

A meeting of the **STANDARDS COMMITTEE** will be held in **Room CVSO 1A, CIVIC SUITE, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST. MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON, PE29 3TN** on **THURSDAY, 8 JULY 2010** at **4:00 PM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

## **APOLOGIES**

**Contact**

### **1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

To elect a Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.

### **2. MINUTES** (Pages 1 - 4)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2010.

**C Deller  
388007**

### **3. MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

To receive from Members declarations as to personal and/or prejudicial interests and the nature of those interests in relation to any Agenda Items - please see Notes 1 and 2 below.

### **4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

To appoint a Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.

### **5. SUB-COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

#### **(a) Referrals (Assessment) Sub-Committee**

To appoint Members to the Referrals (Assessment) Sub-Committee comprising one Independent Member who shall be Chairman and Lead Member, one Parish Council representative and one District Councillor. (In 2009/2010, the Committee appointed Mr M Lynch as a Lead Independent Member and Chairman of the Sub-Committee.)

#### **(b) Review Sub-Committee**

To appoint Members to the Review Sub-Committee comprising one Independent Member who shall be Chairman and Lead Member, one Parish Council representative and one District Councillor.

(In 2009/2010, the Committee appointed Mr P Boothman as Lead Independent Member and Chairman of the Sub-Committee).

(c) **Standards (Consideration & Hearing) Sub-Committee**

To appoint five Members to comprise the Standards (Consideration & Hearing) Sub-Committee to consider investigation reports and to hold determination hearings. This Sub-Committee must be chaired by an independent person.

(In 2009/2010, the Committee appointed Mr D Hall as Lead Independent Member.)

The Committee will recall that in June 2009 they authorised the Head of Law, Property and Governance and Monitoring Officer, after consultation with the relevant Chairman, to convene meetings of the above Sub-Committees as necessary and to appoint Members as appropriate in accordance with the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008.

## 6. **REPORTS OF SUB-COMMITTEES**

To receive reports from the Chairmen of the three Sub-Committees as follows:-

(a) **Referrals (Assessment) Sub-Committee**

Since March, the Sub-Committee has met on 31st March, 29th April and 24th June 2010 to assess complaints received about Members serving on St. Ives Town, Yaxley and Upwood and The Raveleys Parish Councils. No further action was recommended in respect of the complaints involving Councillors in St. Ives and Upwood and The Raveleys. Regarding the Yaxley complaint, this involved two Councillors and it was decided to refer the case involving one Member for investigation and to take no further action in respect of the other.

(b) **Review Sub-Committee**

The Sub-Committee has not been required to meet.

(c) **Standards (Consideration and Hearing) Sub-Committee**

The Sub-Committee has met on 25th March and 9th June 2010. On both occasions the Sub-Committee considered a case against a Member of St. Ives Town Council. The Committee found that the Councillor in the case had failed to comply with the Code of Conduct and agreed that he should be suspended from membership of St. Ives Town Council for a period of one month with effect from 9th July 2010 unless he presented a written apology to the complainant. As subsequent correspondence had suggested that the Councillor would not comply with the Sub-

Committee request he will be suspended for a one month period from St. Ives Town Council as the Sub-Committee instructed.

7. **APPOINTMENT OF PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES** (Pages 5 - 8) **C Deller  
388007**
- Following the resignation of Mr M Reece last November, to consider a report by the Head of Law, Property and Governance and Monitoring Officer regarding the methodology for the appointment of Parish Council representatives to the Committee.
8. **STANDARDS FOR ENGLAND - THE FUTURE?** (Pages 9 - 12) **C Deller  
388007**
- To consider a report by the Head of Law, Property and Governance and Monitoring Officer regarding the latest developments following the Government's announcement to "abolish the Standards Board" regime.
9. **DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2009/2010** (Pages 13 - 22) **C Deller  
388007**
- Further to Minute No. 40 of the meeting held on 4th March 2010 to comment on the first draft Annual Report - 2009/2010 - to follow.
10. **APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION** (Pages 23 - 26) **C Deller  
388007**
- To consider a report by the Head of Law, Property and Governance and Monitoring Officer in respect of two applications for dispensation received from Parish Councils.
11. **TRAINING UPDATE 2010** (Pages 27 - 28) **C Deller  
388007**
- To consider a report by the Head of Law, Property and Governance and Monitoring Officer regarding a proposed programme of training.
12. **LOG OF CODE OF CONDUCT ENQUIRIES** (Pages 29 - 32) **C Meadowcroft  
388021**
- To note the Code of Conduct enquiries recorded by the Head of Law, Property and Governance and Monitoring Officer since the meeting held in March.
13. **RECENT CASE SUMMARIES AND ADVICE** (Pages 33 - 40) **C Meadowcroft  
388021**
- (a) To note two case summaries involving a neighbouring authority in Cambridgeshire which recently have been published by Standards for England.
- (b) Standards for England have issued guidance to Councillors on the use of blogs and social networking sites and this is enclosed for Members' information.

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To note that the next meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday 9th September 2010 at 4pm at the Civic Suite, Pathfinder House, Huntingdon.

**15. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC**

To resolve -

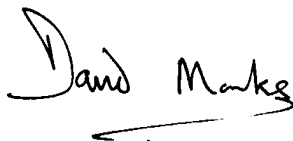
that the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the following item on the grounds that the business to be transacted contains exempt information under paragraph 7c relating to the deliberations of a Sub-Committee of the Standards Committee established under the provisions of Part 3 of the Local Government Act 2000.

**16. CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS - YAXLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**C Meadowcroft  
388021**

The Head of Law, Property and Governance and Monitoring Officer to report.

Dated this 6 day of July 2010

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Marks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chief Executive

## Notes

1. *A personal interest exists where a decision on a matter would affect to a greater extent than other people in the District –*
  - (a) *the well-being, financial position, employment or business of the Councillor, their family or any person with whom they had a close association;*
  - (b) *a body employing those persons, any firm in which they are a partner and any company of which they are directors;*
  - (c) *any corporate body in which those persons have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000; or*
  - (d) *the Councillor's registerable financial and other interests.*
2. *A personal interest becomes a prejudicial interest where a member of the public (who has knowledge of the circumstances) would reasonably regard the Member's personal interest as being so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Councillor's judgement of the public interest.*

**Please contact Ms C Deller, Democratic Services Manager, Tel No 01480 388007/e-mail: [Christine.Deller@huntsdc.gov.uk](mailto:Christine.Deller@huntsdc.gov.uk) if you have a general query on any Agenda Item, wish to tender your apologies for absence from the meeting, or would like information on any decision taken by the Committee.**

**Specific enquires with regard to items on the Agenda should be directed towards the Contact Officer.**

**Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting as observers except during consideration of confidential or exempt items of business.**

Agenda and enclosures can be viewed on the District Council's website – [www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk) (under *Councils and Democracy*).

**If you would like a translation of Agenda/Minutes/Reports or would like a large text version or an audio version please contact the Democratic Services Manager and we will try to accommodate your needs.**

### **Emergency Procedure**

*In the event of the fire alarm being sounded and on the instruction of the Meeting Administrator, all attendees are requested to vacate the building via the closest emergency exit.*