

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

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6 JUNE 2007**

Present: Councillors B Burn, A J Holmes and Mrs S Mason  
Mrs M Goyns, Miss J Clark, E Smith and W Local

### **1 ELECTION OF CHAIR**

**RESOLVED** that Mr W Local be elected Chair of the Standards Committee for the ensuing year.

**MR W LOCAL TOOK THE CHAIR**

### **2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR**

**RESOLVED** that Councillor B Burn be appointed Vice Chair of the Standards Committee for the ensuing year.

### **3 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 23 April 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were confirmed.

### **4 REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION FROM SOUTH HETTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The Monitoring Officer provided details of a request for dispensation from the obligation to declare a prejudicial interest at South Hetton Parish Council when considering business which affected South Hetton Cricket Club.

Members were advised that South Hetton Parish Council regularly considered items of business affecting the Cricket Club and seven of the nine Members of the Parish Council were involved with this organisation.

The quorum to conduct business was three and the declaration of interest would lead to the Council being unable to progress its business due to the lack of a quorum.

It was not considered likely that any of the seven Councillors involved would receive any personal gain from decisions which affected the Cricket Club.

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 taking all these circumstances of the case into consideration they considered it appropriate to grant dispensation.

**RESOLVED** that: -

- (i) approval be granted for the dispensation for the seven named Members of South Hetton Parish Council to participate and debate in decisions concerning South Hetton Cricket Club;
- (ii) the dispensation to run for the life of the current Council.

**5 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND**

Members were advised that at the last meeting it was agreed that the Monitoring Officer together with one Member of the Standards Committee be authorised to attend the Annual Assembly of the Standards Board for England to be held on 15 and 16 October 2007.

The Chair requested nominations for attendance. Councillors B Burn and Miss J Clark advised that they were unable to attend. E Smith advised that he may be able to attend and would confirm by the end of June 2007.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that consideration of this item be deferred.

**6 ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEMS 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 items of business, not shown on the Agenda, be considered as a matter of urgency.

**7 TRAINING ON THE NEW CODE OF CONDUCT (AOB)**

The Monitoring Officer advised that training for Parish/Town Councillors on the new Code of Conduct would be held on Monday 25 June at Shotton Hall, Peterlee and Wednesday 4 July at the Glebe Centre, Murton.

In addition, a session for District Councillors would be held on Friday 22nd June 2007 at the Council Offices, Easington. A small number of places would be available to Parish/Town Councillors who were unable to attend the other sessions.

The training was relevant for experienced as well as new Councillors and Parish/Town Councillors were encouraged to attend the training sessions.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

**8 ADVERT - THE NEW CODE OF CONDUCT (AOB)**

The Monitoring Officer advised that a press notice advising that the District Council, together with other Town/Parish Councils, had adopted the new Code of Conduct had been issued.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

**9 STANDARDS TRAINING EVENT – THE NEW CODE AND A NEW MOCK HEARING**

Mr E Smith advised that he was unable to attend the training event to be held on 27 June 2007. Councillor Mrs M Goyns advised that she would attend in place of Mr Smith.

**RESOLVED** that the following Members be authorised to attend the training event on 27 June 2007: -

D Taylor, Mrs S Mason, A J Holmes, B Burn, Mr W Local, Mrs M Goyns and Miss J Clark