

## STANDARDS COMMITTEE

29 MARCH 2005

Councillor J.P Lesquereux (Chairman)

Councillors:	P.G. Barnes	F.J.D. Boot (a)
	C.N.F.W. Pratt	J.R. Baggaley
	G.D Proctor	G Wallis (a)

**8 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Boot and Mr G Wallis.

**9 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 OCTOBER 2004.**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the above meeting be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**10 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.**

None.

**11 REPORTS OF HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report comprising the following items

**1.Review of the Members Code of Conduct**

It was reported that the Standards Board for England was undertaking a review of the Code of Conduct and had issued a consultation document. The document was attached at Appendix 1. The Committee considered their response to the consultation exercise.

RESOLVED:

That further consideration be given to the Consultation paper at the next meeting.

## **2. Standards Board Annual Conference**

The Standards Board Fourth Annual Conference would be held on September 5 and 6 September 2005.

Members were requested to consider nomination of a delegate to the Conference.

RESOLVED:

That member attendance be further considered at the next meeting.

## **3. Future Work Load**

It was reported that the Standards Committee's remit was included in the Council's Constitution. A copy was submitted at Appendix 2 for ease of reference. Members were requested to consider the workload for the Committee for the coming year and in particular the following issues were suggested for consideration:

- (a) Member training.
- (b) Member/Officer Protocol - a model protocol published by the Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors was attached at Appendix 3 for information;
- (c) Licensing Act Committee Members' Protocol.
- (d) Parish Council issues.
- (e) Role and profile of the Standards Committee with particular reference to Members and the public.

RESOLVED:

That small working groups be formed to meet for discussions with the Parish Clerk and Chairman of each Parish Council.

## **Information Items**

### **4. Standards Board Investigations**

It was reported that two Parish Councillors had been reported to the Standards Board for failure to complete the form of Register of Interests.

The Ethical Standards Officer had concluded in one case that there had been a failure to comply with the Code but that no action was required because the Councillor had resigned. In the other case, the Ethical Standards Officer had found that the form

of Interests had not been returned within the 28 days of appointment but that no action need be taken provided the form was then completed and lodged with the Borough Council. This had subsequently been done.

RESOLVED To note the report.

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**ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT.**

None.

The meeting closed at 5.50 pm