

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE
(HEARINGS SUB-COMMITTEE)**

HELD: 21 JULY 2009
Start: 9.30am
Finish: 4.45pm

PRESENT:

Independent Members: J Cailes (Chairman)
R Patterson

Councillors S Jones

Parish Councillors A Cheetham
M Hammond

Officers: Assistant Member Services Manager (Mrs J Denning)
Independent Legal Officer (Mr M Dudfield)
Investigator (Ms C Lefort, Weightmans Solicitors)

Subject Member: Parish and District Councillor Mrs D Stephenson
Mrs N Pryce-Roberts (Representative & Witness)

Complainant: Parish Councillor Mrs M Westley

Witnesses: Mr D Galt Parish Councillor J Stephenson
Mr G Riley Parish Councillor M Allchurch
Mr J Wright Police Constable Barlow
Mr S Hayes Mrs Atherton
Parish Councillor R Brookfield

Also in attendance: Councillor D Westley and Parish Councillors D & S Corfield.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Independent Member Mr J Cailes be appointed Chairman for the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. LOCAL INVESTIGATION - INV2/LG5/13 DECISION 2 - PARISH COUNCILLOR
DOREEN STEPHENSON**

The Sub-Committee conducted a hearing to consider an Investigation Report in respect of District and Parish Councillor Doreen Stephenson, to determine whether or not she had failed to follow the Code of Conduct for Halsall Parish Council and West Lancashire District Council and if so, to decide whether or not a penalty should be applied and what form any penalty should take.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That Councillor Doreen Stephenson has not failed to comply with the Code of Conduct for Members of either Council.
 - B. That the reasons for the finding be agreed, as set out in the Decision Notice.
 - C. That, if the Subject Member does not object to publication of the Decision Notice, it is appropriate to also publish the notice on the Council's website.