

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

HELD: 30 JUNE 2005

Start: 4.30pm

Finish: 5.00pm

PRESENT

Independent Members: J Cailles (Chairman)
R Chester
R Merry
B Molyneux

Councillors Mrs Atherley
Grant
Maguire

Parish Councillors D Kitson

Officers: Council Secretary & Solicitor
Assistant Member Services Manager

10. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Independent Member, Mr Hanmer (Vice Chairman), Councillor Dereli and Parish Councillor Draper.

11. URGENT BUSINESS, IF ANY, INTRODUCED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There were no items of urgent business.

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Independent Member, Mr Molyneux declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in item 5, 'Standards Board Decisions – Various', appendix 1, 'Case Summaries – Parish Councillor Ball' as a resident of Hesketh Bank.

13. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 15 June 2005 be received as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

14. STANDARDS BOARD DECISIONS - VARIOUS

The Committee considered the report of the Council Secretary and Solicitor to give further consideration to the decisions of the Standards Board in relation to various Parish Councillors.

The Council Secretary and Solicitor advised that the following case summaries had not yet been received from the Standards Board:

Appendix 2 – Parish Councillor Standish-Gore
Appendix 4 – Former Parish Councillor MacAuley

She advised further that Appendix 3 – Parish Councillor Brookfield and a letter from Parish Councillor Norma Goodier, Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council had been circulated under a separate cover from the agenda and drew attention to the letter from the Clerk to Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council attached at Appendix 5.

She referred to the letter from Parish Councillor Norma Goodier, Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council, and informed the Committee that in paragraph 3 it stated inaccurately that “ex councillor Raymond Ball actually stood as a candidate for Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council in May 2005 elections”. She informed members of the committee that former Councillor Raymond Ball had stood as a candidate for Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council in the June 2004 elections and advised members of the discussion she had had with the Ethical Standards Officer in respect of this matter.

- RESOLVED
- A That the Committee note the views of Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council with regard to the Standards Board’s lack of action in respect of cases where breaches of the Code are found.
 - B That the Council Secretary and Solicitor, in consultation with the Chairman, be requested to write to the Standards Board for England on behalf of the Committee expressing:
 - (1) Deep concerns in relation to “no action” being taken when Ethical Standards Officers’ findings are that “the Code has been breached”.
 - (2) disappointment that when a former Member states that he/she “has no intention of becoming a member in future”, no form of written undertaking is sought from that Member.
 - C That the Council Secretary and Solicitor be requested to seek clarification from the Standards Board for England, of the wording detailed in the case summary in relation to Appendix 3 - Parish Councillor Brookfield.

CHAIRMAN