

Friday 18th June, 2009

STATEMENT

Issued by Cllr Nigel Manning, Chairman of The Surrey Heath Conservative Association following a meeting of the Constituency Executive* held in Curzon House, Windlesham, on Thursday 18th June 2009.

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Further to a regular meeting of the 'Management Team' and Divisional Executive the Officers and Committee of SHCA unanimously re-adopted Michael Gove as the Conservative Party Candidate at the next General Election.

In respect of the recent revelations in the Daily and Sunday Telegraph members made the following points namely:-

- That following the revelation in the Daily Telegraph on Monday 11th May, 2009. The President and the Member of Parliament met that

day in Westminster to discuss the allegations regarding Michael Gove's Parliamentary Expenses.

- Members acknowledged that the allegation of 'flipping' the designation of his primary home for personal capital or claims allowances was totally incorrect.
- Members were mindful that Michael Gove although having claimed within the Rules immediately volunteered to repay, £7,000 in respect of second home Furniture.

Although the claim was passed by the fees office he also repaid in full costs incurred in staying at The Pennyhill Park Hotel acknowledging that this was a lack of judgment. Also for a claim for a child's mattress and he unreservedly apologised for that error.

- Members acknowledged that Michael Gove was the first Member of Parliament to call a Public Meeting to answer any questions from constituents. The meeting was held in a Camberley church with two respected local clergymen Chairing and Officiating. The meeting was widely publicised on local radio and newspaper websites. Also parishioners of all local Churches and the Camberley Muslim Prayer Centre were invited in addition to the 2,000 Members of the SHCA. Some 300 constituents had attended.

He had also placed a full 'Statement' on the SHCA Website and copies were distributed at the Public Meeting.

- Members acknowledged that Michael Gove had publicly stated that in the eventuality of him selling his second home any net profit would be repaid to the Fees Office.
- Members acknowledged that Michael Gove has not made any donation to SHCA through his Parliamentary Allowances. His Constituency Office is the Conservative Party Headquarters in Windlesham and they are reimbursed for expenses incurred wholly and entirely in respect of his Parliamentary duties.
- Members acknowledged that Michael Gove had throughout continued his Parliamentary duties not least within the Constituency.
- Members acknowledged that Michael Gove had made himself available to speak with or visit any constituent(s) who wished further clarification on the issue.
- Members acknowledged that Michael Gove had the full confidence of David Cameron the Leader of the Conservative Party. Further he fully supported the Reforms of Parliamentary Allowances as detailed by David Cameron and the Shadow Chancellor, George Osborne, M.P.
- Members acknowledged that his allowance claims were now detailed in full on his website for public scrutiny.

END

Any further clarification should be addressed to Alan Cleverly, OBE
Secretary & Agent of SHCA on Tel: 01276 472468 or Mob: 07721
860223.

* The SHCA Divisional Executive has some 62 members who fully
represent the activists within the Association.

- The Constituency Officers
- The Branches
- Advisory Committees and Groups
- Local Government Representatives

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