

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

HELD: 30 NOVEMBER 2010

Start: 5.00pm

Finish: 5.45pm

PRESENT

Independent Members: J Cailes (Chairman)
P Hanmer (Vice Chairman)
S Ibbs
P Rogan
B Winstanley

Councillors: Mrs U Atherley R Bailey
P Cotterill R Pendleton

Parish Councillors: A Cheetham J Citarella

Officers: Council Secretary & Solicitor
Assistant Member Services Manager

18. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Parish Councillor R Coady.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were received:

1. Councillor Cotterill declared a personal interest in all matters relating to Parish Councils as his wife is a Parish Councillor at Bickerstaffe Parish Council.
2. Mr Hanmer advised that he would be leaving the room when item 11 'Reappointment of Independent Member' was considered, as the item referred to him.
3. Councillor Atherley declared a personal interest in agenda item 10 'Visits to Borough and Parish Council Meetings' as a Parish Councillor at Aughton Parish Council.

21. MINUTES

The Chairman, referred to Minute 13 'Standards Committee Annual Meeting Inviting Parish Clerks and Parish Chairman to Discuss the Code and advised that in light of the uncertain future of the standards framework, this item would be deferred to a future meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of Standards Committee held on 3 June 2010 be received as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

22. WELCOME TO PARISH COUNCILLOR JACKY CITARELLA

The Chairman welcomed Parish Councillor Jacky Citarella to her first meeting of the Committee following her appointment on 7 September 2010 to replace Michael Hammond who is no longer a Parish Councillor.

RESOLVED: That the appointment of Parish Councillor Jacky Citarella be noted.

23. STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

The Committee considered the report of the Council Secretary and Solicitor which introduced the Standards Committee Annual Report 2009/10.

RESOLVED: That the Standards Committee Annual Report 2009/10 attached at Appendix 1 to the report be noted and published on the Council's website.

24. THE CURRENT POSITION ON THE STANDARDS REGIME

The Committee considered Bulletin 48 circulated by Standards for England and the article from the Communities Minister Andrew Stunell in respect of the current position on the Standards regime and a general discussion ensued.

RESOLVED: That the current position be noted.

25. TRAINING FOR NON-ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Council Secretary and Solicitor suggested that in relation to the Committee's earlier decision to have Individual Training Needs Assessments, Individual Training Plans and training records for the Non-Elected Members and Parish Councillors on the Standards Committee, development of the same be deferred until the future of the Standards regime was finalised.

RESOLVED: That the development of Individual Training Needs Assessments, Individual Training Plans and training records for the Non-Elected Members and Parish Councillors on the Standards Committee, be deferred until the future of the Standards regime is finalised.

26. ANNUAL TRAINING SEMINAR/WORKSHOP

The Committee considered the venue for the next Annual Code of Conduct Seminar/Workshop for all West Lancashire Borough and Parish Councillors.

RESOLVED: A. That the next Code of Conduct Seminar/Workshop be held at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk.

B. That the Council Secretary and Solicitor, in consultation with the Chairman, be authorised to set a date for the seminar when matters become clearer with the future of the standards regime, with a provisional date of 30 March 2011.

27. VISITS TO BOROUGH AND PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Committee considered the report of the Council Secretary and Solicitor which sought feedback on visits being undertaken by Members of the Standards Committee to Borough and Parish Council meetings.

Members discussed the purpose and benefit of the visits.

RESOLVED: A. That the current position and feedback received in relation to visits to Borough and Parish Council meetings be noted.

B. That such visits be suspended and further consideration be given to future visits once the Government's intention for the Standards regime becomes clear.

28. REAPPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER

The Committee considered the report of the Council Secretary and Solicitor which detailed advice received from Standards for England in respect of the reappointment of an Independent Member, in light of the uncertain future of the standards framework.

RESOLVED: That, in light of the uncertain future of the standards framework, Mr Paul Hanmer's term of office be extended to May 2012, in accordance with the advice received from Standards for England.

(Note: Independent Member, Mr P Hanmer, left the room whilst this item was under consideration)

29. ONLINE CASE REVIEW INTRODUCTION

The Council Secretary and Solicitor advised the Committee, that at the request of Monitoring Officers, Standards for England had prepared a new edition of its Case Review online which could be publicly accessed via the website.

RESOLVED: That the advice received be noted.

30. WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11

The Committee considered the Work Programme for 2010/11.

RESOLVED: That the Work Programme be noted.

THE CHAIRMAN