



the  
**Standards Board**  
for England

1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Cottons Centre  
Cottons Lane  
London SE1 2QG

Enquiries: 08450 788 181  
Fax: 020 7738 5001

enquiries@standardsboard.co.uk  
www.standardsboard.co.uk

## Case summary

<b>SBE case number</b>	SBE10304.05
<b>member</b>	Councillor K Stokes
<b>authority</b>	Thanington Without Parish Council
<b>allegation</b>	The member failed to declare a personal interest and failed to withdraw from a meeting in which he had a prejudicial interest.
<b>date received</b>	2 March 2005
<b>date completed</b>	13 July 2005
<b>SBE outcome</b>	The Ethical Standards Officer found that no action needs to be taken.

### summary

It was alleged that Councillor K Stokes failed to declare a personal and prejudicial interest at meetings between October 2002 and September 2004 when the council discussed a fence next to a highway and access from private properties to the highway.

The Ethical Standards Officer considered that Councillor Stokes had a personal interest in the items relating to the issues surrounding the fence because it was on the same road as Councillor Stokes' home. The Ethical Standards Officer concluded that in failing to declare the interest, he failed to comply with the code of conduct. However, the Ethical Standards Officer considered that his interest was not prejudicial, and that there was no requirement for Councillor Stokes to leave the room during consideration of the matters.

The Ethical Standards Officer considered that Councillor Stokes had not intentionally breached the Code of Conduct and considered that the matters under discussion were of such little significance that there was no consequence of Councillor Stokes' failure to declare an interest.

In these circumstances, 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".

**Ends.**

Confidence in local democracy