



## **Report to Standards Committee**

**Date: 24 February 2006**

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### **1. Parish Council Meetings**

The meetings with the Borough's Parish Councils are now largely completed. The Minutes of a meeting with representatives of Burton Joyce Parish Council are attached at **Appendix 1**.

Some Parish Councils have declined the opportunity to meet with the Standards Committee. These are cases where the Parish Council has a member who is also either a Borough Council member, or a Standards Committee member, so that links are maintained through those members.

### **2. Membership of the Committee**

The Chairman has indicated his wish to resign from the Committee.

The Standards Committee is constituted by the Council with three elected members and four independent members, one of whom is appointed as a Parish Council representative.

### **Recommendation**

That the Committee consider the process of recruitment for a further member of the Committee.

**NOTES OF A MEETING BETWEEN  
THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
AND  
BURTON JOYCE PARISH COUNCIL  
FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2005**

**Present:**     **Burton Joyce Parish Council**  
Mrs Linda West - Parish Clerk  
David Davis - Chairman Burton Joyce Parish Council  
William Randall - Burton Joyce Parish Council Member

**Gedling Borough Council**  
John Bagguley - Standards Committee  
Councillor John Boot - Standards Committee  
Anita Bradley - Deputy Monitoring Officer

**Code of Conduct**

The Parish Members were aware of the Code and they had not experienced any problems with the Code of Conduct. The present Chairman had been in position for 7 years and during that time there had been no problems in the Parish Council with regard to Members' conduct.

No issues had arisen over the declarations of interest. Business was conducted by consensus.

If the Council did experience any problems they would seek advice from the Borough Council and NALC.

Council Members had been advised of the need to keep their Register of Interests up to date.

There is one vacancy on the Council at the moment and the turnover is usually about one member per year, so inductions can be dealt with on a one to one basis.

**Standards Committee**

The Parish Council are aware that the Borough Council's Standards Committee has responsibilities for the Parish and was satisfied that they had sufficiently close working arrangement with the Standards Committee.

The Members of the Parish Council felt that they could use the Borough Council as a source of advice on legal and procedural issues as and when needed and gave the example of the recent election in 2005, which was the Parish Council's first ever election. They were happy with the support they received from officers at the Council - particularly David Graham.

The main issue which the Parish Council had with the Borough Council was the consideration of planning matters.

## **Complaints**

There was no formal complaints procedure. If complaints arose they would be dealt with at that point at the Parish Council meeting in the public forum.

## **Communication**

Burton Joyce Parish Council was described as comprising 11 “straightforward citizens” with the interests of Burton Joyce at heart and was not run on political lines. The Parish Notice Boards was kept up to date and a short report of meetings was placed in the Parish Magazine produced by the Church. Minutes of the meetings were also available in the local library. The Parish Council did not yet have a website.

## **Standing Orders/Financial Regulations**

The Council had adopted the NALC models. The Parish Council benefited from the fact that the Chairman was, by profession, an accountant. The Parish Council employed one full-time groundsman and four part-time groundsmen. The Parish Council had a budget in excess of £100,000.

## **Training and Other Parish Council Issues**

The Parish Council took its health and safety responsibilities very seriously and Members of the Council had attended risk assessment courses and had looked at all their different areas of responsibility including an audit on the graveyard. The play area is inspected each year by ROSPA.

The Parish Council was happy with the polling station at the Methodist Church, which was central to the village and had good access.

The building and maintenance of the sports pavilion was the most major project for Burton Joyce and there was a separate Committee for the sports ground which reported back to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council expressed their interest in being included in any training undertaken by the Planning Committee at Gedling Borough Council to enable the Parish Councillors to have a wider understanding of planning matters and to respond to consultation in an informed way.

In addition, the Parish Clerk would be interested in receiving any further information on cemeteries with regard to maintenance of headstones and duties relating to cemeteries. Any information or training in relation to financial procedures would also be of interest to the Parish Council.