

Minutes

Meeting of : Standards Committee
Meeting held in : The Meeting Room, City Hall, Salisbury
Date : Monday 16 March 2009
Commencing at : 2.00 pm

Present:

Mr R Job (Independent Person) – Vice-Chairman (in the Chair)

Mr M Chandler and Mr P Matthews (Parish Representatives), Mr R Crook (Deputy Parish Representative)

Councillors C G Mills and B M Rycroft (Deputy Member)

Apologies: Mrs J Clarkson (Independent Person) and Councillor R Britton

Also in attendance: Tim Revell (Interim Head of Democratic Services) and David Taylor (Investigator)

121. Public Question/Statement Time:

There were none.

122. Chairman's Announcements:

There were none.

123. Minutes:

Resolved - that the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 15 December 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

124. Declarations of Interest:

There were none.

125. Exempt Information:

The Committee considered whether there were any parts of the investigator's report (SBC/2008/04) where the public interest in treating it as exempt information outweighed the public interest in placing it in the public domain.

Resolved: that the investigator's report be placed in the public domain.



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



126. Complaint against Councillor Trevor King of Whiteparish Parish Council (SBC/2008/04) – Consideration of the Investigator’s Report:

The Committee considered the previously circulated report of the Monitoring Officer and Interim Head of Democratic Services together with the report from the investigator.

Resolved: that

- (1) the investigator’s finding of no failure to comply in respect of four allegations (paragraph 3.1 of the report) be accepted;
- (2) the Monitoring Officer of Wiltshire Council be advised of this committee’s concerns about the level of understanding of the local government ethical framework by parish councillors and he be requested to consider developing a programme of training in conjunction with the Wiltshire Association of Local Councils.
- (3) the Monitoring Officer of Wiltshire Council be requested to consider training specifically for members of Whiteparish Parish Council; and
- (4) guidance be provided to Whiteparish Parish Council about the use of best administrative practice in conducting that authority’s official correspondence.

127. Transitional arrangements for Standards Committee:

The Committee noted that the regulations coming into force on 11 March 2009 (SI 2009/276) specified the transitional arrangements for dealing with conduct issues. Cases which had not been completed under the auspices of this Committee would be passed to the Monitoring Officer of Wiltshire Council who would arrange for them to be considered by that council’s standards committee.

128. Additional meeting:

Resolved: that an additional meeting be held on Monday 30 March 2009 at 2.00 pm to consider the investigator’s report into the allegation against Councillor Margaret Strange of Amesbury Town Council (SBC/2008/05).

*The meeting closed at 2.40 pm
Members of the Public Present 1*