

## DISPENSATIONS TO TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

Report By: County Secretary and Solicitor

### Ward Affected

Hagley

### Purpose

1. To consider an application for dispensation received from Bartestree with Lugwardine Group Parish Council and any others received prior to the meeting.

### Financial Implications

2. None

### Background

3. Under the Code of Conduct, town and parish councillors are prohibited from participating in matters in which they have a prejudicial interest. In the normal course of events this would not prejudice the proper working of their councils. There are instances, however, where the number of Councillors who would be prohibited from participating will impede the transaction of business.
4. The Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) (Dispensations) Regulations 2002 gives Standards Committees the power to grant dispensations in circumstances where the number of councillors that are prohibited from participating in the business of the council exceeds 50% of those that are entitled or required to so participate.
5. In each case, the councillor requesting the dispensation must request it in writing, setting out why the dispensation is desirable.
6. The Standards Committee must then decide whether, in all the circumstances, it is appropriate to grant the dispensation.
7. The Regulations set out a number of exceptions where, even though the criterion above is met, a dispensation may not be granted for town or parish councils. This is where the business of the council for which the dispensation is granted is more than 4 years after the date on which the dispensation is granted.
8. At the meeting on 10th October the Committee granted a request from Bartestree with Lugwardine Group Parish Council for the following Councillors to be granted dispensation because they serve as Trustees for Bartestree Village Hall, a registered charity:- R. Lawley; R. Rolfe; T. Rowberry; R. Salmond; N. Shore; K. Watkins; J. Williams; R. Williams; M. Wilson and A.Wood. Prior to the meeting the Parish Council requested that the name of Mr P. A. Wargent also be added to the list of those seeking dispensation but due to an error his name was not included in the report to the Standards Committee. Mr Wargent therefore needs to be added to the list of the Parish Councillors to be granted dispensation.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT**            **that Mr P.A. Wargent of the Bartestree with Lugwardine Group Parish Councillors be granted a dispensation in respect of Bartestree Village Hall**

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Letters from Bartestree with Lugwardine Group Parish Council dated 28th July, 2004, and 23rd September, 2004.