

# Taunton Deane Borough Council

## Standards Committee – 8 June 2010

### Dispensation to Members of West Monkton Parish Council in respect of the Local Development Framework Planning Process for Monkton Heathfield

#### Report of Monitoring Officer

#### 1. Background

- 1.1. This matter was deferred from the meeting on the 14 April 2010 as members of the Standards Committee requested further information from the applicants.
- 1.2. It will be noted that members of West Monkton Parish Council have requested a dispensation in order to be able to participate in the LDF planning process as 4000 dwellings have been proposed for Monkton Heathfield. A copy of the application submitted is attached as Appendix A.
- 1.3. The current situation is that this area is being proposed for 4000 dwellings in Monkton Heathfield through the Local Development Framework process and West Monkton Parish Council's views will be sought in connection with this process.
- 1.4. More than 50% of the members of West Monkton Parish Council will have a prejudicial interest as they all have a prejudicial interest in this area that is a financial interest.
- 1.5. The Local Government Act 2000 provides that where more than 50% of members would have a prejudicial interest, the Standards Committee may grant a dispensation to the members in order to allow them to be able to participate in this process.
- 1.6. The members who would have a prejudicial interest in this matter are:-
  - Stuart Haskins
  - Ray Tully
  - Barry Gage
  - Norman Cavill
  - Mark Bosley
- 1.7. I have received information from some of those members who have now given me details of their interest which is set out as follows:-
  - Barry Gage has a financial interest in property and land at Haygrove, 45 Greenway, Monkton Heathfield;

- Norman Cavill confirms that his main financial interest is land at Langaller in the proposal for housing; and a property at Torrington, Goosenford which is at the top of the new proposed green wedge;

1.8 Therefore a dispensation is sought by West Monkton Parish Council in order for its members to be able to participate in the Local Development Framework Consultation process for the area.

## 2. **Factors to be taken into account**

2.1 When deciding this application the Committee should take into account the following factors:-

- 2.1.1 the risks and consequences of granting or refusing the application;
- 2.1.2 the extent to which the request could have been avoided;
- 2.1.3 whether other arrangements could be made;
- 2.1.4 the effect other arrangements could be made;
- 2.1.5 the effect affect on public perception and confidence in local governance;
- 2.1.6 the extent to which there is some personal benefit and the extent of public benefit obtained by agreeing to a dispensation;

## 3. **Recommendation**

3.1. That the committee decides whether to grant a dispensation and the extent of such dispensation should they decide to grant one.

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