

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the REFERRALS (ASSESSMENT) SUB COMMITTEE held in the Cabinet Room, Pathfinder House, St. Mary's Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3TN on Monday, 28 July 2008.

PRESENT: Mr P L Boothman
Councillor Mrs B E Boddington and
Mr G Watkins

7. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 7th July 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

9. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference of the Sub-Committee were noted.

10. GUIDANCE TO ASSIST ASSESSMENT OF CASES

The Guidance produced by the Standards Board for England and collated by the Monitoring Officer to assist the Sub-Committee in their assessment of the cases submitted was received and noted.

11. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

that the public be excluded from the meeting because the business to be transacted contains exempt information under paragraph 7c relating to the deliberations of the Sub-Committee of the Standards Committee established under the provisions of Part 3 of the Local Government Act 2000.

12. PRE-ASSESSMENT REPORT AND ENQUIRIES - CASE NO. 2

Members considered the following documents (copies of which are appended in the Minute Book) collated by the Monitoring Officer to assist the Sub-Committee in its deliberations –

- (a) letter from complainant dated 3rd June 2008 plus Appendices –
- ◆ the Bridge magazine: April 2008;
 - ◆ the Bridge magazine: April 2006;
 - ◆ extract from the Minutes of the meeting of the Promotion and Publicity Committee of St. Ives Town Council dated 11th March 2002;

- (b) e-mail exchange between the complainant and former Monitoring Officer – June 2008;
- (c) pre-assessment report by the Monitoring Officer; and
- (d) Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity.

In light of the pre-assessment report and enquiries, the Sub-Committee discussed, in general terms, the process for the publication and the contents of the April 2008 edition of “The Bridge” magazine and clarified electoral procedures in terms of the timescale for the invitation of nominations by the Returning Officer.

13. INITIAL ASSESSMENT - CASE NO. 2

Having considered the allegations made in the case, the Sub-Committee

RESOLVED

- (a) that the allegations made by Councillor C Saunderson against Councillor J D Ablewhite and Messrs D B Dew and J Vickery be not referred for investigation; and
- (b) that the matter be referred to the Monitoring Officer for other action and the Town Clerk, St. Ives Town Council advised that it would be prudent for them, to have regard to the electoral timetable for the invitation of nominations for the election of town councillors and to vary the publication date for “The Bridge” newsletter taking this period into account as set out in the “Decision Notice: Referral for Other Action” appended to these Minutes.

14. PRE-ASSESSMENT REPORT AND ENQUIRIES - CASE NO. 3

The Sub-Committee considered the following documents (copies of which are appended in the Minute Book) collated by the Monitoring Officer to assist Members in their deliberations –

- (a) letter of complaint dated 9th July 2008;
- (b) registration forms of the Councillors concerned;
- (c) agenda/minutes of the meeting of Kimbolton and Stonely Parish Council held on 19th June, 2008; and
- (d) pre-assessment report by the Monitoring Officer.

15. INITIAL ASSESSMENT - CASE NO. 3

Having considered the allegation made in the case, seeking the advice of the Monitoring Officer as necessary, the Sub-Committee

RESOLVED

- (a) that the allegation made by Councillor D W Poole against Councillors L Farrer, Mrs D Hellett and P Seabrook, be not referred for investigation; and
- (b) that the matter be referred to the Monitoring Officer for other action and arrangements made to provide training for the Clerk and Members of Kimbolton and Stonely Parish Council in connection with the Code of Conduct as set out in the "Decision Notice: Referral for Other Action" appended to these Minutes.

Chairman