

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the REFERRALS (ASSESSMENT) SUB COMMITTEE held in Meeting Room CVSO1b, Civic Suite, Pathfinder House, St. Mary's Street, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE29 3TN on Tuesday, 24 April 2012.

PRESENT: Mr P Boothman – Chairman.
Councillor A Hansard and Mr J Alexander

92. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 8th February and adjourned to 26th March 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

93. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No interests were declared by the Members present.

However, having drawn attention to the fact that the complaint concerned circumstances arising at Yaxley Parish Council which might be similar to matters raised in previous cases, the Sub-Committee were of the view that they were able to clear their minds to consider the new complaint afresh.

94. GUIDANCE TO ASSIST ASSESSMENT OF CASE

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

95. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

that the public be excluded from the meeting because the business to be transacted contained 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.

96. PRE-ASSESSMENT REPORT AND ENQUIRIES - CASE NO. 57

By reference to a Code of Conduct complaint form (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Monitoring Officer presented details of an allegation which had been made in respect of the conduct of two Councillors serving on Yaxley Parish Council.

In addition to the complaint form, the Sub-Committee had regard to the following additional documents –

- ◆ letter addressed to Councillor C Thorne dated 17th February 2012; and
- ◆ registration of interests form.

97. CASE NO. 57 - INITIAL ASSESSMENT

Having regard to the allegations made in the case of Councillor K Gulson and former Councillor A Bartle, both of Yaxley Parish Council and having taken into account advice from the Monitoring Officer when required, the Sub-Committee

RESOLVED

- (a) that, having been advised that Councillor A Bartle had resigned from Yaxley Parish Council on 30th March 2012, the complainant be informed that it would not be expedient to pursue the complaint although in the event that Mr Bartle was re-elected to office, in the future, the complainant be advised that she would be entitled to pursue the complaint afresh, should she wish to do so at that time;
- (b) that no further action be taken in respect of the complaint involving Councillor K Gulson of Yaxley Parish Council for the reasons set out in the 'Decision Notice - No Further Action' appended to these Minutes; and
- (c) that, whilst unable to find any breaches of the Code in this instance, the Sub-Committee's concern be conveyed to the complainant that had Yaxley Parish Council adopted a more open approach to the exchange of information, which already was in the public domain, it might prevent similar incidents arising in the future.

Chairman