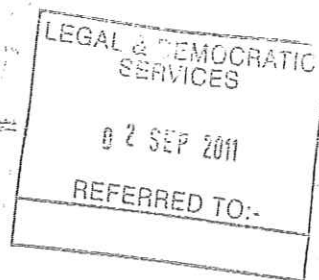


Bromsgrove District Council
 Ethical Standards Officer
 Legal, Equalities and Domestic Services
 The Council House
 Burcot Lane
 Bromsgrove
 Worcs B60 1AA

29/08/2011

Attention Debbie Parker-Jones

Dear Debbie



Thank you for your e-mail about the arrangements leading up to the Standards Committee discussing the report from the investigating officer into the complaint made about me. I note that a date for the Hearing is still to be arranged but I do intend to be at the Hearing.

I do not wish to contest the complaint against me, the first one in 11 years as a Parish Councillor.

I do not wish to provide a response in the detail set out in your pro-forma you have sent me. The investigating officers report is a full. Sufficient to say that I do not have any significant dispute with the facts in the report, I accept with hindsight that I have committed a breach of the Alvechurch Parish Council Code of Conduct (although this is more technical than in any way deliberate) and I am prepared to accept training on the Code or other guidance as the Standards Committee may require.

I would like the Statement that follows to be put to the Standards Committee at an early point in the Hearing.

"I wish to apologise for an unintended breach of the Alvechurch Parish Council Code of Conduct relating to declarations of interest. As a local Alvechurch businessman over 38 years and also born in Alvechurch, I do know a lot of people and thus in my Councillor role have always looked to consider whether I have an interest to declare in planning or other business before the Parish Council. Given my successful long term business in the Parish I have always viewed the opportunity to serve as a Parish Councillor as a way to give something back to the Parish. My 11 years experience and commitment I have enjoyed and currently serve on 6 Committees and chair one sometimes two which includes the Planning Committee. I also help the Parish Council on Sunday Mornings organising the help of the Probation Service.

Regarding the complaint about my failure to declare an interest in the planning matter in question I do want to emphasise that I was initially unclear about the ownership of the land in question because of the confusion about peoples names. Subsequently, given a remote family connection with the land's co-owner, I did make a declaration at one Council meeting which I now appreciate should have been repeated on a

couple of other occasions when the land was under discussion though not formally listed as a Council agenda item.

I shall accept any further guidance requirement on the Code of Conduct that the Standards Committee may require. I hope I may then put this matter behind me and continue to serve Alvechurch Parishioners to the best of my ability, which I have really enjoyed over the last 11 years.

Yours Sincerely

Councillor David Matthews

[Note: Original letter contains Councillor Matthews's address and signature.
Both have been removed from this version for publication purposes.]