

Boughton Monchelsea Parish Council

Mr P. Fisher
Head of Corporate Law & Monitoring Officer
Maidstone Borough Council
Maidstone House
King Street
MAIDSTONE
Kent. ME15 6JQ

12 January 2011

Dear Mr Fisher

101 Lewis Court Drive
Boughton Monchelsea
Maidstone
Kent
ME17 4LG

STANDARDS COMMITTEE – DISPENSATION BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA AMENITY TRUST

I am a new Councillor on the Boughton Monchelsea Parish Council. By reason of my membership of that Council and with my agreement, I am also a trustee of the Boughton Monchelsea Amenity Trust as are the other thirteen Councillors on the Parish Council.

The Boughton Monchelsea Amenity Trust is a charitable trust set up by Deed in 1994 with the object of:

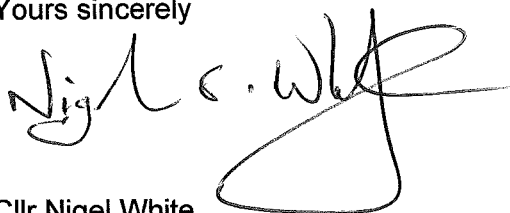
1. "the preservation, protection and improvement for the benefit of the inhabitants of Boughton Monchelsea and the neighbouring communities of any amenity or other land as shall or may at any time be vested in the Charity or in respect of which the Charity shall have an interest (and which is associated with any building or buildings where such land is of scientific, agricultural, horticultural or silvercultural interest); and
2. the provision of or assistance in the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation for the benefit of the inhabitants of Boughton Monchelsea and the neighbouring communities".

The Trust deed provides "that the trustees shall consist when complete of all the councillors for the time being of Boughton Monchelsea Parish Council". At the present time there are no trustees who are not on the Parish Council and all new councillors are invited to become trustees.

The Charity is supported financially by the Parish Council and is actively seeking to secure land and other amenities in the parish to further the objectives of the Trust. The Trust already owns land in the parish and has option agreements in respect of other land.

Having considered the available advice from the Standards Board and from you, I along with my fellow councillors, consider that under the current Code of Conduct there may be a conflict of interest being a trustee that could be construed as prejudicial when considering matters affecting the Trust at Parish Council meetings. As more than 50% of the membership of the Parish Council are trustees, I wish to apply for a dispensation to permit me to continue as a voting member of the Council when considering matters relating to the Boughton Monchelsea Amenity Trust.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Nigel White