

## STANDARDS COMPLAINT DECISION NOTICE

<b>Complaint ref</b>	018952
<b>Subject Member</b>	Councillor Luci Watkins
<b>Council</b>	Linton Parish Council
<b>Date of decision</b>	7 November 2019
<b>Breach of the code (Y/N)</b>	Yes

### DECISION

On 7 November 2019, the monitoring officer considered a complaint alleging that Councillor Luci Watkins may have acted in breach of the code of conduct for members. The appointed independent persons were consulted in considering the matter.

The monitoring officer and the independent person concluded that Councillor Watkins did breach the code of conduct.

#### Summary of complaint

An allegation was received that Councillor Watkins had failed to:

- Declare a Schedule 1 (discloseable pecuniary interest) in relation to a planning application discussed at a meeting of the Linton Parish Council held on 22 July 2019

#### Reasons for decision

The reason for the decision is that Councillor Watkins does live adjacent to the land for which planning permission was being sought and therefore would have had a direct interest in the matter being considered. Councillor Watkins did declare an interest at the meeting on 22 July 2019 but the parish council unanimously agreed that she remain in the room but not vote.

The councillor should have requested a dispensation which would have been appropriate for the parish council to consider. Councillor Watkins did declare this interest in the meeting but did participate. She did not vote. Participation in a matter that you have a Schedule 1 interest in is a breach of the code.

By applying her mind to the issue and asking the council to consider her position shows that Councillor Watkins has an awareness of issues but unfortunately as no dispensation was granted a breach has occurred.

#### Recommended Action by the parish council

It is recommended that the parish council receive written advice in dispensations.