grounds, specifically,
- that the house would result in the loss of an independent area of open space when the area affected was not open space but private land
 - that alterations to the village hall would involve the removal of a thatch when this matter had already been conceded by the applicant
 - that the proposals would not make adequate provision for a recreational space when there is no such space presently and the applicant was offering to provide such space free
- 2.2 The Monitoring Officer has been notified by the Board that it has considered the complaint and decided to take no further action until further information is received. This is because the Board considered that the complainant had not provided sufficient information to enable the Board to assess the roles of Councillors Draper, Brown – Hovelt and Hooper in the alleged misinformation given to the Committee. In particular how, in the complainant's view, each of them improperly influenced the outcome of the application.

3. Recommendations

That the Committee notes this report.

4. Background Papers:

Letter dated 18th November 2004 from the Board.

5. Implications:

- **Financial** : None
- **Legal** : None
- **Human Rights** : any interference with Article 8 [the right to a private life] is in accordance with the law [the Local Government Act 2000 and regulations made under it] and proportionate and reasonable in a democratic society [ensuring transparent, open and accountable government]
- **Personnel** : None
- **Community Safety** : None
- **Environmental** : None
- **Council's Core Values** : being fair and equitable
- **Wards Affected** : Chalke Valley, Wilton, Tisbury & Fovant