

Local Standards Hearing Panel Minutes

Date: Tuesday, 12th June, 2012

Time: 10.30 - 11.30 am

PRESENT:

Parish Councillor John Sherlock, Mrs Eileen Springford and Cllr Ms Julia Wassell

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Mrs E Springford be appointed
Chairman of the Meeting.

Mrs E Springford in the Chair.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4 QUORUM

The Chairman confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That pursuant to Section 100B(2) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of Minutes 5 & 6 because of their reference to matters which contain exempt information as defined as follows:

Minute No 5 – Consideration of Investigating Officer’s Report re Standards Complaint IA44.

Information presented to a standards committee, or sub-committee of a standards committee, set

up to consider any matter under regulations 16 to 20 of The Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008, or referred under section 58(1)(c) of the Local Government Act 2000 (Paragraph 7A & 7C of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972).

It was considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure because the distress caused to the individual would outweigh the public interest in disclosure.

Minute No 6 – Consideration of Investigating Officer’s Report re Standards Complaint IA 53.

Information presented to a standards committee, or sub-committee of a standards committee, set up to consider any matter under regulations 16 to 20 of The Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008, or referred under section 58(1)(c) of the Local Government Act 2000 (Paragraph 7C of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972).

It was considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure because the distress caused to the individual would outweigh the public interest in disclosure.

5 CONSIDERATION OF INVESTIGATING OFFICER'S REPORT RE STANDARDS COMPLAINT IA 44

The Members of the Panel confirmed that they had read in detail the report of the Investigating Officer as appended, and considered the summary of findings contained therein.

The Panel felt that a Local Hearing into the allegations should be scheduled, referral of the matter to the Adjudication Panel for determination was not appropriate.

RESOLVED: That the matter should be considered at a hearing of the Local Standards Panel conducted under Regulation 18 of the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008.

6 CONSIDERATION OF INVESTIGATING OFFICER'S REPORT RE STANDARDS COMPLAINT IA 53

Having read fully the report prepared by the investigating officer in respect of these allegations, the Panel accepted the reasoning and the conclusion arrived at by the investigating officer in her report that the subject member had not breached the Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED: That in respect of the complaint concerned, the investigating officer's finding of no failure in respect of compliance with the Code of Conduct of the authority concerned, be accepted.

It was noted that under the appropriate legislation officers would write to the subject Member giving them the option as to whether a notice in respect of the findings of 'no breach' be published in the local press. In the event that the subject member opted for this publication of a notice, if that Member so wished, the Panel agreed that the notice could also be published on the Council's website.

The following officers were in attendance at the meeting:

Peter Druce - Democratic Services
David Ruddock - District Solicitor