

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 2 June 2015 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

Present: Councillors; Mrs Bunker, Bromley, Cooke, Davies, Mrs Evetts, Mrs Falp, Gill, Mrs Hill, Howe and Rhead.

Also Present:

Independent Persons: Mr R Meacham and Mr R Tomkinson.

Councillors; Ashford, Cain, Mrs Cain J.P., Illingworth, Mann, Margrave, Naimo, Phillips and Whiting.

Officers: Mr A Jones (Deputy Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer) and Mr G Leach (Democratic Services Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer).

1. **Substitutes**

There were no substitutes.

2. **Appointment of Chairman**

It was proposed by Councillor Cooke, duly seconded

Resolved that Councillor Davies be appointed Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

3. **Appointment of Vice-Chairman**

It was proposed by Councillor Cooke, duly second and

Resolved that Councillor Mrs Bunker be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

4. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

5. **Briefing and Training on the Roles and Responsibilities of the Committee**

The Committee received a briefing on its roles and responsibilities from the Monitoring Officer.

6. **Dispensations for Councillors**

The Committee considered a report from the Democratic Services Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer that brought forward proposals to protect members from inadvertent breaches of the requirements related to

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Disclosable Pecuniary Interests ensuring that the Council could conduct its business.

Within the Constitution, the Standards Committee was responsible for considering and determining requests for dispensation from requirements of the adopted Members' Code of Conduct.

Dispensations could be granted (in certain circumstances) for up to four years allowing a member to speak and or vote when they had a disclosable pecuniary interest. The application had to be made in writing to the proper officer (Chief Executive). At present no written applications had been made to the Chief Executive, but officers had taken what was seen as a proactive approach in presenting this report to ensure the Council could conduct its business effectively.

Officers had written to all Councillors asking for confirmation as to whether the partner or spouse (as recognised under the Localism Act) was a Councillor on an Authority other than Warwick District Council.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer and Democratic Services Manager reported that to-date no Councillor had responded to the email regarding dispensations and therefore the list of those applied for and granted (if the Committee were so minded to approve the recommendations in the report) would be reported to the next meeting of the Committee.

Resolved that

- (1) the remit and procedure for considering dispensations as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved;
- (2) dispensations be granted to all councillors until elections for the Council in May 2019, allowing them to both speak and vote in relation to the following functions of the District Council:
 - (a) housing; where you are a tenant of Warwick District Council, provided that those functions do not relate particularly to your tenancy or lease;
 - (b) the payment of a councillor allowance, one-off payment or indemnity;
- (3) the Committee grants dispensations as at (a) and (b) below to District Councillors until elections for the Council in May 2019 who are elected members or co-opted members of another public authority and who have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter **only by virtue of the fact** that they are in receipt of an allowance or expenses from that other authority:

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- (a) where the matter would affect the financial position of that other authority the councillor may speak on the matter provided they immediately withdraw from the meeting room; and
 - (b) in relation to other matters affecting that other authority the district councillor may speak and vote.
- (4) the committee grants the following dispensations as at (a) and (b) below to Councillors until elections for the Council in May 2019 in respect of circumstances where they have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter relating to another authority **only by virtue of the fact** that their spouse is an elected member of that other authority and in receipt of an allowance from that other authority:
 - (a) where the issue is a matter of dispute between the District Council and the other authority and the matter would affect the financial position of that other authority the councillor may speak on the matter provided they then immediately withdraw from the meeting room; and
 - (b) in relation to other matters affecting that other authority the District Councillor may speak and vote.

(The meeting ended at 7.00 pm)