

City of Durham

At a Special Meeting of the **STANDARDS COMMITTEE** held in the Town Hall, Durham, on Monday 10th July, 2006, at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Mr B.R.J. Ingleby (in the Chair)
and Councillors Gibbon, Moderate, and Simpson (City Council Members)
and Mrs T. Naples (Independent Member).

115. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Cummings.

116. COMPLAINT TO THE STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND – REF: SBE 12622.05

A complaint had been made to the Standards Board for England, alleging that a City Councillor had:-

- (a) failed to treat a member of the public with respect
- (b) failed to report illegal bird auctions
- (c) refused to contact the Council with respect to illegal bird auctions and/or take steps to prevent illegal bird auctions
- (d) made improper comments
- (e) in capacity as a trustee of a village hall knowingly permitted illegal auctions to take place.

The complaint was referred by the Standards Board for England to the City Council for investigation.

The Investigating Officer concluded that the second, third and fifth allegations could not be upheld and that, although there was a breach of the code of conduct in respect of the second and fourth allegations, no further action should be taken.

Having considered the report, and there being no additional representations from either the complainant or the subject of the complaint, the Committee found that some allegations could be substantiated and that the conduct of the Councillor fell below the standard of conduct that would be expected of an elected member. They resolved to write to the Councillor to highlight their concerns and to hope that there would be no further referrals. No penalty was however to be imposed.

The meeting terminated at 10.50 a.m.

Chairman