

**MINUTES of the meeting of Standards Committee held at
The Council Chamber, Town Hall, St Owen's Street,
Hereford on Tuesday, 26th July, 2005 at 9.00 a.m.**

Present: Robert Rogers (Independent Member)(Chairman)

Councillor John Edwards and Councillor John Stone
David Stevens (Independent Member)
Richard Gething (Parish and Town Council Representative)
John Hardwick (Parish and Town Council Representative)

18. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

19. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 08 July 2005 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

21. CASE SUMMARY - COUNCILLOR JOHN LANE OF BROMYARD AND WINSLOW TOWN COUNCIL

The Committee received a case summary in respect of Councillor John Lane of Bromyard and Winslow Town Council.

22. HEARING INTO REPORT OF AN INVESTIGATION UNDER SECTION 66 AND SECTION 82 A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 AS AMENDED

The Committee considered details of an investigation into an allegation against Councillor John Lane of Bromyard and Winslow Town Council under Sections 66 and 82A of the Local Government Act 2000 as amended, which had been undertaken by Louise Whitesman, Assistant Solicitor of Herefordshire Council.

23. DECISION - COUNCILLOR JOHN LANE OF BROMYARD AND WINSLOW TOWN COUNCIL

Having considered the written evidence put forward and all the evidence presented to it at the hearing, the Committee made its decision which is summarised in the following Decision Notice:

SBE CASE NUMBER(S)	SBE10938.05
MEMBER	Councillor John Lane
AUTHORITY	Bromyard and Winslow Town Council
SUMMARY OF ALLEGATION	It is alleged that Councillor Lane breached the Code of Conduct on 18 April 2005 by failing to declare a personal interest.
DATE OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE HEARING	Tuesday 26 July 2005
STANDARDS COMMITTEE PANEL MEMBERS	Mr Robert Rogers (Independent Member) (Chairman), Mr Richard Gething (Parish Council Representative), Mr John Hardwick (Parish Council Representative), Mr David Stevens (Independent Member), Councillor John Stone (Herefordshire Council)

DECISION

We have carefully considered the evidence and submissions presented before us today. We find that on 18 April 2005, Councillor John Lane breached paragraph 8 of the Town Council's Code of Conduct which requires that a Councillor with a personal interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the council at which the matter is considered must disclose at that meeting the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of that consideration, or when the interest becomes apparent.

We have accepted Councillor Lane's apology made this morning on the public record and in these circumstances we do not impose any further penalty.

Our recommendation to Bromyard and Winslow Town Council is that in view of the importance which we attach to training for Councillors on the Code of Conduct, the training planned by the Council for 1 October 2005 should be attended by all Town Councillors, not only those new to the Council. Training should also involve the Herefordshire Association of Local Councils and Herefordshire Council's Monitoring Officer. We have asked for a report on which Councillors attend this event and what arrangements are being made for any absentees to receive training and in what time scale.

Our Decision Notice will be made available today and will be posted on the Herefordshire Council's website. Our full decision will be published as soon as possible.

**Standards Committee
Herefordshire Council
Brockington
35 Hafod Road, Hereford
Date: 26 July 2005
Ref: MR/CSS/SBE0502**

24. CASE SUMMARY - COUNCILLOR ALBERT HUSSEY OF KINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

The Committee received a case summary in respect of Councillor Albert Hussey of Kington Town Council.

25. HEARING REPORT OF AN INVESTIGATION UNDER SECTION 66 AND SECTION 82 A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 AS AMENDED

The Committee considered details of an investigation into an allegation against Councillor Albert Hussey of Kington Town Council under Sections 66 and 82A of the Local Government Act 2000 as amended, which had been undertaken by Kevin O'Keefe, Legal Practice Manager of Herefordshire Council.

26. DECISION - COUNCILLOR ALBERT HUSSEY OF KINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Having considered the written evidence put forward and all the evidence presented to it at the hearing, the Committee made its decision which is summarised in the following Decision Notice:

SBE CASE NUMBER(S)	SBE10294.05
MEMBER	Councillor Albert Hussey
AUTHORITY	Kington Town Council
SUMMARY OF ALLEGATION	It is alleged that Councillor Hussey breached the Code of Conduct: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on 17 May 2004 failing to declare a personal interest; and • inappropriately seeking to influence the Town Council's consideration of a matter.
DATE OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE HEARING	Tuesday 26 July 2005
STANDARDS COMMITTEE PANEL MEMBERS	Mr Robert Rogers (Independent Member) (Chairman), Mr Richard Gething (Parish Council Representative), Mr John Hardwick (Parish Council Representative), Mr David Stevens (Independent Member), Councillor John Stone (Herefordshire Council)

DECISION

We have carefully considered the evidence and submissions presented before us today. We find that on 17 May 2004, Councillor Albert Hussey breached paragraph 8 of the Town Council's Code of Conduct which requires a Councillor with a personal interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the council at which the matter is considered to disclose the existence and nature of that interest. We also find that on 10 February 2005, Councillor Albert Hussey breached paragraph 10(b) of the Code of Conduct which requires Councillors not to seek improperly to influence a decision about a matter in which they have an interest.

We censure Councillor Hussey for the breaches of the Code of Conduct and require him to undertake training on the Code at the first feasible opportunity to be identified by the Herefordshire Association of Local Councils.

Our Decision Notice will be made available today and will be posted on the Herefordshire Council's website. Our full decision will be published as soon as possible.

**Standards Committee
Herefordshire Council
Brockington
35 Hafod Road, Hereford
Date: 26 July 2005
Ref: MR/CSS/SBE0501**

The meeting ended at 2.50 p.m.

CHAIRMAN