

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
23 SEPTEMBER 2004

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

SUMMARY OF ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT MADE TO STANDARDS
BOARD FOR ENGLAND

1. It has been agreed that it would be helpful for members to be made aware of allegations of misconduct made against borough councillors and parish councillors within the borough which the Standards Board for England have either (a) investigated and determined or (b) chosen not to investigate. In relation to the latter the information is given in the table below in the form of a statistical summary only as it would be inappropriate to give personal details. In relation to the former, summaries of decisions will be published on the Standards Board website and so in future I will be able to attach a copy of the published summary. However in the one investigated case within the Borough the summary has not yet found its way onto the Standards Board website and so I have included my own summary in the table below.
2. I am aware of three outstanding parish or town council cases within the borough which are the subject of ongoing investigations and these will be reported when a decision has been made.

PART A - CASES INVESTIGATED BY STANDARDS BOARD		
COUNCIL	ALLEGATION	STANDARDS BOARD DECISION
TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL - Councillor Masters	Failure to declare an interest at a Planning Committee meeting of the Town Council in March 2004 in relation to a planning application for a garage on land in close proximity to her own private home. Allegation made by a town councillor.	Breach of Paragraph 8 and 10 of the Town Council's Code of Conduct (failure to declare personal interest and failure to withdraw from meeting when a prejudicial interest arises). No action needs to be taken - Councillor Masters resigned from the Town Council due to ill health in May 2004.
PART B - CASES NOT INVESTIGATED BY STANDARDS BOARD		
TYPE OF COUNCIL	ALLEGATION	STANDARDS BOARD FINDING
Borough Council	Failure to treat others with respect in telephone conversation. Allegation made by a member of the public.	No investigation as conduct did not amount to failure to treat complainant with respect.
Borough Council	Failure to treat with respect in comments made about complainant. Allegation made by a borough councillor.	No investigation as matter not of sufficient significance to warrant investigation.
Borough Council	Failure to report a known breach of the Code by a fellow councillor. Allegation made by a borough councillor	No investigation as insufficient information to suggest councillor believed there had been a breach of the Code.
Parish Council	Failure to obtain planning consents for works to own property. Allegation made by a member of the public.	No investigation as conduct (even if it occurred) would not have involved any breach of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct.