

**THESE MINUTES WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE NEXT STANDARDS COMMITTEE ON 12 DECEMBER 2007 FOR APPROVAL AS A CORRECT RECORD**

**WEST WILTSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the: STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Held on: **THURSDAY 11 OCTOBER 2007**

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

Present:

District Council Representatives: Cllrs Clark and Martindale

External Representatives: Tony Frost, Bruce Epsley & Gerry Robson

Town/Parish Representatives:

Officers: Monitoring Officer (TD), Solicitor (SMS) and Member Support Officer (KH)

**59. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Ezra, March, Kinder & Wyeth.

**60. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**61. MINUTES**

The amended minutes were approved and signed

**62. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman introduced a DVD on the changes to the Code of Conduct from the Standards Board called 'The Code Uncovered'.

A discussion ensued following the viewing of the DVD.

**RESOLVED:**

**That:**

- **The Towns and Parishes be made aware of the DVD 'The Code Uncovered'.**
- **The DVD be shown to all members before the next Council and Planning meetings.**

**63. PRE DETERMINATION AND BIAS**

Sonia Sharp presented a report to the Committee to inform members of a paper issued by the Standards Board on the issues of pre-determination and bias.

**RESOLVED:**

**Members noted the paper and requested that a copy of the paper be circulated to all Councillors via the MIS and to Parish and Town Councils through the Clerks.**

**64. REVIEWING THE CONSTITUTION – ROLE OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Tim Darsley set out the role which the Standards Committee has in reviewing the Constitution. Part of this role is to monitor the operation of the Constitution and recommend any changes to the Council.

A discussion ensued.

**RESOLVED:**

**The Committee resolved that:**

- **The Committee should be proactive and review any changes and updates to the constitution before they are published and make recommendations to Council.**
- **The Constitution should be reviewed at least on an annual basis and a report be made to Council even if there are no changes.**

## **65. STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND BULLETIN – SEPTEMBER ISSUE**

Sonia Sharp reported on the Bulletin. The Bulletin focused on the following:

- **Lobby Groups and Single Issue Campaigns**

The Bulletin clarifies the position under the new Code of Conduct of members who are also members of lobby or campaign groups.

- **Local Filter for Code of Conduct Complaints**

This item in the bulletin highlights two key changes that will be brought in with the enactment of the Local Government's Public Involvement in Health Bill.

### **RESOLVED:**

- **Extra provisional meeting dates should be scheduled into the diary for 2008 to provide options for additional business.**
- **Consideration should be given to increasing the size of the Standards Committee, in particular increasing the number of Parish and Town Councillors on the Committee.**

## **66. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

It was recommended that the following items will go onto the Agenda for the December meeting.

- **The procedure for the review of the Constitution**
- **The frequency of Standards Committee Meetings**
- **The Size and membership of the Standards Committee**

## **67. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting of the Standards Committee will be held on Thursday 12 December 2007 in the Council Chamber, at the Council Offices, Bradley Road, Trowbridge.

(7.00pm – 8.00pm)

These minutes were prepared by Karen Hart, Member Support Officer,  
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