

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the STANDARDS COMMITTEE held in Cabinet Room, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon PE29 3TN on Thursday, 20 November 2008.

PRESENT: Mr D L Hall - Chairman
Councillors J D Ablewhite,
Mrs B E Boddington, A Hansard and
G S E Thorpe
Messrs M Lynch and G Watkins

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors P J Downes and T D Sanderson, Messrs P L Boothman and D McPherson and Mrs S Stafford

29. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th September 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

On behalf of St. Neots Town Council, Councillor G S E Thorpe expressed his appreciation to Colin Meadowcroft and Christine Deller for the training session on the Code of Conduct which they had presented to Members to the Town Council on 22nd October 2008.

The Monitoring Officer introduced Mr I Leatherbarrow to the meeting, newly appointed as Director of Central Services. Mr Leatherbarrow underlined the importance of the work of the Committee in maintaining standards and endorsed the proactive way in which they continued to approach the training of District, Town and Parish Councillors. In accepting the Committee's congratulations on his appointment, Mr Leatherbarrow indicated his intention to reaffirm the appointment, on a permanent basis, of Mr Meadowcroft and Ms Deller as Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer respectively.

Mr Watkins reported that, as requested, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils had recently appointed two additional Parish Council representatives to serve on the Committee.

30. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

31. APPLICATION FOR DISPENSATION - HEMINGFORD ABBOTS PARISH COUNCIL

A report by the Head of Legal and Estates and Monitoring Officer was submitted (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) regarding

a request received for dispensation from seven Members serving on Hemingford Abbots Parish Council.

The Monitoring Officer explained that following advice offered to the Parish Clerk in response to an enquiry on the various interests held by Council Members, it had become apparent that Members of the Parish Council required dispensation to enable them to continue to consider applications for financial assistance received from the Hemingford Abbots Playing Fields Committee.

In accordance with the Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) (Dispensations) Regulations 2002 and having been satisfied that approval was required to prevent the business of the Parish Council from being impeded, the Committee

RESOLVED

that dispensation to speak and vote be granted to seven Members of Hemingford Abbots Parish Council for the period ending 30th April 2012 to enable them to conduct business involving the award of grant to the Hemingford Abbots Playing Field Committee.

32. STANDARDS CONFERENCE 2008

The Chairman reported on his attendance at the Standards Committees Conference held in Birmingham in October and updated Members on the issues and advice which he had received during the event. Of particular note, was the upcoming consultation on a new Officer and Members Code of Conduct, discussion on the resource implications of the new local assessment framework and its affect on local authorities, the involvement of Standards Committee Members in local authority meetings at District and Parish level and publicising the role of the local Standards Committees.

33. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next ordinary meeting of the Committee would be held on Thursday 4th December 2008 at 4pm.

D L Hall
Chairman