

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE
29 OCTOBER 2004**

Chairman: Mr J Lesquereux

Councillors:	P G Barnes (a)	Mr J R Baggaley
	Boot (a)	Mr G Wallis (a)
	Pratt	Mr G D Proctor

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barnes, Boot and Mr Wallis.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2004, having been circulated, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE FOR MEMBERS DEALING WITH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Head of Legal and Administrative Services reported that the draft Code of Practice for Members dealing with Planning Applications had been submitted to the Planning Committee for their comments. The draft Code had been accepted subjected to the following comments:

- (1) That a copy of the LGA Guidance on preparing a Local Code of Good Practice be attached to the Gedling Code of Practice
- (2) At paragraph 5.2 the words "or Committee or viewing group" be inserted after the word "viewing" to allow for the whole Committee to inspect if it is deemed necessary, or for a small non-politically balanced group to be constituted.
- (3) At paragraph 6.1 in the second line to deleted the words "have received" and insert instead the words "are willing to accept within a reasonable time". This would allow new Members of the Council to be appointed to the Committee prior to receiving training.

A copy of the draft Code was submitted at Appendix 1 together with suggested amendments.

- RESOLVED:
1. To accept the suggested amendments and recommend the Code of Practice to the Council for adoption;
 2. Further consideration be given to the production of an accessible public document to complement the Code of Practice.

4. CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

The Head of Legal and Administrative Services reported that the ODPM had issued two consultation papers seeking views on:

- (1) A draft code of conduct for local government employees; and
- (2) A review of restrictions on political activities of local authority employees and pay of political assistants.

Copies of the consultation papers were submitted at Appendix 2 to the report.

Members considered the consultation papers and made observations and comments they would wish to see included in the response to them.

RESOLVED: That the comments made be recommended for inclusion in the Council's response to the consultation.

5. STANDARDS BOARD CONFERENCE

The Head of Legal and Administrative Services reported that the Third Annual Conference held by The Standards Board for England had taken place on 13 and 14 September 2004. A summary of the matters considered at the Conference was included in the report.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

6. RESEARCH FEEDBACK

A copy of a letter and research feedback from Huntingdonshire District Council a summary is confirmed for Members' information at **Appendix 3**.

RESOLVED: To note the information.

7. URGENT ITEMS

The Head of Legal and Administrative Services reported that:

- (i) The Regulations permitting the local investigation of allegations of breach of the Code of Conduct had now been published;
- (ii) The Standards Board were investigating allegations against two Parish Councillors.

RESOLVED: To note the information

The meeting closed at 5.45pm