

**CODE OF CONDUCT: STANDARDS BOARD NOTIFICATION
(Report by the Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In accordance with the procedure adopted by the Standards Board for England for the investigation of allegations, the Monitoring Officer has been notified of the Board's decision in respect of an allegation made against Councillors serving on Huntingdon Town and Houghton and Wyton Parish Councils.

2. DETAILS OF CASE 1

- 2.1 It had been alleged that the Town Councillor had suspended a member of staff without the authority of the Council or a Committee set up to deal with such matters.
- 2.2 The reasons for the suspension were not explained to the Standards Board for England. While the Board recognised that such an approach may be at variance with the Council's procedures, they have no jurisdiction to consider issues of procedure and have advised that this was a matter for the Town Council to address in the first instance.
- 2.3 The Board has decided that the allegation should not be referred to an Ethical Standards Officer for investigation and having taken account of the information available to them do not believe that the alleged conduct disclosed a potential failure to comply with the Code of Conduct. There was no finding of fact.

3. DETAILS OF CASE 2

- 3.1 It had been alleged that the Parish Councillor had failed to declare a prejudicial interest and withdraw from the room when the Parish Council's Planning Committee had discussed a development application in the village. It had also been alleged that the Parish Councillor had pre-determined views on the application before it had been considered by the Parish Council.
- 3.2 As the proposed development would not have affected the Parish Councillor's financial position or well being, the Standards Board concluded that the Councillor had no personal or prejudicial interest in the application. It also was decided that there was no evidence that the Councillor had irrevocably made up her mind about the development application before the meeting. On both counts, it was concluded that there was no failure to comply with the Code of Conduct.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Committee is invited to note that the Standards Board for England has agreed not to take any further action in relation to allegations made against Councillors serving on Huntingdon Town and Houghton and Wyton Parish Councils.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Letters received from the Standards Board for England dated 9th and 21st February 2007.

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