

WEST WILTSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the: **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Held on: **THURSDAY 1 MARCH 2007**

Held in: **THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, BRADLEY ROAD
TROWBRIDGE**

Present:

District Council
Representatives: Cllrs Clark, M.Clegg and Manasseh

External
Representatives: Tony Frost (Chairman), Keith West and Dr Kurt Paulus

Town/Parish
Representatives:

Also Present Cllr J.Clegg, Hawker and Viles

Officers: Head of Legal & Democratic Services (NM), Lawyer (SH)
and Democratic Support Officer (KF)

11. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Farkas, Leach and Horace Prickett.

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were received from Cllr M.Clegg and Cllr Manasseh in relation to no.4 Application for Dispensations – Westbury Town Council. They were advised by the Chairman that this item would not be debated.

Cllr Clark declared a personal interest in item no.5 Consultation on amendments to the Model Code of Conduct – he is the Chairman of Hilperton Parish Council.

13. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- Standards Board of England Roadshows, that the nearest would be in Swindon on the 26 June 2007.
- That the External Representative would be having a meeting with the Chief Executive to discuss the way forward for the Standards Committee.

Cllr Clark requested that it be noted that he believed that the meeting was inquorate as both the Parish and Town Council representatives were unable to attend the meeting, Nicola Mathiason (Head of Legal & Democratic Services) advised Cllr Clark that this was the case for item. 4 on the agenda but that the meeting itself was quorate.

14. APPLICATION FOR DISPENSATIONS – WESTBURY TOWN COUNCIL

It was noted that there was no quorum for this item, and Sarah Hickey (Lawyer) advised the Committee that in any event, it would not have been possible for the applications for dispensation to be granted as the threshold of fifty percent of the Members asking for a dispensation had not been met, only three applications had been received.

15. CONSULTATION ON AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS

The Chairman guided the Committee through each of the twenty three proposed amendments, the Committee were given the opportunity to make any comments, these were noted by Sarah Hickey (Lawyer) who has drawn up a letter of response to the Standards Board of England covering the comments that Members raised. A copy of this letter is attached to these minutes.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Standards Committee had been arranged for **Wednesday 21 March 2007 at 7.00pm in The Council Chamber**, at the Council Offices, Bradley Road, Trowbridge.

(7.00pm – 8:25pm)

These minutes were prepared by Kevin Fielding Democratic Support Officer who can be contacted on 01225 770322 or email Kfielding@westwiltshire.gov.uk.