

Kay Moss

The explanation by Cllr Moss that led to her resignation from the Conservative Party is not wholly accurate.

Cllr Moss asked the Wealden District Council monitoring officer whether she could speak at a Planning Meeting even though she had a Prejudicial Interest but omitted to say that the site of the application was opposite her own property and would therefore be a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest(DPI). Cllr Moss referred to it in her letter to Crowborough as a Pecuniary Disposable Interest which is incorrect.

As a member of the Council's Standards Committee it is surprising that Cllr Moss did not understand that living opposite a site of a major application would mean a potential financial benefit or loss. A Disclosable Pecuniary Interest means the councillor must not be involved in the determination of that planning application.

I did speak to Cllr Moss shortly before the 2nd Planning Committee North hearing on the application and advised that the likely DPI meant she should not speak or attend the Planning meeting. Cllr Moss followed that advice, but the applicant felt that Cllr Moss' attendance and speaking at the February Planning Committee North meeting had "blurred" the committee's view. Wealden District Council took legal advice, which was that challenge was credible and if a judicial review had been successfully raised then the application would have been referred back to PCN.

The internal review mentioned by Cllr Moss concluded she did have a DPI and needed further training. Cllr Moss' assertion that no action was taken is incorrect.

It is also surprising that given the DPI information advice the declaration at the Crowborough Town Council planning meeting on Oct 26th 2020 was Prejudicial (not DPI) and the minutes recorded as Cllr Moss remaining in the meeting which is in breach of the code of conduct. Cllr Moss' explanation to me that she did leave the room has changed, in her note to Crowborough Life, to not having time to leave. I did advise Cllr Moss that if she had indeed left the Crowborough Town Council Planning meeting and the minutes were wrong to raise that issue with the clerk of the meeting.

Given the application is close to her own home Cllr Moss should have asked a fellow councillor to represent local residents with reference to this application and by getting and continuing to be involved despite a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest has not served her residents well.

Bob Standley

Leader of the Council