

**Minutes of the
Standards Committee**

14 March 2011

Councillors	Independent Members	Parish Council Reps
Janet Mockridge	Anthony Case (Chairman)	Ken Bashford (Sompting)
*Ben Stride	Julian Cioffi	Andy Barnes (Lancing)
Norman Wright	Mavis Macdougall	
	John Todd	

*= Absent

S/25/10-11 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

S/26/10-11 Questions & Statements by the Public

There were no questions or statements by the public

S/27/10-11 Confirmation of the Minutes

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6 September 2010 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chairperson.

S/28/10-11 Items Raised under Urgency Provisions

There were no items to be considered under the urgency provisions.

S/29/10-11 Applications for Dispensations

There were no applications for dispensations.

S/30/10-11 Future of Standards – Localism Bill

The Committee had before it a report by the Executive head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 6. The report asked Members to consider the future of Standards within Local Government if the Localism Bill was enacted in its current state.

A Member asked if it was premature to make a recommendation on the future of Standards considering that the Localism Bill was still at the Committee Stage within the House of Commons. The Democratic Services Officer replied that it was prescient for the Committee to investigate the issue at an early stage. A decision from Council on the Committee's recommendation could guide the Committee's work in 2011/12.

The Committee discussed the potential new Local Code of Conduct and how it could be made legally binding.

Resolved:

- i) that it be recommend to Full Council, that should the Localism Bill be enacted, the Council adopt a Local Code of Conduct;
- ii) that it be recommended to Full Council that if it is to adopt a Local code of Conduct, the Standards Committee of this Authority work over a period of time and make further recommendations on a new Local Code in respect of any new legislation.

S/31/10-11 Annual Report 2010/11

The Committee had before it a report by the Executive Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 7. The Committee was asked to agree an Annual Report for the Standards Committee.

Resolved: that the Annual report for 2010/11 be recommended to Full Council for adoption

S/32/10-11 Standards Committee - Draft Work Programme 2011/12

The Committee had before it a report by the Executive Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 8. The report set out a draft programme for the Standards Committee for the period 2011/12 for inclusion with the Committee's Annual Report to Council.

A Member requested that the Committee agree to include an item that investigated reimbursement of legal fees arising from complaints where a finding of 'no failure' had been found. The Senior Solicitor stated that the Council needed a direct statutory power to be able to reimburse Councillors. It was agreed that the Committee add the item to the work Programme and offer advice in the proceeding municipal year.

Resolved: that the Work Programme as amended be added to the Annual Report for 2011/12 and submitted to Full Council for approval.

The Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 7:40pm, it having commenced at 7:00pm

CCD/Chairperson