

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the STANDARDS COMMITTEE held in Meeting Room 1, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon PE29 3TN on Monday, 24 July 2006.

PRESENT: Mr D H Bristow - Chairman
Councillors Mrs B E Boddington, P J Downes, I R Muir, T D Sanderson and Mr G Watkins

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors J A P Eddy, Mrs K P Gregory and J Taylor and Messrs D L Hall and D MacPherson.

12. MINUTES

Subject to the addition of Councillor T D Sanderson to those who had apologised for absence, the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6th July 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman announced that, due to work commitments and with immediate effect, Mr D Pattison had tendered his resignation as an Independent Member of the Committee.

Having acknowledged Mr Pattison's contribution to the work of the Committee, Members requested the Monitoring Officer to convey their best wishes to him for the future.

13. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor P J Downes declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute No. 14 having personally canvassed all four parties involved in the complaint when campaigning during the Cambridgeshire County

Council elections in 2005.

The Chairman, Mr Bristow declared a personal interest in Minute No. 15 by virtue of his membership of a social club which had utilised the facilities of the Millennium Community Centre, Buckden.

14. THE STUKELEYS PARISH COUNCIL - ALLEGED BREACH OF CODE OF CONDUCT

(See Minute No. 13 for Members' Interests).

A report by the Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer was submitted (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) to which was attached a copy of the final report by the Investigating Officer in response to the allegations made against two Councillors serving on The Stukeleys Parish Council.

After careful consideration of the facts set out in the report of the Investigating Officer and having regard to advice from the Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer, the Committee

RESOLVED

that the findings of the Investigating Officer in respect of SBE Case Nos. 13997.06 and 13998.06 be accepted and the principals involved in this case advised of the Committee's conclusion that there was no case to answer and no breach of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct.

15. APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

(See Item No. 13 for Members' interests).

The Committee were acquainted, by way of a report by the Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) with two applications received for dispensation to allow Members of Alconbury and Buckden Parish Councils to speak and vote on matters relating to the Alconbury Flood Alleviation Scheme and the Buckden Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust respectively.

Having regard to the advice received from the Monitoring Officer, the Committee

RESOLVED

- (a) that dispensation to speak and vote be granted to six Members of Alconbury Parish Council for the period ending 30th April 2010 to enable them to participate in meetings when matters arise relating to the Flood Alleviation Scheme;
- (b) that dispensation to speak and vote be granted to Buckden Parish Council for the period ending 30th April 2010 to enable Members to conduct business associated with the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust; and
- (c) that Buckden Parish Council be invited to contact the Charity Commission for assistance in varying their

trustee arrangements to overcome continuing conflicts of interest and that a similar reminder be issued by the Monitoring Officer to all town and parish councils in Huntingdonshire.

16. STANDARDS AND CONDUCT WEB SITE

Further to Minute No. 9 of the last meeting of the Committee, Members considered a report by the Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) regarding the inclusion of the contact details of non-elected Members of the Committee on the District Council's website.

Having reviewed the practices of other authorities locally and concluded that the approach adopted by East Cambridgeshire District Council would present the best solution, the Committee,

RESOLVED

that the Standards and Conduct pages on the District Council's website be amended to indicate that correspondence for the Independent Members and Parish Council representatives on the Committee be sent c/o the District Council offices at Pathfinder House.

17. NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Committee would be held on Thursday 14th September 2006 at 4.00pm.

Chairman