

**EXTRAORDINARY STANDARDS COMMITTEE held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 4.00 pm on 23 MARCH 2009**

Present: M Hall (Acting Chairman – Independent person),
Councillor K L Eden (Uttlesford Member), Councillor C Clarke
(Town and Parish Council representative).

Also present: Councillor Chris Belton (Subject Member).

Officers in attendance: C Nicholson (Investigating Officer), M J Perry
(Assistant Chief Executive) and R Procter (Democratic Services
Officer).

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**HEARING INTO ALLEGATIONS OF BREACH OF THE CODE OF
CONDUCT**

The Committee considered the Investigating Officer's report into alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct. The Committee withdrew to consider its findings of fact.

The Committee accepted the findings of fact set out in the report.

The Committee then considered whether in its view there had been a breach of the Code of Conduct. The Chairman invited comments, and the Subject Member asked for clarification of certain minor points.

RESOLVED

- 1 There was no obligation on the Subject Member to declare an interest at the meeting on 10 May 2007 or at the public speaking session at the meeting on 1 August 2007.
- 2 The Subject Member was in breach of the Code of Conduct in that he should have declared a personal interest at the meeting of 1 August 2007 at item 13 (c).

The Investigating Officer said the Subject Member had made a genuine mistake, and that he had received no Code of Conduct training prior to the meetings, but that having received NALC advice he had declared his personal interest at subsequent meetings.

Following further consideration of appropriate sanctions, the Committee

RESOLVED the Committee were satisfied that the Subject Member had received advice and that a further breach was unlikely. In the circumstances no further action was necessary, but that the Committee recommended that the Parish Clerk arrange Code of Conduct training for all Members of the Parish Council.

The Assistant Chief Executive informed the Subject Member of his right of appeal, and that the decision of the Committee would be advertised in the local newspaper.

The meeting ended at 5.05 pm. Page 1