

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE
(CONSIDERATION SUB-COMMITTEE)**

HELD: 24 JUNE 2009

Start: 4.00pm

Finish: 4.45pm

PRESENT:

Independent Member: Mr J Cailes (Chairman)

Councillor: T Rice

Parish Councillor: A Cheetham

Officers: Assistant Member Services Manager (Mrs J Denning)
Independent Adviser (Mr M Dudfield)

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Independent Member, Mr J Cailes, be appointed Chairman for the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. MINUTES

As this was the first meeting of the Sub-Committee there were no minutes to receive.

6. SUBJECT MEMBER VIEWS - EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Sub-Committee was advised that both Subject Members in respect of Item 8 'Local Investigation – Inv4/LG5/6A Decision C and LG5/17; Inv5/LG5/11 Decision B and Item 9 'Local Investigation – Inv6/LG5/12' felt very strongly that the report should be dealt with in Part 1 of the agenda which is open to the public.

RESOLVED: That the comments received from both subject members be noted.

7. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 7C of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of that Act and as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption under Schedule 12A outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

**8. LOCAL INVESTIGATION - INV4/LG5/6A DECISION C AND LG5/17; INV5/LG5/11
DECISION B**

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Council Secretary and Solicitor, as contained on pages 3 to 54 of the Book of Reports, which presented a copy of the final report arising from the local investigation in respect of allegations by Parish Councillor Raymond Brookfield, Mr M B Critchley and Parish Councillor John Stephenson that District and Parish Councillor David Westley may have failed to comply with the Codes of Conduct for Halsall Parish Council and West Lancashire District Council.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That the Investigating Officer's finding that District and Parish Councillor David Westley had not failed to comply with the Code of Conduct for Members of either Council, be accepted.
 - B. That the reasons for the finding be agreed, as set out in the Notice of Finding.
 - C. That if the Subject Member does not object to the publication of the Notice of Finding, it is appropriate to also publish the notice on the Council's website.

9. LOCAL INVESTIGATION - INV6/LG5/12

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Council Secretary and Solicitor, as contained on pages 55 to 82 of the Book of Reports, which presented a copy of the final report arising from the local investigation in respect of an allegations by Mr M B Critchley that Parish Councillor Marilyn Westley may have failed to comply with the Code of Conduct for Halsall Parish Council.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That the Investigating Officer's finding that Parish Councillor Marilyn Westley had not failed to comply with the Code of Conduct for Members, be accepted.
 - B. That the reasons for the finding be agreed, as set out in the Notice of Finding.
 - C. That if the Subject Member does not object to the publication of the Notice of Finding, it is appropriate to also publish the notice on the Council's website.