

**THESE MINUTES WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE NEXT STANDARDS COMMITTEE
ON 27 JUNE 2007 FOR APPROVAL AS A CORRECT RECORD.**

WEST WILTSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the: **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Held on: **WEDNESDAY 21 MARCH 2007**

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

Present:

District Council Cllrs Clark and Manasseh
Representatives:

External Tony Frost (Chairman), Keith West (Vice Chair)
Representatives:

Town/Parish Cllr Peter Leach , Horace Prickett.
Representatives:

Also Present Cllrs. T Chivers and R Hawker.

Officers: Head of Legal & Democratic Services (NM), Solicitor (CE),
Corporate Director (TD) and Member Support Officer (JW)

17. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Farkas, and Dr Kurt Paulus.

18. MINUTES

The Minutes of the last Standards Committee meeting held on 1 March 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

20. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

As this was the last Standards Committee meeting before the Election, the Chairman took the opportunity to express his appreciation to all members for their support and input during the course of Standards Committee meetings.

The Chairman noted that the Forward Work Plan adopted at the last meeting had not been included in the Agenda.

21. MEMBER PROTOCOL ON PLANNING, LICENSING AND OTHER REGULATORY FUNCTIONS.

The Corporate Director apologised for the omission of the Protocol document, which should have been appended for this item.

Member involvement in planning and licensing was a sensitive area and continued to generate issues. The Protocol provided guidance for members but was now several years old.

Discussion took place on the possibility of the Committee overseeing a review of the Protocol and the following points were made:-

- District and Parish Councillors could be canvassed for comments/examples of areas of the Protocol needing revision.
- It was suggested that it would be more useful to provide a seminar on the subject with a well-qualified trainer and to 'build' this into the training for the new Council.

RESOLVED

- **That a seminar be set up to provide training in this subject for the new Council.**
- **That the Corporate Director seeks to arrange a seminar or presentation for Town and Parish Councils on their role in the planning process.**

22. STANDARDS UPDATE

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services presented a report on selected Case Tribunal Decisions and Appeals against Standards Committee.

RESOLVED

That Standards Committee notes the report.

23. STANDARDS BOARD OF ENGLAND BULLETIN – February Issue.

The Solicitor presented the February issue of Standards Board Bulletin to the Committee for consideration and decision on whether to circulate any aspect among Councillors generally and through Clerks to Parish and Town Councils to their constituent Councillors.

RESOLVED

That Members would be informed and kept up to date on regulations in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill at forthcoming Standards Committee meetings.

24. CODE OF CONDUCT

A verbal update from the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Nicola Mathiason, advising that:

- A letter had been sent to the Government setting out the comments of the Standards Committee made at the meeting of 1 March 2007.
- The Government's consultation period on the wording of the revised Code of Conduct had now closed, but there was no more news to be imparted and responses were still being considered.

RESOLVED

That Standards Committee notes the contents of the update.

25. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- The Chairman advised the Corporate Director that a Standards Committee Annual Report had been agreed and taken to Council, but there was a need to determine how it would be published.

RESOLVED

- **That the Corporate Director refer the Standards Committee Annual Report to the Corporate Management Team for discussion.**
- **That the Annual Report be put on the website and circulated to all Parish Councils.**

26. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting of the Standards Committee will be held on Wednesday, 27th June 2007 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber.

These minutes were prepared by Jane Weston, Democratic Support Officer
who can be contacted on 01225 770322 or email

Jweston@westwiltshire.gov.uk.

