

## Case summary

<b>SBE case number</b>	SBE4339.03
<b>member</b>	Councillor Lesley Standish-Gore
<b>authority</b>	Hesketh-with-Becconsall Parish Council
<b>allegation</b>	A member misused council resources and brought her office or authority into disrepute.
<b>date received</b>	1 August 2003
<b>date completed</b>	12 January 2005
<b>SBE outcome</b>	The Ethical Standards Officer found that no action needs to be taken.

### summary

The complainant alleged that Councillor Lesley Standish-Gore, a member of Hesketh-with-Becconsall Parish Council, improperly authorised a payment for the removal of Leylandii trees from a sports ground in Preston. Councillor Standish-Gore co-signed a cheque to a contractor for the work.

The Ethical Standards Officer considered that Councillor Standish-Gore co-signed the cheque without the approval of the parish council. The Ethical Standards Officer therefore concluded that Councillor Standish-Gore failed to act in accordance with the council's requirements for the use of its resources, and breached the Code of Conduct. However, it was unclear whether Councillor Standish-Gore was aware that the council had decided to seek advice before making the payment to the contractor.

The complainant also alleged that Councillor Standish-Gore improperly authorised a payment for the attendance of the Chairman of the council and his partner at a civic dinner hosted by West Lancashire District Council. Councillor Standish-Gore co-signed a cheque on behalf of the council.

The Ethical Standards Officer noted that the parish council had not agreed to pay the cost of the Chairman's attendance at the dinner with his partner. The Ethical Standards

Officer concluded that Councillor Standish-Gore failed to act in accordance with the council's requirements for the use of its resources, and failed to comply with the Code of Conduct.

The Ethical Standards Officer noted that Councillor Standish-Gore did not stand to benefit from the payment of these cheques. The Ethical Standards Officer also took into account Councillor Standish-Gore's personal circumstances at the time. The Ethical Standards Officer concluded that Councillor Standish-Gore did not bring her office or authority into disrepute.

The Ethical Standards Officer found that no action needs to be taken in relation to these matters.

#### **relevant paragraphs of the Code of Conduct**

The allegation in this case relates to Paragraphs 4 and 5(b) of the Code of Conduct. Paragraph 4 states that "a member must not in his official capacity, or any other circumstance, conduct himself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing his office or authority into disrepute". Paragraph 5(b) states that a member "must, when using or authorising the use by others of the resources of the authority – (i) act in accordance with the authority's requirements".

**Ends.**

Appendix 2



**the  
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9 August 2005

**PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**

Ms Gillian Rowe, Monitoring Officer  
West Lancashire District Council  
52 Derby Street  
Ormskirk  
Lancashire, L39 2DF

Dear Ms Rowe,

**REFERENCE: SBE6815.04**

I refer to Natalie Birtle's letter of 14 March 2005.

I enclose a copy of the case summary which the Standards Board for England will shortly publish on its website, at the address given above. This summary is not confidential and may be disclosed.

We seek to publish case summaries promptly and recognise that we failed to do so here. This is due to our having focused our resources on completing a backlog of cases, which we have done successfully. Although this reallocation of resources enabled us to double the number of cases being completed each month, it meant we were unable to produce case summaries as quickly as we wished. I apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Yours sincerely

  
Kylie Faulkner  
Investigator

Enc.

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## Case summary

SBE case number	SBE6815.03
member	Councillor Alastair MacAulay
authority	Burscough Parish Council
allegation	A member failed to treat others with respect and brought his office or authority into disrepute.
date received	30 March 2004
date completed	14 March 2005
SBE outcome	The Ethical Standards Officer found that no action needs to be taken.

### Summary

It was alleged that Councillor Alastair MacAulay made improper and insulting comments about a local resident, the Chairman of the Boundary Commission and the governors of a local school at a Burscough Parish Council meeting on 3 February 2004. Councillor MacAulay allegedly said that someone at the meeting "looks as though she has been dead for a fortnight". It was also alleged that Councillor MacAulay smelled of alcohol at the meeting.

The Ethical Standards Officer considered whether Councillor MacAulay failed to treat others with respect and brought his office or authority into disrepute.

The Ethical Standards Officer took the circumstances of the case into account and the fact that Councillor MacAulay is no longer a member of the council. The Ethical Standards Officer also noted that there was no evidence that Councillor MacAulay intends to stand for re-election. The Ethical Standards Officer concluded that it was not in the public interest to pursue this matter any further.

The Ethical Standards Officer found that no action needs to be taken.

### Relevant paragraphs of the Code of Conduct

The allegation in this case relates to Paragraphs 2(b) and 4 of the Code of Conduct. Paragraph 2(b) states that a member must "treat others with respect". Paragraph 4 states that "a member must not in his official capacity, or any other circumstance,

conduct himself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing his office or authority into disrepute".  
**Ends.**

### Case summary

Case No.	Case Name	Case Type	Case Status
1	...	...	...
2	...	...	...
3	...	...	...
4	...	...	...
5	...	...	...

The Council has received a request from the public for information regarding the Council's financial records for the year 2010/11. The Council has a duty to provide this information unless it is exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Council has considered the request and has decided to provide the information requested, subject to the following exemptions:

- Section 42(1) - Information relating to the financial affairs of a public body.
- Section 43(1) - Information relating to the financial affairs of a public body.

The Council has decided to provide the information requested, subject to the following exemptions:

- Section 42(1) - Information relating to the financial affairs of a public body.
- Section 43(1) - Information relating to the financial affairs of a public body.

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12 September 2005

**PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**

Ms Gillian Rowe  
Monitoring Officer  
Hesketh with Beconsall Parish Council  
52 Derby Street  
Ormskirk  
Lancashire  
L39 2DF

Dear Ms Rowe

**REFERENCE: SBE8566.04**

I refer to Steven Kingston's letter of 25 July 2005.

I enclose a copy of the case summary which the Standards Board for England will shortly publish on its website, at the address given above. This summary is not confidential and may be disclosed.

We seek to publish case summaries promptly and recognise that we failed to do so here. This is due to our having focused our resources on completing a backlog of cases, which we have done successfully. Although this reallocation of resources enabled us to double the number of cases being completed each month, it meant we were unable to produce case summaries as quickly as we wished. I apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Yours sincerely

Kate Finn  
**Investigator**

Enc.

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## Case summary

<b>SBE case number</b>	SBE8566.04
<b>member</b>	Councillor Paul Sergeant
<b>authority</b>	Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council
<b>allegation</b>	A member failed to declare a personal interest and withdraw from a meeting in which he had a prejudicial interest.
<b>date received</b>	23 September 2003
<b>date completed</b>	25 July 2005
<b>SBE outcome</b>	The Ethical Standards officer found that no action needs to be taken.

### summary

It was alleged that Councillor Paul Sergeant failed to declare a personal and prejudicial interest when issues relating to a local sports ground were reported at a council meeting on 6 September 2004. Councillor Sergeant allegedly had an interest because he was chairman of a local football club, which was linked to the sports ground.

The Code of Conduct states that a member must declare an interest in a matter if, among other things, it relates to something listed in their register of interests. The Ethical Standards Officer considered that Councillor Sergeant's role as chairman of the local football club was not something that was, or needed to be, recorded on his register of interests. The Ethical Standards Officer considered that Councillor Sergeant was not affected to any greater extent than others in the area by the content of the report and therefore found that Councillor Sergeant did not have a personal or prejudicial interest in the matter.

The Ethical Standards Officer found that no action needs to be taken.

**relevant paragraphs of the Code of Conduct**

The allegation in this case relates to Paragraphs 8 and 10 of the Code of Conduct. Paragraph 8 states that "a member with a personal interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the authority at which the matter is considered must disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of that consideration, or when the interest becomes apparent". Paragraph 10 states that a member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must "withdraw from the room or chamber where a meeting is being held whenever it becomes apparent that the matter is being considered at that meeting" and that he must "not seek improperly to influence a decision about that matter".

**Ends.**

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