

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26 September 2007 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Guest, Mrs McFarland and Mrs Tyrrell.

Independent Representatives the Venerable M Paget-Wilkes (Chair) and Mr C Purser.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Heath.

468. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

469. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 August 2007, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

470. **MEMBERS' REGISTER OF FINANCIAL INTERESTS AND OTHER INTERESTS UNDER THE MANDATORY CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Register containing details of financial and other interests, notified by individual Councillors, was made available for inspection by Members of the Committee.

471. **APPOINTMENT OF PARISH/TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES AND SUBSTITUTE ON THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

The Senior Committee Services Officer reported the result of the votes from the Parish and Town Councils.

Seven Parish and four Town Councils had voted from a possible maximum of 19 Parish Councils and four Town Councils. Each Council was permitted two votes.

The results were as follows:

Councillor Mrs A Gordon	7 votes
Councillor M Polgreen	4 votes
Councillor Mrs S Howell	3 votes
Councillor M Singh	3 votes
Councillor B Smart	3 Votes

On consideration of the outcome and following advice from the Monitoring Officer the Committee were of the opinion that it would be wise to recommend the appointment of Councillor Mrs A Gordon and Councillor M Polgreen to the Committee and the appointment of Councillor Mrs S Howell, Councillor M Singh and Councillor B Smart as substitutes.

This would allow for a greater pool of Committee members to be called upon in the event of a hearing(s) into a breach of code of conduct by a Councillor.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) Councillor Mrs A Gordon and Councillor M Polgreen be appointed as the Parish representatives on the Committee; and
- (2) Councillor Mrs S Howell, Councillor M Singh and Councillor B Smart be appointed as substitutes to the Parish Representatives on the Committee.

472. STANDARDS COMMITTEE TRAINING

At the previous meeting of the Committee they had agreed for future training sessions. The purpose of this item was to agree four dates to hold these training sessions.

As part of this item the Chair raised the issue of future meetings dates as he could not attend the next two scheduled meetings of the Committee.

The Senior Committee Services Officer informed the meeting that the appointment of a substitute for the independent would now progress with a view to confirming the appointment at the meeting of the Committee in February 2007.

RESOLVED that

- (1) a mock hearing for members of the Standards Committee, including substitutes, based on the new code of conduct be held on 10 December from 2.00pm to 5.00pm at the Town Hall;
- (2) the Monitoring Officer produces a briefing paper, on the key changes, for all Councillors on the revised code of conduct to be circulated before the training on 10 December 2007;
- (3) a mock hearing, for all Warwick District Councillors, along with Parish Council and independent representatives on Standards Committee, based on the new code of conduct be held on 15 January 2008 from 5.30pm at the Town Hall;
- (4) a mock hearing for members of the Standards Committee, including substitutes, based on dispensation to attend meetings, be held on 9 January 2008 from 2.00pm to 5.00pm at the Town Hall;

STANDARDS COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

- (5) a mock hearing for all Warwick District Councillors, along with Parish Council and independent representatives on Standards Committee, based on dispensation to attend meetings be held on 28 January 2008 from 5.30pm at the Town Hall Royal Leamington Spa;
- (6) the meeting on 7 November 2007 be cancelled;
and
- (7) the meeting in February be moved from Wednesday 13 February to Wednesday 27 February 2007.

(The meeting ended at 7.20 p.m.)