

Standards Committee

Thursday, 15 September 2011

Present: Tony Ellwood (Independent Chair), Councillor Debra Platt (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Marie Gray, Marion Lowe, Stella Walsh, Hugh Evans (Independent Member), Gwynne Furlong (Independent Member), Bill Mason (Parish Council representative) and Tony Wilson (Parish Council Representative)

Officers in attendance: Alex Jackson (Senior Lawyer) and Dianne Scambler (Democratic and Member Services Officer)

11.S.11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Cath Hoyle.

11.S.12 DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS

No declarations of any interests were declared.

11.S.13 MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 16 June 2011 be held as a correct record for signing by the Chair.

11.S.14 UPDATE ON THE ABOLITION OF THE STANDARDS REGIME

The Committee received a report of the Monitoring Officer giving them the latest update on the abolition of the Standards regime and proposals for a replacement at local level on a voluntary basis.

It is intended to effect the abolition of the Standards Board regime through the Localism Bill. It is anticipated that the Bill would be laid before Parliament in December and would receive Royal Assent in late 2011.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

11.S.15 SUB COMMITTEE'S UPDATE

The Committee received information that outlined the recent cases that had been considered locally.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

11.S.16 FEEDBACK FROM VISITS TO TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

Committee Members discussed their visits to Parish Councils since the last meeting. The feedback was positive with visits achieving the aim of raising awareness of the Committee and its' role.

RESOLVED – That the schedule recording visits to Parish Councils be updated.

Chair