

**Minutes of the
Standards Committee**

11 September 2006

Councillors	Independent Members	Parish Council Reps
Keith Dollemore		
Liza McKinney (Chairman)	* Anthony Case (Vice-Chairman)	* Christopher Kemp (Lancing)
Angie Mills	Miss Santosh Bhabra	Ken Bashford (Sompting)

*= Absent

S/227/06-07 Questions & Statements by the Public

There were no members of the public present. Therefore the Chairperson was unable to invite questions or statements about any matter for which the Council had a responsibility or which affected the district.

S228/06-07 Confirmation of the Minutes

Resolved

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 26 June be approved as a correct record and be duly signed by the Chairperson.

S/229/06-07 Items Raised under Urgency Provisions

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

S/230/06-07 Applications for Dispensations

There were no applications for dispensations.

S/231/06-07 Guidance on Members Interests

The Committee had before it a report by the 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. Circulated to members of the committee only were the declarations made by members elected in May 2006 but not attached to the minutes.

The Committee identified that not all the Registers before it contained the declaration of support from political parties at B1 and B2.

The committee and the Monitoring Officer discussed how the guidance could be improved. Those present accepted that at B2 people may not perceive that central accounts for paying ward newsletters or election literature would have to be declared as actual invoices and cash

payments would not be made by individuals. It was agreed that the guidance would be made clearer to explain central funding from political parties or associations by the words 'other than the Council including political parties' at B1 and B2. Looking at D6 the committee agreed that the guidance should be made clear that political party membership should be declared at this point. It was important for this declaration as if under the Regulations parties came together to make a group on the Council, as the CIA (Conservative Independent Alliance) had done in previous years, the political party membership was not lost as a public declaration.

The definition of C1 was also considered as it was felt that 'occupy' did not fully cover rental of land or premises.

Recommendation to Council:

(i) The Standards Committee recommends that the Members Register of Interest document and guidance be amended to make clear the depth of information required for registration in the following areas:

B. Election/Council Duties

B1 and B2 – expenses paid by political parties for political literature needs to be declared

C. Personal land ownership

Add to guidance fuller information about 'occupy' this includes rental

D. Other interests

D6. Membership of the political group, party or association needs to be declared.

(ii) The Monitoring Officer be authorised to make the amendments to the Members Register of Interests and Guidance documents as determined in (i) above.

S/232/06-07 Independent Member of the Standards Committee

The Chairman thanked Santosh Bhabra for her membership of the committee over the past three years. As an independent Santosh had given an input into the Council and raised important issues for the Committee to consider. Councillor McKinney wished Ms Bhabra all the best for the future.

Ms Bhabra thanked the Chairman and officers for their support over the years, she had enjoyed the opportunity to get more involved with her local community, she wished the committee well for the future.

The Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 7.25 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON