



Civic Centre,
Arnot Hill Park,
Arnold,
Nottinghamshire,
NG5 6LU

Agenda

Standards Committee

Date: **Wednesday 29 July 2015**

Time: **6.00 pm**

Place: **Reception Room**

For any further information please contact:

Helen Barrington

Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

0115 901 3901

Standards Committee

Membership

Chair Councillor Emily Bailey

Vice-Chair Councillor Michael Payne

Councillor Alan Bexon
Councillor Andrew Ellwood
Councillor Colin Powell
Mr. G. Wallis

AGENDA

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- 2 To approve, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2015.** 5 - 6
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MINUTES STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Thursday 26 February 2015

Councillor John Boot (Chair)

Councillor Tony Gillam

Councillor Paul Hughes

Councillor Suzanne Prew-Smith

Mr. D. Evans

Mr. G. Parkinson

Mr. G. Wallis

Apologies for absence: Councillor Peter Barnes and Councillor Michael Payne

Officers in Attendance: H Barrington

23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barnes and Payne.

24 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

Mr Parkinson declared a pecuniary interest in Item 5 (Code of Conduct Complaints) as a Member of Woodborough Parish Council.

25 TO APPROVE, AS A CORRECT RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28 AUGUST 2014.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the above meeting, having been circulated, be approved as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:

1. That Mr Baggaley be removed from the list of members in attendance as, as the Independent Person, he is not a member of the Committee.

26 ARRANGEMENTS FOLLOWING THE MAY 2015 ELECTIONS.

Consideration was given to a report of the Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, informing Members of proposals with regard to arrangements following the May 2015 election and seeking comments.

RESOLVED:

To note the report and provide comments on the proposals for the induction of new Members and the Standards Committee work programme.

27 CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS.

Consideration was given to a report of the Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, informing Members of complaints received between 1 August 2014 and 31 January 2015

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

28 ANY OTHER ITEM WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT.

None.

The meeting finished at 5.20 pm

Signed by Chair:
Date:



Report to Standards Committee

Subject: Code of Conduct training following the May 2015 elections

Date: 29 July 2015

Author: Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

1. Purpose of the Report

To inform members of the Standards Committee about the code of conduct training delivered to Borough Councillors following the elections in May 2015 and seek comments on training to be offered to Parish Councils.

2. Background

- 2.1 At the meeting on 26 February 2015, Standards Committee considered a report of the Monitoring Officer outlining the proposed induction programme for members following the election in May 2015. By way of update, all Borough Councillors were offered training on the Code of Conduct which was delivered by the Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer on 14 May 2015. 13 councillors attended the training and the slides and handouts were distributed to those who did not attend. Where requested, one to one support has been given to councillors to assist with the completion of the Register of Interests Forms. All Borough Councillor Register forms have been received by the Monitoring Officer and published on the Council's website.
- 2.2 In addition, at the meeting on 26 February 2015 it was agreed that the Monitoring Officer should offer a training session to Parish Councils on the Code of Conduct. Following the election in May, the Monitoring Officer wrote to all Parish Council Clerks asking whether the parish council would be interested in receiving such training and if so whether there were any specific topics they wanted to be trained on. Unfortunately only 2 responses have been received from Linby Parish Council and Woodborough Parish Council. In light of this, the views of the Standards Committee are sought on what training, if any, should be provided to Parish Councils.

3. Proposal

It is proposed that the Committee notes the report and provides comments on training to be offered to Parish Councils.

4. Financial Implications

None arising from this report.

5. Appendices

None.

6. Background papers

None identified.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee notes the report and provides comments on training to be offered to Parish Councils.



Report to Standards Committee

Subject: Gifts and Hospitality 2014/15

Date: 29 July 2015

Author: Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

1. Purpose of the Report

To inform members of the Standards Committee of gifts and hospitality received between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015.

2. Background

- 2.1 As members of the Standards Committee are aware the Council has a Gifts and Hospitality Code of Practice for Members and Officers to enable Members and Officers to decide on the circumstances and the manner in which gifts and hospitality may be accepted. Historically, each council department held its own register of gifts and hospitality in which details of gifts and hospitality offered to Officers were registered. However, since 2012 the register has been held centrally in an electronic folder.
- 2.2 The register of gifts and hospitality for Members is also held in the electronic folder and is updated on the Monitoring Officer's behalf by Members' Services. Following the recent election, Members have registered gifts and hospitality received in excess of £25.00 on their Register of Interests Form and there is an ongoing requirement in the Code of Conduct to register any future gifts and hospitality.
- 2.3 During 2014/15, across the Council officers, 49 offers of gifts or hospitality were accepted and 1 was refused. Most common gifts were boxes of chocolates, bottles of wine and stationery. There were 3 instances of hospitality offered – consisting of a working lunch and an invitation to Patchings Festival which were accepted and tickets to a football game which were refused.
- 2.4 The elected Members recorded 10 offers of gifts or hospitality. The gifts consisted of bottles of wine, a bottle of whiskey, a rose bush and a food hamper, the majority of which were donated to tombola/raffle for the Mayor's Charity. The hospitality comprised an invitation to the County Show which was accepted.

3. Proposal

It is proposed that the Committee notes the report.

4. Financial Implications

None.

5. Appendices

None.

6. Background papers

None identified.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee notes the report.



Report to Standards Committee

Subject: Recruitment of co-opted parish representatives

Date: 29 July 2015

Author: Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

1. Purpose of the Report

To seek approval to set up an interview panel to interview candidates for the 2 vacant posts of co-opted parish representatives.

2. Background

2.1 In July 2012, Council agreed that the Standards Committee should not be politically balanced and should comprise 2 co-opted parish representatives and 1 co-opted independent member in addition to elected members. The 2 co-opted parish representatives Geoff Parkinson and David Evans decided not to stand at the recent Parish Council elections and are no longer Parish Councillors. As a result they are unable to continue as co-opted parish representatives on the Standards Committee and 2 vacancies have arisen. The Monitoring Officer has written to both Mr Parkinson and Mr Evans to thank them for their service and contribution to the Standards Committee over a number of years.

2.2 In view of the vacancies and with the permission of the Chairman of the Standards Committee, the Monitoring Officer distributed an application pack to all Clerks to the Parish Councils in the borough and requested that they bring it to the attention of their Parish Councillors. Four applications have been received and all are considered suitable for interview.

3. Proposal

3.1 It is proposed that the Committee agrees to set up an interview panel to interview candidates for the 2 vacant posts of co-opted parish representatives. The interview panel will interview the candidates and recommend who should be appointed to the next meeting of the Standards Committee however, full Council will have to formally agree to co-opt.

3.2 It is also proposed that the interview panel should be able to interview candidates for any future vacancies for co-opted members or independent persons.

4. Financial Implications

None arising from this report.

5. Appendices

None.

6. Background papers

None identified.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee:

7.1 agrees to set up an interview panel to interview candidates for the vacant posts of co-opted parish representatives and make recommendations about appointments to the Standards Committee; and

7.2 the interview panel shall be able to interview candidates and make recommendations to appoint to any future vacancies for co-opted members or independent persons.