

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## STANDARDS COMMITTEE DECISION

<b>NAME OF AUTHORITY: HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>	
<b>Name of Member who the allegation has been made about</b>	Former Councillor J Willcock
<b>Name of person who made the original allegation</b>	Mrs S Dean
<b>Case Reference No. Standards Board for England</b>	SBE 1533606
<b>Name of Chairman of Hearing</b>	Mr D H Bristow
<b>Names of Standards Committee members who took part in the hearing</b>	Councillors J D Ablewhite and I R Muir and D L Hall and D MacPherson
<b>Name of Monitoring Officer</b>	Mr P Watkins (Mr C Meadowcroft attended the hearing in his role as Deputy Monitoring Officer.)
<b>Name of the Ethical Standards Officer who referred the matter</b>	S Kingston (Mr Kingston was not in attendance)
<b>Name of Investigating Officer</b>	Ms C Deller
<b>Name of Clerk to the Hearing</b>	Mrs C Bulman
<b>Date, time, place of hearing</b>	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2007 at 9.30 am, Chief Executive's Meeting Room, Pathfinder House, St. Mary's Street, Huntingdon
<b>Summary of the allegation and relevant section(s) of the Code of Conduct</b>	<p>That former Councillor J Willcock-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ disclosed information given to him in confidence</li> <li>◆ failed to declare a personal interest</li> <li>◆ failed to declare a prejudicial interest</li> <li>◆ failed to withdraw from a meeting of Little Paxton Parish Council when a matter in which he had a prejudicial interest was discussed and voted upon.</li> </ul> <p>Contrary to paragraphs 3(a), 7(i), 8, 9(i) and 10(a) of Little Paxton Parish Council's Code of Conduct.</p>
<b>Summary of the evidence considered and representations made</b>	<p>Report and addendum by the Investigating Officer.</p> <p>Correspondence from Mrs S Dean, Mrs J Gellatly, Mr &amp; Mrs Dring, Mr J Willcock.</p> <p>Minutes of meetings of Little Paxton Parish Council.</p>

	<p>Notes of interviews undertaken with Mrs S Dean, Councillor A Denison, former Councillor J Willcock, and Mrs J Gellatly.</p> <p>Presentation by the Investigating Officer</p> <p>Presentation by Mrs S Dean</p> <p>Responses by the Investigating Officer, Mrs S Dean and Mrs J Gellatly to questions from the Committee.</p>
<b>Findings of fact</b>	<p>As set out in the report of the Investigating Officer.</p> <p>There were no major areas of disagreement of fact.</p>
<b>Finding as to whether or not the member failed to follow the Code of Conduct</b>	<p>The Committee was satisfied that former Parish Councillor J Willcock failed to disclose a personal interest by virtue of his property ownership in breach of paragraphs 7(i) and 8 of Little Paxton Parish Council's Code of Conduct.</p>
<b>Penalties applied</b>	<p>That former Parish Councillor J Willcock be censured.</p>
<b>Further recommendation</b>	<p>The Committee also recommended that Little Paxton Parish Council be offered the opportunity to receive further training on ethical standards and the Code of Conduct from the Monitoring Officer to seek to avoid further problems of the nature which had arisen as part of the complaint.</p>
<b>Names of Witnesses</b>	<p>Mrs S Dean, Complainant Mrs J Gellatly, Clerk to Little Paxton Parish Council</p>
<b>Right to appeal</b>	<p>The President of the Adjudication Panel The Adjudication Panel for England 23 Victoria Avenue Harrogate HG1 5RD</p> <p>Tel: 01423 538783 Fax: 01423 525164 E-mail: <a href="mailto:enquiries@adjudicationpanel.co.uk">enquiries@adjudicationpanel.co.uk</a> Website: <a href="http://www.adjudicationpanel.co.uk">www.adjudicationpanel.co.uk</a></p> <p>21 days</p>