

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 7TH DECEMBER, 2005

Present: Mr W Local (Chair)
Councillors B Burn, B Joyce, Mrs M Goyns,
Miss J Clark

Mr E Smith

Apologies: Councillor B Wilson

The Chair welcomed Councillor Miss J Clark from Horden Parish Council as the new parish representative on the Standards Committee.

1. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 15 July 2005, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were confirmed.
2. **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE** held on 12 July 2005, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were confirmed.
3. **STANDARDS BOARD CASE REVIEW**

The Monitoring Officer advised that the Standards Board had produced its annual review of determined cases, which was circulated as guidance on the approach adopted by the Board and individual standards committees to various breaches of the Code, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The Monitoring Officer took Members through the report in detail and advised that it would be circulated to all Members of the Council and Parish/Town Councils.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted and the report be circulated to all Members of the District of Easington and Parish/Town Councils.

4. **CODE OF CONDUCT**

Consideration was given to the latest bulletin from the Standards Board for England, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The Monitoring Officer advised that the Authority was consulted 12 months ago on proposed changes that were needed to the Code of Conduct for Members. The Standards Board had collated all comments received and it was hoped that new legislation would be introduced by the end of 2006.

Members were advised that the findings were consistent with what the District of Easington had put forward, particularly in relation to declarations of interest and whistle blowing.

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RESOLVED that the information given, be noted and further developments be awaited.

5. ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS

In accordance with the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985, Section 100B(4)(b) the Chair, following consultation with the Proper Officer agreed that the following item of business, not shown on the Agenda, be considered as a matter of urgency.

6 MEMBER TRAINING (AOB)

Reference was made to two training events held following the Standards Sub-Committee recommendation that the District Council re-visit training for Councillors and Co-opted Members in relation to the requirements of the Code of Conduct.

Particular reference was made to Members who had not attend either of these events and it was suggested that a further training session be arranged to allow those who had missed the training to attend.

Concern was expressed in relation to those Members who had not attended either of the sessions and who may not have attended any training in the last 3-4 years on the Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED that

- (i) a further training session on the Code of Conduct be arranged;
- (ii) the training records for all Members of the District Council in relation to the Code of Conduct be investigated.