



## COUNCILLOR DENNIS PARSONS



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To the Chair and members of the Standards Committee

I would like to make a few very brief comments for consideration by the Standards Committee when meeting to consider the report on complaints made against me.

I would say, at the outset, that I have no disagreement with the general tenor and conclusions of the report and neither do I resile from the position recorded at paragraph 5.10 acknowledging that my actions constituted a breach of the Code of Conduct. My comments relate solely to the impression given by paragraph 5.7 of the report, that my contribution to the meeting would have been prepared in advance. This was not the case, as I had not intended to participate in the discussion on this Motion.

I feel that it is important for Standards the Committee to be aware of the facts surrounding my contribution to the meeting, so that incorrect inferences are not drawn. My experience of Council / Committee meetings is that Members do not routinely script their speeches in advance, but often react / respond to comments and discussion that take place at the meeting. This was what happened, in my case, at the meeting on the 15th June.

I can confirm that I did not attend the meeting with the intention of speaking on this Motion. In fact, had I intended to do so, I would, in accordance with our protocol for virtual meetings, have confirmed this ahead of the meeting. I only decided to speak in this debate in response to some of the comments made by colleagues. I had not spent time before the meeting considering what I wanted to say. Had I done so, I would have carefully crafted my speech to ensure that my message was appropriately conveyed. My remarks were, on the contrary, entirely impromptu and consequently, as pointed out in the report, were wholly misconceived and totally unacceptable.

As stated, I do not seek to defend or excuse my behaviour, but simply want the Standards Committee, when considering this matter, to be aware of all of the circumstances.



Councillor Dennis Parsons