

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the REFERRALS (ASSESSMENT) SUB COMMITTEE held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST. MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON, PE29 3TN on Thursday, 16 October 2008.

PRESENT: Mr P L Boothman – Chairman
Councillor T D Sanderson and Mr G Watkins

16. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 28th July 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

17. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor T D Sanderson declared a personal interest in Minute No. 23 as a Member colleague of the District Councillor referred to therein.

18. TERMS OF REFERENCE

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

19. GUIDANCE TO ASSIST ASSESSMENT OF CASE

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.

20. 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 7 (c) 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.

21. PRE ASSESSMENT REPORT AND ENQUIRIES - CASE NO. 4

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) Pre-assessment report by the Monitoring Officer;
- (b) Original letter of complaint dated 29th August 2008 plus appendices;
- (c) Response to letter by Monitoring Officer dated 9th September 2008;

- (d) Further letter received from complainant dated 16th September 2008; and
- (e) Minutes – St. Neots Town Council.

To assist in his understanding of the various elements of the case, the Chairman had prepared a timeline to which he referred in opening discussion and this was circulated to the Sub-Committee. (A copy of the timeline is appended in the Minute Book).

22. INITIAL ASSESSMENT - CASE NO 4

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

RESOLVED

that the allegation made by Councillor Mrs J Bird against Councillor D A Giles, St. Neots Town Council be referred to the Monitoring Officer for investigation for the reasons set out in the “Decision Notice: Referral for Investigation” appended to these Minutes.

23. PRE-ASSESSMENT REPORT AND ENQUIRIES - CASE NO. 5

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) Pre-assessment report by the Monitoring Officer;
- (b) Email from Councillor concerned dated 6th October 2008;
- (c) Extract from Development Control Panel Minutes dated 14th July 2008; and
- (d) Declaration of Financial and Other Interests.

24. INITIAL ASSESSMENT - CASE NO. 5

Following consideration of the details of the case and having noted that the complaint had been self-reported, the Sub-Committee –

RESOLVED

that no further action be taken in respect of the complaint concerning the conduct of Councillor J A Gray, Huntingdonshire District Council for the reasons set out in the “Decision Notice: No Further Action” appended to these Minutes.

Chairman