

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

HELD: 10 FEBRUARY 2010
Start: 4.00pm
Finish: 5.25pm

PRESENT

Independent Members: J Cailes (Chairman)
P Hanmer (Vice Chairman)
R Chester
P Hayman

Councillors Mrs U Atherley S Jones
P Cotterill G M Roberts

Parish Councillors A Cheetham M Hammond
R Coady

Officers: Council Secretary & Solicitor
Assistant Member Services Manager

Also in attendance Mr S Ibbs
Mr P Rogan
Mr B Winstanley

29. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

The Chairman, Mr Cailes welcomed Mr Ibbs, Mr Rogan and Mr Winstanley, the candidates recommended for appointment as Independent Members of the Standards Committee and Councillor Cotterill who had been appointed to the Committee in place of Councillor Rice.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

32. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 27 October 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

33. 'ASSESSMENT MADE CLEAR'

The Committee received a training DVD entitled 'Assessment Made Clear' issued by Standards for England, designed to help Standards Committee members and local authority officers involved in the assessment of complaints about elected or co-opted members. The DVD contained dramatised case studies used to demonstrate the criteria that guide each decision, including whether any investigation should be conducted locally or referred to Standards for England and when it may be appropriate to take no action or other action.

RESOLVED: That the DVD 'Assessment Made Clear' be noted.

34. COMPLAINTS, REVIEWS AND INVESTIGATIONS - STATISTICS

The Committee considered the statistics produced by the Council Secretary and Solicitor in respect of the number of complaints, reviews, investigations and hearings.

RESOLVED: That the current statistics be noted.

35. CHARITABLE TRUSTEES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE CODE

The Committee considered Guidance received from Standards for England in respect of Charitable Trustees and Declarations of Interest under the Code and its relevance to recent complaints.

RESOLVED: That the Guidance be noted.

36. THE ROLE AND APPOINTMENT OF PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE (ENGLAND) REGULATION 2008 (THE 2008 REGULATIONS)

The Committee considered Guidance received from Standards for England in respect of the role and appointment of Parish and Town Council representatives to the Standards Committee and the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008. Members noted that the Council had been complying with best practice in this area for many years.

RESOLVED: That the Guidance be noted.

37. STANDARDS COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11

The Committee considered the revised Standards Committee Work Programme for 2010/11.

RESOLVED: That the Work Programme for 2010/11 be agreed.

38. MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the following Sub-Committees be noted:

- A. Assessment Sub-Committee – 2 December 2009 and 10 January 2010.
- B. Review Sub-Committee – 1 February 2010.

39. STANDARDS COMMITTEE - APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

The Committee considered the report of the Council Secretary and Solicitor which sought to appoint Independent Members to the Standards Committee.

RESOLVED: That the following recommendation of the Recruitment of Independent Members Panel held on 14 January 2010, be endorsed:

“That Council be recommended to appoint the following candidates as Independent Members of the Standards Committee for the term of office stated:

- A. Mr Peter Rogan with effect from 25 February 2010 until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2014.
- B. Mr Stuart Ibbs and Mr Ben Winstanley with effect from the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2010 until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2014.”

THE CHAIRMAN