

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**Friday, 24th February, 2006**

Councillor J.P Lesquereux (Chairman)

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

### **8 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Barnes.

### **9 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 OCTOBER 2005.**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the above meeting, having been circulated, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

### **10 STANDARDS OF CONDUCT IN ENGLISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT: "THE FUTURE"**

The Monitoring Officer, Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported that the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister had now published the Government's response to the Standards Board for England's recommendations for the review of the Code of Conduct for Members, and to the Graham Committee on Standards of Conduct on Public Life's proposals for a review of the New Ethical Framework.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was inviting views on the proposals contained in the response document.

The Graham committee on Standards in Public Life had made recommendations on reviewing the conduct regime for local authority members. The Government had now confirmed its support for the broad thrust of the Committee's recommendations, namely that there should be a further localisation of the system, to give local authorities greater ownership of the system, but with the Standards Board for England continuing to have a strong role strategic in providing guidance and support, and promoting best practice on the handling by local authorities of allegations of misconduct. The role of independent co-opted

members of Standards Committees should be re-enforced, and the Code of Conduct should be simplified and made easier to understand and operate at local level.

The report contained the Government's response in more detail.

RESOLVED:

That the comments made by members of the Committee be incorporated in the Council's response.

11

## **PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report on the following: -

### **i. Parish Council Meetings**

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

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

### **ii. Membership of the Committee**

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

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

After consideration it was: -

RESOLVED:

That consideration of these matters be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

The meeting closed at 6.00 pm

