

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

HELD ON FRIDAY 31 MARCH 2006

Present: Mr W Local (Chair)
B Burn, B Joyce, Mrs M Goyns and E Smith

Apologies: B Wilson and Miss J Clark

1. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 7 December 2005, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were confirmed.

2. **REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION FROM HORDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

Consideration was given to the report of the Monitoring Officer which gave details of a request for dispensation from the obligation to declare a prejudicial interest in connection with a report to be considered by Horden Parish Council which related to charges to be levied for the use of a room by the Horden Regeneration Partnership.

Members were advised that Horden Parish Council needed to determine the charges to be levied for use of a room in their ownership by the Horden Regeneration Partnership. Eleven of the fifteen Members of the Council were involved in one way or another in the Regeneration Partnership which created prejudicial interests where application of the Code would prevent them participating in the discussion, leaving insufficient Members available to constitute a quorum to make a decision.

The Clerk to Horden Parish Council had confirmed that none of the Councillors received any monetary benefit from the Regeneration Partnership.

The Relevant Authorities Standards Committee (Dispensations) Regulations 2002 permitted the Standards Committee to grant dispensation in those circumstances if they considered that the transaction of the Council's business would be impeded as a result of the Code of Conduct and if in all the circumstances of the case they considered it appropriate to grant dispensation.

RESOLVED that approval be granted for the dispensation for Horden Parish Council to debate and vote on the question of the charges to be levied for use of a room by the Horden Regeneration Partnership.

3. **GOING LOCAL: INVESTIGATIONS AND HEARINGS**

A DVD promoting best practice in local investigations and hearings was shown to Members of the Standards Committee. The DVD provided a good summary of how to carry out a local investigation.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.