

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the REFERRALS (ASSESSMENT) SUB COMMITTEE held in Room 3.1, Third Floor, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE29 3TN on Tuesday, 14 June 2011.

PRESENT: Mr M Lynch – Chairman
Councillor A Hansard and Mr J Alexander

37. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 10th February 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

38. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

39. 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.

40. 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.

41. PRE-ASSESSMENT REPORT AND ENQUIRIES - CASE NO 44

The Sub-Committee considered the following documents collated by the Monitoring Officer (copies of which are appended in the Minute Book) to assist their deliberations in respect of a complaint received against a Councillor serving on Upwood and The Raveleys Parish Council:-

- ◆ Original letter of complaint to the Monitoring Officer, dated 13th May 2011;
- ◆ email from Acting Parish Clerk, Mrs D Benham dated 13th June 2011; and
- ◆ Declaration of financial and other interests – Councillor D Paine.

42. INITIAL ASSESSMENT - CASE NO 44

Having considered the allegation made in the complaint against Councillor D Paine of Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council seeking advice of the Monitoring Officer as appropriate, it was

RESOLVED

that the complaint be referred to the Monitoring Officer for investigation.

43. PRE-ASSESSMENT REPORT AND ENQUIRIES - CASE NO 45

Members considered a pre-assessment report by the Monitoring Officer to which was attached the following correspondence/information (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) to assist the Sub-Committee in assessing the case –

- ◆ copy of original complaint form and attachments sent to the Monitoring Officer received on 13th May 2011;
- ◆ a copy of Councillor Paine's form for the registration of financial and other interests appended to Minute No. 41;
- ◆ Minutes of the meeting of Upwood and The Raveleys Parish Council dated 7th September and 2nd November 2009 and 6th December 2010; and
- ◆ emails from the Acting Clerk, Mrs D Benham dated 1st and 13th June 2011 which were circulated at the meeting.

44. INITIAL ASSESSMENT - CASE NO 45

Further to the allegation made in the case of Councillor D Paine of Upwood and The Raveleys Parish Council and having regard to the evidence presented and the advice of the Monitoring Officer, it was

RESOLVED

that, whilst the actions of Councillor Paine clearly were in breach of the Code of Conduct, the complaint be not investigated but referred to the Monitoring Officer for other action for the reasons set out in the 'Decision Notice:Referral For Other Action' appended to these Minutes.

Chairman