

Standards Committee

22 November 2010



Request for Dispensation from Edmondsley Parish Council

Report of Colette Longbottom, Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider a request from Edmondsley Parish Council for a dispensation under the Standards Committee (Further Provisions) (England) Order 2009, permitting members to speak and vote despite the existence of a prejudicial interest in business affecting the Edmondsley Community Association.

Background

2. A Standards Committee can grant a dispensation to a Member where more than 50% of the members of the Council who have been entitled to attend a meeting are prohibited from voting 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.
3. Edmondsley Parish Council is comprised of eleven elected Members. It has a quorum of four members. Three members have recently resigned and one member has been disqualified for failing to attend meetings, therefore there are only seven members who attend meetings. The vacant Parish Councillor posts are expected to be filled in the New Year.
4. Four members who attend the Parish Council meetings are affiliated with the Edmondsley Community Association and therefore if they leave a meeting during business relating to the Association the meeting is not quorate.
5. This kind of request has been previously submitted by other Parish Councils and approved by Standards Committee.

Recommendations and Reasons

6. Standards Committee is recommended to grant a dispensation to those Members of Edmondsley Parish Council who are affiliated with the Edmondsley Community Association, permitting them to participate and vote on any future Parish Council business concerning the Edmondsley Community Association. This dispensation shall continue until there are nine Parish Council members in post.

Contact: Clare Burrows

Tel: (0191) 3834905
