

Case summary

SBE case number	SBE14258.06
member	Councillor Michael Hogg
authority	Swanley Town Council and Sevenoaks District Council
allegation	A member failed to withdraw from a meeting when a matter in which he had a prejudicial interest was discussed.
date received	1 March 2006
date completed	13 July 2006
SBE outcome	The Ethical Standards Officer found that, in the circumstances of this case, no action needs to be taken.

summary

The complainant alleged that Councillor Michael Hogg failed to declare a prejudicial interest and leave the room during a Sevenoaks District Council meeting on 7 February 2006. The district council was considering the proposed split of Swanley Town Council and the creation of a separate parish council for Hextable. Councillor Hogg asked a prepared question about the matter at the meeting. The complainant alleged that Councillor Hogg had a prejudicial interest because he was a member of the Swanley and district branch of his political party, which had been campaigning against the split.

The Ethical Standards Officer considered that Councillor Hogg had a personal interest in the issue, as the proposed splitting of Swanley Town Council would have affected his well-being, as a member of the council.

However, the Ethical Standards Officer did not consider that Councillor Hogg had a further personal interest on the basis of his membership of the political party, as the issue of the split did not relate to the party.

Nor did the Ethical Standards Officer consider that Councillor Hogg had a prejudicial interest in the matter. The Ethical Standards Officer noted that the Code of Conduct states that a member may regard himself as not having a prejudicial interest in a matter if it relates to another relevant authority of which he is a member.

The Ethical Standards Officer reached the view that Councillor Hogg did not breach the Code of Conduct by remaining in the meeting.

The Ethical Standards Officer found that, in the circumstances of this case, no action needs to be taken.

relevant paragraphs of the Code of Conduct

The allegation in this case relates to paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Code of Conduct. Paragraph 10(2) states that "a member may regard himself as not having a prejudicial interest in a matter if that matter relates to ... another relevant authority of which he is a member". Paragraph 12 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.

Nick Marcar
Ethical Standards Officer
14 August 2006

Case summary

SBE case number	SBE14012.06
member	Councillor Bryan Harrod
authority	Swanley Town Council and Sevenoaks District Council
allegation	A member failed to withdraw from a meeting in which he had a prejudicial interest.
date received	6 January 2006
date completed	13 July 2006
SBE outcome	The Ethical Standards Officer found that, in the circumstances of this case, no action needs to be taken.

summary

The complainant alleged that Councillor Bryan Harrod failed to declare a prejudicial interest and leave the room during a meeting of Sevenoak District Council's electoral arrangements committee on 29 September 2005. The committee was considering the proposed split of Swanley Town Council and the creation of a separate parish council for Hextable. Councillor Harrod was a member of the Swanley and district branch of his political party, which had allegedly been campaigning against the split.

The Ethical Standards Officer considered that Councillor Harrod had a personal interest in the issue, as the proposed splitting of Swanley Town Council would have affected his well-being, as a member of the council.

However, the Ethical Standards Officer did not consider that Councillor Harrod had a further personal interest on the basis of his membership of the political party, as the issue of the split did not relate to the party.

Nor did the Ethical Standards Officer consider that Councillor Harrod had a prejudicial interest in the matter. The Ethical Standards Officer noted that the Code of Conduct states that a member may regard himself as not having a prejudicial interest in a matter if it relates to another relevant authority of which he is a member.

The Ethical Standards Officer reached the view that Councillor Harrod did not breach the Code of Conduct by remaining in the meeting.

The Ethical Standards Officer found that, in the circumstances of this case, no action needs to be taken.

relevant paragraphs of the Code of Conduct

The allegation in this case relates to paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Code of Conduct. Paragraph 10(2) states that "a member may regard himself as not having a prejudicial interest in a matter if that matter relates to ... another relevant authority of which he is a member". Paragraph 12 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.

Nick Marcar
Ethical Standards Officer
14 August 2006

Case summary

SBE case number	SBE14011.06
member	Councillor Frank Parker
authority	Swanley Town Council and Sevenoaks District Council
allegation	A member failed to withdraw from a meeting when a matter in which he had a prejudicial interest was discussed.
date received	6 January 2006
date completed	13 July 2006
SBE outcome	The Ethical Standards Officer found that, in the circumstances of this case, no action needs to be taken.

summary

The complainant alleged that Councillor Frank Parker failed to declare a prejudicial interest and leave the room during a meeting of Sevenoaks District Council's electoral arrangements committee on 29 September 2005. The committee was considering the proposed split of Swanley Town Council and the creation of a separate parish council for Hextable. Councillor Parker was a member of the Swanley and district branch of his political party, which had allegedly been campaigning against the split.

The Ethical Standards Officer considered that Councillor Parker had a personal interest in the issue, as the proposed splitting of Swanley Town Council would have affected his well-being, as a member of the council.

However, the Ethical Standards Officer did not consider that Councillor Parker had to declare a further personal interest on the basis of his membership of the political party, as the issue of the split did not relate to the party.

Nor did the Ethical Standards Officer consider that Councillor Parker had a prejudicial interest in the matter. The Ethical Standards Officer noted that the Code of Conduct states that a member may regard himself as not having a prejudicial interest in a matter if it relates to another relevant authority of which he is a member.

The Ethical Standards Officer reached the view that Councillor Parker did not breach the Code of Conduct by remaining in the meeting.

The Ethical Standards Officer found that, in the circumstances of this case, no action needs to be taken.

relevant paragraphs of the Code of Conduct

The allegation in this case relates to paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Code of Conduct. Paragraph 10(2) states that "a member may regard himself as not having a prejudicial interest in a matter if that matter relates to ... another relevant authority of which he is a member". Paragraph 12 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.

Nick Marcar
Ethical Standards Officer
14 August 2006