

**Minutes of the
Standards Committee**

8 December 2008

Councillors	Independent Members	Parish Council Reps
Angie Mills	Anthony Case (Chairman)	Ken Bashford (Sompting)
Ben Stride	Julian Cioffi	Mary Hamblin (Lancing)
Janet Mockridge		

*= Absent

S/362/08-09 Questions & Statements by the Public

There were no Members of the public present at the meeting.

S/363/08-09 Confirmation of the Minutes

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 13 October 2008 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chairperson.

S/364/08-09 Items Raised under Urgency Provisions

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

S/365/08-09 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were declared.

S/366/08-09 Applications for Dispensations

There were no applications for dispensations.

S/367/08-09 Review of Guidance for Licensing Committee

The Committee was informed that the Licensing Committee on 17 November had deferred consideration of the LACORs guidance and any advice necessary from the Standards Committee until its next meeting on 17 January 2009. The Committee was advised that the Licensing Committee may recommend that there is a reference to the LACORs guidance in the constitution rather than adopting it. As a result of this deferral the Standards Committee was not in a position to consider the issuing of guidance to support members and agreed to defer the item to its next meeting in 2009.

Resolved that consideration of the Review of Guidance for the Licensing Committee be deferred to the next meeting of the Standards Committee.

S/368/08-09**Review of Guidance for Development Control committee**

The Committee had before it a report by the Executive Head of Legal and Democratic Services, as 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. This was the same report that the Committee had received on 13 October. The views of the Development Control committee meeting on 1 December 2008 were reported verbally to the meeting.

The Development Control Committee had, in general terms approved the guidance. There was a debate about paragraph 8.8 and the Standards Committee did not wish to amend this paragraph as, in their opinion, it was clear as to its requirements.

The Committee agreed to amend paragraphs 4.7 and 4.1 to take account of the latest changes to the Code of Conduct..

Resolved that the Committee approve the amended "Members Code of Good Practice – Planning".

Recommendation to Council:

that the Council be recommended to adopt the amended Members Code of Good Practice – Planning as part of the Members Code of Conduct forthwith.

S/369/08-09**Consultation on Amendments to Code of member Conduct**

The Committee had before it a report by the Executive Head of Legal and Democratic Services, as 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 Committee was invited to consider the proposals for the revision of the Local Authority's Model Code of Conduct Order 2007 and the Relevant Authorities (General Principles) Order 2001 and agree a response to the consultation.

The Committee agreed to amend paragraph 5(b) of the consultation response to include reference to the concern of Members that as some professional bodies would suspend members if they are subject to complaint to another standards body, they nature of offences that are to constitute criminal offences should not include speeding offences or similar.

The Committee considered the definitions of official and non-official capacity and amended the response to take account of those claiming to act as Councillors when they are not actually doing so and agreed a minor amendment to paragraphs 7(b) and 30(b).

The Committee considered the position that should be taken with a Councillor committed a criminal offence in a foreign country which did not amount to a criminal offence in England and did not amend the draft response.

Resolved that the Executive Head of Legal and Democratic Services responds to the consultation as outlined in Annex 1, subject to the amendments made at the meeting.

S/370/08-09 Members Code of Conduct - Bullying Protocol

The Committee had before it a report by the Executive Head of Legal and Democratic Services, as 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 9. The Committee was invited to consider whether or not to propose that the Members Code of Conduct be amended to include a protocol against bullying, if an amendment was proposed this would be a recommendation to Council.

Resolved that Council be recommended to adopt the Protocol.

Recommendation to Council:

that the Standards Committee recommends that Council adopt the Protocol to Code of Conduct on bullying attached as Annex 1.

S/371/08-09 Review of the Members Register of Interests Form

The Committee had before it a report by the Executive Head of Legal and Democratic Services, as 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 10. The report presented to the Committee an amended form for approval; this followed from the previous meeting and an email consultation with members of the committee.

The Committee agreed that the proposed form was an improvement on the previous form.

The Monitoring Officer was asked to look into whether or not volunteers should be included within employees as they are not necessarily members of the relevant charity.

The Committee agreed to delete the reference to self-employed in question 4 as it was too wide and would mean that those who were self employed would have to amend their register entry too often. It was recognised that Members would have to declare interests in relation to their clients.

It was agreed that an example of a shop lease should be added to question 10.

Resolved that the amended Members Register of Interests Form be approved for use.

S/372/08-09 Annual Report - Arrangements

The Committee had before it a report by the Executive Head of Legal and Democratic Services, as 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 11. The report sought agreement to the process for the submission of the Annual Report to Council on 21 April 2009; which included agreeing that the Monitoring Officer and the Chairman of the Committee draft the Annual Report and submit it for approval and that either move the meeting of the Standards committee of 23 February to Monday 6 April or hold an additional meeting on 6 April to approve the Annual Report.

Resolved

- (i) that the arrangements for the drafting of the Annual Report be approved;
- (ii) that the next meeting of the Standards Committee be held on 6 April 2009 with the Executive Head of Legal and Democratic Services making the necessary arrangements for this change.

The Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 7:50pm, it having commenced at 7:00pm

Chairperson