

MEETING:	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
DATE:	14 OCTOBER 2011
TITLE OF REPORT:	APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATIONS RECEIVED FROM PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS
REPORT BY:	DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER

Classification: Open

Purpose

1. To consider applications for dispensations received from Garway Parish Council and Colwall Parish Council.

Recommendations

THAT

- (a) **the Standards Committee considers granting dispensations to members of Garway Parish Council and Colwall Parish Council, as named in the report;**

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; first, 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.

Garway Parish Council

6. Garway Parish Council has requested a block dispensation in relation to the following four members:

Councillor David Atkinson;
Councillor Chris Strange;
Councillor Malcolm Howard;
Councillor Colin Robinson.

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

Colwall Parish Council

8. Colwall Parish Council has requested a block dispensation in relation to the following twelve members:

Councillor Nicola Carless;
Councillor Barry Ashton;
Councillor John Morris;
Councillor Nick Abbotts;
Councillor Roland Traffod-Roberts;
Councillor Neil Banning
Councillor Jim Beard
Councillor Michael Milne
Councillor John Mills
Councillor John Stock
Councillor Gwyneth Rees
Councillor John Andrews.

9. All are trustees of Walwyn Meadow Hall, and the dispensation is required to enable them to discuss matters relating to this. The total membership of the Parish Council is fifteen.

Financial Implications

10. None.

Appendices

Letters and application forms from Garway Parish Council and Colwall Parish Council.