

MEETING:	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
DATE:	20 APRIL 2012
TITLE OF REPORT:	APPLICATIONS FOR A DISPENSATION RECEIVED FROM BRIDSTOW PARISH COUNCIL
REPORT BY:	DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER

Classification: Open

Purpose

1. To consider an application for a dispensation received from Bridstow Parish Council.

Recommendations

THAT a dispensation under Regulation 17 of the Standards Committee (Further Provisions) (England) Regulations 2009 be granted to:

**Councillor Jenny Colin
Councillor Sally Northcott
Councillor Richard Gething
Councillor Simon Brewer
Councillor Clive Beddows
Councillor Shirley Preece**

(of Bridstow Parish Council), for the period of four years, or until the earlier revocation of the mandatory Code of Member Conduct, where the transaction of business of the Bridstow Parish council involves Bridstow Village Hall.

Background

2. 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, when the number of councillors who would be prohibited from participating will impede the transaction of business.
3. The Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) (Dispensations) Regulations 2002, amended by the Standards Committee (Further Provisions) (England) Order 2009, give 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 who are entitled or required to participate, **or** where the number of members that are prohibited from voting at a

meeting would upset the political balance of the meeting to the extent that the outcome of voting would be prejudiced.

4. In each case, the councillor must request the dispensation in writing, setting out why the dispensation is desirable. The Standards Committee must then decide whether, in all the circumstances, it is appropriate to grant the dispensation.
5. The regulations also specify two circumstances where a dispensation may not be granted; firstly, in respect of participation in business conducted more than 4 years after the date on which the dispensation was granted; and, secondly in relation to prejudicial interests concerning attendance at a scrutiny committee meeting which is scrutinising the activity of any other committee to which the member belongs, or for executive members in relation to their own portfolios.

Bridstow Parish Council

6. Bridstow Parish Council has requested a dispensation in relation to the following six members:

Councillor Jenny Colin
Councillor Sally Northcott
Councillor Richard Gething
Councillor Simon Brewer
Councillor Clive Beddows
Councillor Shirley Preece.

7. All are trustees of Bridstow Village Hall, and the dispensation is required to enable them to discuss village hall matters. The total membership of the Parish Council is seven and the quorum is three.

Financial Implications

8. None.

Appendices

Letter and application form from Bridstow Parish Council.