
STANDARDS COMMITTEE

25th JANUARY 2008

Report of the Interim Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

OUTCOME OF COMPLAINT REGARDING A MEMBER OF NETHER POPPLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Standards Committee of the outcome of a complaint regarding Councillor John Craven of Nether Poppleton Parish Council. No evidence was found that the member had breached the Code of Conduct.

Background

2. The complainant to the Standards Board for England alleged that Councillor John Craven of Nether Poppleton Parish Council failed to declare a prejudicial interest and leave meetings when the Council discussed matters concerning the Poppleton Community Trust (PCT).
3. The complainant alleged that Councillor Craven had an interest because before becoming a councillor, he had addressed the council to request funding for the PCT in January 2006.
4. The complainant further alleged that Councillor Craven failed to enter his interest in the PCT in the register of members' interests.
5. The Ethical Standards Officer concluded that Councillor Craven was not a trustee of the PCT and his only involvement with it was as a volunteer. Therefore he was not obliged to note his work for the PCT in the register.
6. The Ethical Standards Officer considered that Councillor Craven's financial position would not be affected by any decision made on applications by the PCT and that the PCT's sole purpose is to benefit residents of the area. Any funding obtained at the meetings would be for the benefit of all residents equally and would not affect Councillor Craven's own well-being more than that of other residents in the area.
7. The Ethical Standards Officer therefore concluded that Councillor Craven's well-being and finances would not be affected more than that of other residents by a decision on PCT funding and that he did not have a personal

interest in the matter. Without a personal interest, he could not have a prejudicial interest either.

8. The ethical standards officer, appointed by the Standards Board to investigate the matter, found no evidence of any breach of the Code of Conduct.
9. Members of the Committee will no doubt recall a report at the last meeting of the Committee on the outcome of a similar complaint against another member of Nether Poppleton Parish Council and a member of Upper Poppleton Parish Council. Again the Ethical Standards Officer found no evidence that either member had failed to comply with the Code of Conduct.

Consultation

- 10 This is a matter of report to the Standards Committee and further consultation is not required.

Options

4. Not applicable. The report is for the information of the Committee.

Analysis

Not applicable

Corporate Priorities

6. Compliance with the Local Government Act 2000 contributes to the corporate priority of improving leadership at all levels.

Implications

7. *There are no specific financial, HR equalities, legal, crime and disorder, IT, property or other implications arising out of this report.*

Risk Management

8. The Standards Committee needs to be aware of the outcome of complaints relating to alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct in order to fulfil its statutory role. There are no known risks arising from this report.

Recommendations

9. The committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

Contact Details

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Report Approved *tick* **Date** 4th January 2008

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

None

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*
Rural West York

All *tick*

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Letter from Standards Board for England dated 13th November 2007