

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the STANDARDS COMMITTEE held in Room CVSO 1A, Civic Suite, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon PE29 3TN on Thursday, 7 July 2011.

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs B E Boddington,  
K J Churchill, P J Downes, R S Farrer,  
A Hansard, P G Mitchell and T D Sanderson.

Messrs P Boothman, D L Hall, M Lynch and  
G Watkins.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were  
submitted on behalf of Councillor J Alexander  
and Mrs S Stafford.

### 1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

that Mr D L Hall be elected Chairman of the Committee for  
the ensuing Municipal Year.

### 2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 3rd March 2011  
were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Further to Minute No. 39, the Monitoring Officer reported that the  
Council had, at its meeting held on 20th April 2011, endorsed the  
recommendation of the Committee regarding the formulation of a  
national code of conduct and that subsequently a letter had been sent  
to the Local Government Association (LGA) to which a reply had yet  
to be received.

As it was reported that Cambridgeshire County Council also had  
written in similar terms to the LGA, the Committee was hopeful that  
the proposals would receive a positive response.

### 3. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

### 4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

that Mr P Boothman be appointed Vice-Chairman of the  
Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.

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

### **RESOLVED**

- (a) that a Referrals (Assessment) Sub-Committee be appointed comprising one Independent Member, one Town and Parish Councillor and one District Councillor and that Mr P Boothman be elected Lead Independent Member and Chairman of the Sub-Committee;
- (b) that a Review Sub-Committee be appointed comprising one Independent Member, one Town and Parish Councillor and one District Councillor and that Mr M Lynch be elected Lead Independent Member and Chairman of the Sub-Committee;
- (c) that a Standards (Consideration and Hearing) Sub-Committee be appointed to comprise five Members to consider investigation reports and hold determination hearings and that Mr D L Hall be elected Lead Independent Member and Chairman of the Sub-Committee; and
- (d) that the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer, after consultation with the relevant Chairman, be authorised to convene meetings of the Referrals (Assessment), Review and Standards (Consideration and Hearing) Sub-Committees as necessary and to appoint Members to the various Sub-Committees as appropriate in accordance with the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008.

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

The Chairman of the Referrals (Assessment) Sub-Committee reported on the outcome of those cases considered by the Sub-Committee since March involving Members serving on Upwood and The Raveleys Parish Council and St. Neots and St. Ives Town Councils.

Having been advised that the Councillor involved in the case relating to Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council had subsequently resigned from office, the Committee endorsed the view of the Sub-Committee that the case should still be referred for investigation given the seriousness of the allegations that had been made.

It was noted that the Review and Consideration and Hearing Sub-Committees had not been required to meet during the period.

## **7. APPLICATION FOR DISPENSATION**

A report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer was submitted (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) regarding an application received for a dispensation from St. Ives Town Council.

It was explained that the Committee had originally granted

dispensation to fifteen Members of the Town Council at its meeting held on 4th March 2010 to enable those Councillors to speak and vote at meetings on matters likely to affect a community interest company set up to manage the Corn Exchange in St. Ives. As three of the original Members had subsequently resigned, the Town Council had requested that the newly elected Councillors similarly be granted the same dispensation for the remainder of the term of office of the Town Council to 30th April 2012.

In the circumstances, the Committee

**RESOLVED**

that dispensation be granted to speak and vote to Councillors T Bletsoe, T Drye and Mrs D Townsend until 30th April 2012 after which time an application for the newly elected Councillors would need to be submitted should it be considered necessary.

**8. LOG OF CODE OF CONDUCT ENQUIRIES**

The Committee received and noted the Code of Conduct enquiries which had been recorded by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Monitoring Officer since the last meeting in March (an extract of the log is appended in the Minute Book).

**9. TRAINING UPDATE**

The Monitoring Officer reported that since the last meeting he had presented training on the code of conduct to Ramsey Town Council and to newly elected District Councillors as part of their "new Member induction".

Arrangements also had been made to visit St. Neots Town Council as part of their induction process. A recent case summary published by "Standards for England" also was noted.

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held at 4pm on Thursday 8th September 2011.

Chairman