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Mr S P Fisher
Head of Corporate Law and Legal Services
Maidstone Borough Council
London House
5-11 London Road
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Kent
ME15 8HR   17 July 2009

Dear Mr Fisher

Application for Dispensation – Bredhurst Parish Council

I should like to apply to the Borough Council's Standards Committee for a dispensation to speak and vote at meetings of the Bredhurst Parish Council whenever matters relating to the Bredhurst Woodland Action Group (BWAG) are being discussed, notwithstanding the fact that I have a prejudicial interest in that matter.

BWAG, set up in 2005, was initially an Advisory Committee to Bredhurst Parish Council. In April 2009 it was approved by the Charity Commission as a Registered Charity (No. 1129178) and aims to address the misuse of 600 acres of ancient woodland caused by fly tipping and off road vehicles. The woodland is within the parishes of Bredhurst, Boxley and Detling. The Objects of the Charity are:
- To conserve the environment, and in particular Bredhurst Woodland in the County of Kent, for the benefit of the public.
- To educate the public in the principles and practice of conservation.

BWAG is working with a wide range of partners including KCC, MBC, the Kent Downs AONB Unit and Kent Wildlife Trust. Funding to improve the area is sourced from numerous organisations including KCC, Lottery funding and BWAG Members. To date no funding has been provided to BWAG from Bredhurst Parish Council.

The nature of my interest is that I am a member of the Bredhurst Woodland Action Group. The Parish Council has seven Members, all of which are members of Bredhurst Woodland Action Group and thereby sharing my prejudicial interest.

I believe that it would be desirable to grant me a dispensation to participate whenever the Parish Council is discussing matters relating to the Bredhurst Woodland Action Group. We should all continue to participate fully in these discussions.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Timothy J Gough
Bredhurst Parish Council