

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the REFERRALS (ASSESSMENT) SUB COMMITTEE held in Meeting Room D6, Pathfinder House, St. Mary's Street, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE29 3TN on Tuesday, 18 August 2009.

PRESENT: Mr M Lynch – Chairman.
Councillor Mrs B E Boddington and
Mr G Watkins.

77. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 10th July 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

78. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

79. GUIDANCE TO ASSIST ASSESSMENT OF CASES

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

80. EXCLUSION OF THE 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 a Sub-Committee of the Standards Committee established under the provisions of Part 3 of the Local Government Act 2000.

81. PRE-ASSESSMENT REPORT AND ENQUIRIES - CASE NO. 18

Members considered the following documents collated by the Monitoring Officer (a copy of which are appended in the Minute Book) to assist the Sub-Committee in their deliberations in respect of a complaint against a Councillor serving on Little Paxton Parish Council
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- (a) original letter of complaint submitted by Councillor Owens dated 24th July 2009;
- (b) copy of complaint form;
- (c) copy of minutes of the Amenities Committee - 16th July 2009;
- (d) copy of Agenda/Minutes - special Council 23rd July 2009;

- (e) documents relating to Councillor Owen's allotment duties;
- (f) Little Paxton Parish Council - election results;
- (g) declaration of financial and other interests - Councillor S Codling; and
- (h) letter and enclosures dated 11th August 2009.

The correspondence dated 11th August 2009 was circulated at the meeting and Members were given the opportunity to read their content before the assessment commenced.

82. INITIAL ASSESSMENT - CASE NO. 18

The Sub-Committee considered the allegations made in the case against Councillor S Codling of Little Paxton Parish Council seeking the advice of the Monitoring Officer as necessary. On the basis of the evidence before them, the Sub-Committee

RESOLVED

- (a) that, the allegation made against Councillor S Codling that he had failed to comply with paragraphs 3 (1) and 3 (2) (b) of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct be not referred for investigation but referred to the Monitoring Officer for other action as set out in the "Decision Notice - Referral for Other Action" appended to these Minutes;
- (b) that Councillor Codling be requested to review his registration of financial and other interests and specifically to register his interest as an allotment holder which had been omitted from his current declaration; and
- (c) that the Standards Committee be requested to consider the question of guidance/training for Chairmen of Town and Parish Councils.

83. PRE-ASSESSMENT REPORT AND ENQUIRIES - CASE NO. 19

With the assistance of the following documents collated by the Monitoring Officer (copies of which are appended in the Minute Book) the Sub-Committee considered a complaint against a Councillor serving on Little Paxton Parish Council -

- (a) original email of complaint submitted by Councillor P Hagger dated 26th July 2009;
- (b) copy of complaint form;
- (c) declaration of financial and other interests - Councillor F Owens.

84. INITIAL ASSESSMENT - CASE NO. 19

The Sub-Committee considered the allegations made in the case against Councillor F Owens of Little Paxton Parish Council seeking the advice of the Monitoring Officer as necessary.

On the basis of the evidence before them, the Sub-Committee

RESOLVED

that the allegations made against Councillor F Owens that he had failed to comply with paragraphs 3 (1), 3 (2) (b), 5, 10 (i) and 12 (i) of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct be not referred for investigation but referred to the Monitoring Officer for other action as set out in the "Decision Notice Referral for Other Action" appended to these Minutes.

Chairman