

## **REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

### **GENERAL REPORT**

1. This report sets out a brief summary of the main items considered at the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 7 March 2007 and the Local Hearing Sub-Committee held on 20 March 2007.

#### **Local Hearing Sub-Committee - 7 March 2007**

2. We were advised that a Local Hearing Sub-Committee was required to deal with a Local Hearing scheduled to take place on 20 March 2007. As the Parish Council representative on the Standards Committee was conflicted out another Parish Council representative had been invited to be a co-opted member of the Sub-Committee on this occasion.
3. We agreed that the members of the Local Hearing Sub-Committee be: Mr. Ellwood (Independent Chair), Councillor Thomas Bedford, Mr. Darren Cranshaw (Parish Council representative), and Councillor Thomas McGowan (Reserve).

#### **Standards Board for England Road shows**

4. We were advised that the Standards Board for England would be holding road shows. Part of the road shows would be to share advice and experience on changes to the Code of Conduct and give information on the forthcoming filter for complaints. These would be held in Liverpool on 6 June and Leeds on 7 June.

#### **Local Hearing Sub-Committee - 20 March 2007**

5. We considered and determined the report of an investigation under Section 59 of the Local Government Act 2000 by Andrew Docherty, Director of Customer, Democratic and Legal Services, Chorley Borough Council, into an allegation concerning two Parish Councillors.
6. We accepted the facts within the Investigating Officers report and the reasoning as to why there had been failures to comply with the Code of Conduct. The Councillors accepted that they had inadvertently contravened the Parish Council Members Code of Conduct.
7. We determined that the Parish Councillors be censured and that they be required to send a written apology to the clerk of the Parish Council in respect of their breach of the Members Code of Conduct.

8. The Council is recommended to note the report.

MR RA ELLWOOD  
CHAIR OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE

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There are no background papers to this report.