

CODE OF CONDUCT – COUNCILLOR ROYSTON GENTRY

This notice confirms the determination of a complaint to the Standards Board for England that Councillor Royston Gentry, a member of the New Alresford Town Council, failed to comply with the Town Council's Code of Conduct by preventing a person from gaining access to information to which she was entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; that he failed to declare a personal interest in Arlebury Park Sports and Social Club Limited ("the Club") at meetings of the New Alresford Town Council when matters affecting the Club were discussed and voted on and that he failed to record that interest in his Register of Members' Interests.

The complaint was considered by the Standards (Determinations) Sub Committee of the City Council at its meeting on 2 October 2008.

The Sub Committee determined that there had been no breach of the Code of Conduct by Councillor Gentry.

The reasons for the decision on each complaint are set out below:

1. with regard to the first complaint, that he prevented another person from gaining access to information to which that person was entitled (paragraph 4(b) of the Code), there was no breach of the Code because the decisions on the content of the Freedom of Information request correspondence and to withhold part of the information requested were made by the Town Clerk in the exercise of her discretion, not at the instruction of Councillor Gentry.
2. with regard to the second complaint, that he failed to declare a personal interest in the Alrebury Park Sports and Social Club at Town Council meetings (paragraph 9 of the Code), there was no breach of the Code because:-
 - (a) the Club was not a body to which Paragraph 8(1) (a) (i) or (ii) of the Code applied and in any event Councillor Gentry was not involved in either the control or management of, nor a member of, the Club.
 - (b) Councillor Gentry had no personal interest (under paragraph 8(1) (b) of the Code) requiring disclosure.
3. with regard to the third complaint, that he failed to record a personal interest in the Members' Register of Interests (paragraph 13 of the Code), there was no breach of the Code because, as Councillor Gentry had no personal interest in the Club, there was no requirement to record the Club in the Members' Register of Interests.

The full report of the external Investigating Solicitor can be inspected at the City Offices, Colebrook Street, Winchester. The report to the Standards (Determinations)

Sub committee (which contains a summary of the external Investigating Solicitor's report) is available on the City Council's website at: www.winchester.gov.uk

STEPHEN WHETNALL
Corporate Director (Governance)
Monitoring Officer

10 October 2008