

Standards Committee

Minutes

18th October 2004
Committee Room 1
Bourne Hill, Salisbury
Commencing at 2.00 pm

79. **Present:**

Mr R Job (Vice-Chairman and Independent Person), Councillors C G Mills and B R Rycroft and Mr R G Crook (Deputy Parish Representative).

Apologies: Mrs M F Lewis (Chairman and Independent Person), Cllr J Walsh and Mr M Chandler (Parish Representative).

In attendance: Susan Tovey (Monitoring Officer/Legal Services Officer) and Mr P J Bellas (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

MR R JOB (VICE-CHAIRMAN) IN THE CHAIR

80. **Public Question/Statement Time:**

There were none.

81. **Minutes:**

Agreed: that the minutes of the last meeting held on [20th September 2004](#) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

82. **Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest with regard to the matters to be discussed at the meeting.

83. **Complaints to the Standards Board for England:**

Consideration was given to the [report of the Legal Services Manager/Monitoring Officer](#) (previously circulated).

Agreed: that the report be noted.

84. **Determination of Complaints referred by the Standards Board:**

The Committee reviewed its procedures in view of the likelihood that the Standards Board would refer a complaint for determination in the near future. A [copy of the rules of](#) procedure was previously circulated for information.

Agreed: that, for clarity, the Rules of Procedure be amended by the inclusion of "Independent" before "member" in the second bullet point of Paragraph 12.

85. **Work Programme:**

Further to minute 77 (20/9/04), consideration was given to the [draft work programme](#) (previously circulated).

Agreed – that the work programme, as circulated, be approved.

86. **Programme of Meetings 2005:**

The following provisional dates were approved:

- ♦ 17th January 2005
- ♦ 21st February 2005
- ♦ 21st March 2005
- ♦ 18th April 2005
- ♦ 23rd May 2005
- ♦ 20th June 2005
- ♦ 18th July 2005
- ♦ 15th August 2005
- ♦ 19th September 2005
- ♦ 17th October 2005
- ♦ 21st November 2005
- ♦ 19th December 2005

87. **Matters of Urgency:**

Although the following matters did not appear on the agenda for the meeting the Chairman decided to take them as matters of urgency.

- (1) The Legal Services Manager/Monitoring Officer was congratulated for her excellent letter to the Standards Board with regard to the matters agreed under minute 75(2) - 20/9/04.
- (2) The Vice-Chairman reported that he had attended the meeting of the Independent Members Forum for Oxfordshire, Wiltshire and Berkshire on 15th October 2004.

He had found the meeting interesting and useful and was pleased that this Committee had many elements of best practice in place.

A presentation had been given at the meeting by a Policy Officer from the Standards Board on the new regulations for the local investigation of complaints, which were due to come into force on 4th November 2004.

The Committee noted the main elements of this presentation, particularly the Standards Board proposals for operation of the regulations; the likely increase in workload for the Committee (approximately 1 or 2 investigations per year); the increasing flexibility in terms of the sanctions which can be applied to Members found to have breached the Code of Conduct; and arrangements for the hearings.

The meeting concluded at 2.55 pm