

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Standards Committee of the Bolsover District Council held in Committee Room 1, Sherwood Lodge, Bolsover, on Monday 15th February 2010 at 1400 hours

PRESENT:-

Independent Members: R. H. Bishop and J. Yates.

Parish Council Members: - T. Munro, K. Reid (left at 14:15pm) and H. Wright.

Members: - T. Connerton, H. Gilmour, V. P. Mills, A. M. Syrett and S. Wallis.

Officers:-

S.E.A. Sternberg (Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer), A. Turner, (Legal and Standards Officer), K. Shillito (Principal Solicitor) (from Min No.742 to Min No.744), P. Brown (Chief Executive's and Partnership Manager) (from Min No.743 to Min No.745) N. Price (Partnership and Communications Officer) (from Min No.743 to Min No.745) and K. Rodda (Democratic Services Officer).

J. Yates – Chair

737. 'ASSESSMENT MADE CLEAR -LOCAL ASSESSMENT OF COMPLAINTS'

A DVD from the Standards Board was shown to the meeting before other agenda items were discussed.

738. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from K. Belshaw (Independent Member)

739. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

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740. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Min No.	Councillor	Level of Interest
751	H. Gilmour	Personal and Prejudicial

741. MINUTES – 14TH DECEMBER 2009

Moved by Councillor H. Gilmour, seconded by T. Munro
RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting held on 14th December 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

742. MATTERS ARISING

- (i) Parish Councillors who have failed to submit a Registration of Interests Form.

The Monitoring Officer confirmed to the meeting that there were still 2 Town/ Parish Councillors who had not submitted a Register of Interests form.

743. MEMBERS JOB DESCRIPTIONS

The Principal Solicitor explained that at the last Standards meeting Members were given updated Job Descriptions and asked to bring comments and feedback to this meeting.

Discussions took place on whether the updated descriptions should be sent to all Members and it was agreed that they be forwarded to Cabinet and Scrutiny Committee for their comments in March.

The report was noted.

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744. DRAFT PARTNERSHIP PROTOCOL AND TOOLKIT

The Chief Executive's and Partnership Manager presented the item and informed the meeting how the Protocol was developed to provide a standard against which officers could judge the partnerships in which they were involved and how it offered a degree of support and direction for advice.

The main objective of the Partnership Protocol and Toolkit was to ensure that the Council identified, monitored and evaluated partnerships, through robust governance practices and management. The Chief Executive's and Partnership Manager explained that a review, utilising the toolkit, would be undertaken annually to demonstrate the Authority's methods of working in partnership and to maintain a Corporate Partnerships Register and supporting evidence within the Chief Executive's and Partnership Team.

The Monitoring Officer explained that the toolkit would be referred to Council for inclusion in the Constitution.

Moved and seconded

RECOMMENDED that the Draft Partnership Protocol and Toolkit be included in the Constitution.

(Council)

745. UPDATE ON CO-OPTED INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

The Legal and Standards Officer informed the meeting that it was hoped to recruit 5 further Independent Members; 11 had applied; interviews would take place in March and once appointed, they would take up their appointment after Annual Council.

Councillor Wallis asked if the unsuccessful applicants could be kept on file, and the Monitoring officer stated that she would look into this.

The report was noted.

746. UPDATE ON MEMBER COMPLAINTS

The Monitoring Officer confirmed that one complaint had been received in 2010 so far and a further complaint that had been received in 2008 was ongoing.

The report was noted.

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747. GUIDANCE FOR PARISH COUNCILS ON RECEIPT AND REPORTING OF LAC DECISION NOTICES.

Guidance for Parish Councils on the receipt and reporting of Local Assessment Decision Notices were included in the agenda for information.

748. ONLINE GUIDES

The Monitoring Officer explained that the Online Guides would be a useful addition to existing guidance and had been included in the agenda for member's information.

749. STANDARDS COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

The Monitoring Officer presented the Standards Committee work plan and updated the meeting with regard to the following:

- The introduction of the new Code of Conduct taking place after the General Election
- Training for Parish Councils – 8 complete out of 14 and dates have been set in March and April for training the rest.

Members were also asked if they had any comments on what to review in the Constitution.

It was suggested that the DVD on 'Assessment made clear – Local Assessment of Complaints' Council's may be useful for Parish Council's and that it could be used after District/Parish Elections in May 2011.

The Work Plan was noted.

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750. THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Moved by Councillor A. M. Syrett, seconded by Councillor T. Connerton

RESOLVED that under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the stated Paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and it is not in the public interest for that to be revealed.

Councillor H. Gilmour declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item and left the meeting.

751. EXEMPT – PARAGRAPH 7 MINUTES OF A LOCAL ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 15TH JANUARY 2010.

The Monitoring Officer presented the minutes and confirmed that the complaint had been fully investigated by a member of the Legal team.

Moved by T. Munro, seconded by Councillor V. Mills

RESOLVED that the minutes of a Local assessment Committee held on 15th January 2010 be noted.

The meeting closed at 1525 hours.