

## STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Standards Committee of the Bolsover District Council held in Committee Room 1, Sherwood Lodge, Bolsover, on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at 1400 hours.

### **PRESENT:-**

Independent Members: -

B. Betts, K. Belshaw, A. Gascoyne, J. M. Hill, J.R. Jaffray, R. Lilley, D.J. Wright and J. Yates.

Members: -

Councillors M.J. Dooley, H. J. Gilmour, V.P. Mills, A.M. Syrett and H. Ward.

Officers:-

A. Turner (Deputy Monitoring Officer) and A. Bluff (Democratic Services Officer).

J. Yates – In the Chair

### **690. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K. Reid (Parish Council Member), P.R. Hendry (District Council Member) and S.E.A. Sternberg (Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer).

### **691. URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

### **692. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Minute No.	Member	Level of Interest
695	Councillor H. J. Gilmour	Personal
696	Councillor M. J. Dooley	Personal

## STANDARDS COMMITTEE

### 693. MINUTES – 4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2010

Moved by J. Yates, seconded by Councillor M.J. Dooley

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of a meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2010 be approved as a correct record.

### 694. MATTERS ARISING

#### Minute No 527 (iii) – A Beginners Guide to the Constitution

The Deputy Monitoring Officer confirmed that the 'Beginners Guide to the Constitution' was now available for viewing on the Council's website.

Councillor Gilmour declared a personal interest in the following item and remained in the meeting.

### 695. MINUTES OF A STANDARDS COMMITTEE HEARING HELD ON FRIDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2010

The Deputy Monitoring Officer introduced the minutes from the Standards Committee Hearing held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

A discussion took place regarding the outcome of the Standards Hearing as detailed in the minutes.

Members asked questions.

Further discussion took place.

Standards Committee Members requested that a report be prepared by the Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer and that a special meeting of Standards Committee be arranged to consider the report.

Moved by Councillor M.J. Dooley, seconded by Councillor A.M. Syrett

**RESOLVED** that 1) the minutes of a Standards Committee Hearing held on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2010 be noted,

2) a report be prepared by the Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer and that a special meeting of Standards Committee be arranged to consider the report.

(Deputy Monitoring Officer/Head of Democratic Services)

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Councillor Dooley declared a personal interest in the following item and remained in the meeting.

**696. RECOMMENDED ITEM FROM UNION EMPLOYEE CONSULTATION COMMITTEE HELD ON 15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2010; LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME – CONSULTATION EXERCISE RESULTS RECOMMENDED CHANGE TO TRANSFERS-IN POLICY**

The Deputy Monitoring Officer introduced a report to seek Committee's approval for an amendment to the Chief Executive Officer's delegated powers, for inclusion in the Council's Constitution, in relation to the Local Government Pension Scheme. Full details were contained in the report.

Moved by Councillor A.M. Syrett, seconded by Councillor H. Gilmour  
**RESOLVED** that the amendment to the Chief Executive Officer's delegated powers in the Council's Constitution be approved.

(Head of Democratic Services (Constitution))

**697. STANDARDS COMMITTEE WORK PLAN**

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented information in relation to the Standards Committee Workplan.

Moved and seconded.  
**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**698. COMPLAINTS AGAINST MEMBERS**

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented information in relation to complaints to the Standards Committee against Members.

Moved and seconded.  
**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

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### 699. LOCALISM BILL

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented a report in respect of the Localism Bill and gave an explanation to the meeting on how this would impact on Standards Committee and its work. Full details were included in the report.

The Localism Bill was published on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

There would no longer be a duty on local authorities to have a Standards Committee; this would become voluntary but further details were awaited. In the meantime complaints would continue through Local Assessment Committees and be referred (where appropriate) to Standards for England until October 2011.

Under the Localism Bill, there would still be a requirement for Members to register their interests, though there may be some changes for parish council members. There would still be a requirement for the Register to be made public and failure to make appropriate declarations would have criminal implications with the most serious failures being dealt with by the police.

There would be changes to governance arrangements to allow Councils to return to the Committee system.

Discussion took place and Members raised questions.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer advised the meeting that the Chair of Standards Committee would be involved in the consultation.

The Chair advised the meeting that he would be urging the Council to continue in its present form.

Further discussion took place.

Moved by Councillor A.M. Syrett, seconded by Councillor H. Gilmour  
**RESOLVED** that the report be noted,

**RECOMMENDED** that Council consider keeping Standards Committee in its present format.

(Solicitor to the Council & Monitoring Officer/Head of Democratic Services)

## STANDARDS COMMITTEE

### 700. MEMBERS JOB DESCRIPTIONS

The Deputy Monitoring Officer informed the meeting that this item was deferred and a report would be presented to a future meeting.

### 701. THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Moved by Councillor M.J. Dooley, seconded by Councillor H. Gilmour  
**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 item of business on the grounds that it may 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.

### 702. RECOMMENDED ITEM FROM COUNCIL HELD ON 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 2010; LOCAL LAND CHARGES FEES FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REGULATIONS (EIR) EXEMPT PARAGRAPHS 3 AND 5

The Deputy Monitoring Officer introduced a report to seek Committee's approval for an amendment to the Solicitor to the Council's delegated powers, for inclusion in the Council's Constitution, in relation to the Land Charges Service. Full details were contained in the report.

Moved by Councillor A.M. Syrett, seconded by J.M. Hill  
**RESOLVED** that the amendment to the Solicitor to the Council's delegated powers in the Council's Constitution be approved.

(Head of Democratic Services (Constitution))

The meeting concluded at 1440 hours.