

Standards Committee – Code of Conduct scenarios – 30.3.2017

1. Councillor Robert Snell is the Chair of the Development Management Committee of Ambridge Council. He holds firm views on greenbelt land. He has written to the local paper stating his opposition to an application for a housing development on the green belt, which is to be decided at the next meeting of the Committee.

- a. What interest does he have, if any, and what action should he take?

The Development Management Committee approves the planning application, against the advice of the planning officer. After the meeting, Councillor Jennifer Aldridge finds out that Councillor Justin Elliot, who is the owner and developer of the scheme, has been trying to get his fellow councillors to support his application. Councillor Aldridge is insistent that there has been a breach of the Code by Councillor Elliot. She wants to know how to take this forward.

- b. Has there been a breach of the Code?
- c. Would your answer be different if Councillor Elliot was a member of the Development Management Committee and had taken part in the discussion but left before the vote?
- d. What action should Councillor Aldridge take?

Councillor Aldridge makes her complaint and it is referred to the Monitoring Officer. The Independent Person has met Councillor Elliot on several occasions at various social gatherings.

- e. Does the Independent Person need to take any action?

The complaint is investigated and the Standards Committee finds this behaviour has been a breach of the Code.

- f. Does this invalidate the decision?

2. You are the Chair of the Penny Hasset Parish Council. At the meeting Councillor Tucker declares an interest relating to an item on the agenda. The Clerk asks him to confirm what the interest is. Councillor Tucker replies “it’s none of your business.”

- a. What action do you take, if any?
- b. What action can the Parish Council take?