

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Standards Committee of the Bolsover District Council held in Committee Room 1, Sherwood Lodge, Bolsover, on Wednesday 4th January 2012 at 1400 hours.

PRESENT:-

Independent Members: -

J. Yates - Chair

B. Betts, A. Gascoyne, J. Hill, J. Jaffray, R. Lilley and D. Wright.

Members: -

District Councillors; M. G. Crane, M. Dooley, H. J. Gilmour and D.S. Watson.

Officers:-

A. Turner (Deputy Monitoring Officer) and K. Rodda (Democratic Services Officer).

746. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from K. Belshaw, Councillor A.M. Syrett and S. E. A. Sternberg (Solicitor and Monitoring Officer to the Council)

747. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

748. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

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749. MINUTES – 26TH OCTOBER 2011

Moved by Councillor H. Gilmour, seconded by J. Jaffray

RESOLVED that subject to the seconding of Minute No. 534 by J. Jaffray, not Councillor J. Jaffray, the minutes of a meeting held on 26th October 2011 be approved as a correct record.

750. MATTERS ARISING

- (1) Minute No. 545 – Training for Standards Committee Members.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer advised the meeting that the discussion about the Standards Committee being put onto the Council's website was on hold for the moment.

751. RECOMMENDED ITEM FROM COUNCIL HELD ON 19TH OCTOBER 2011 – MINUTE NO. 510 – AMENDMENT TO THE SOLICITOR OF COUNCIL'S DELEGATION SCHEME

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented the recommended item to the meeting which advised that that an application had been received to carry out a performance of hypnotism within the District. This had been approved at Council on 19th October 2011 and required an amendment to the delegation scheme in the Constitution, to allow the Solicitor to the Council to administer future applications.

Discussions took place about whether this was a 'performance' of hypnotism or the 'practice of hypnotism' and the Deputy Monitoring Officer stated that he would make sure that this was clear in the delegation.

Moved by Councillor M. Dooley, seconded by Councillor H. Gilmour

RESOLVED that the Constitution be amended to include such delegated powers as necessary to allow the Solicitor to the Council to be able to administer future applications.

(Head of Democratic Services)

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752. ITEM FROM EXECUTIVE HELD ON 12TH DECEMBER 2011 – SHARED SERVICES SCRUTINY – TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented the Terms of Reference for the Shared Services Scrutiny for inclusion in the Council's Constitution to the meeting.

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

RECOMMENDED that the Shared Services Scrutiny Terms of Reference be approved for inclusion in the Council's Constitution.

(Head of Democratic Services)

753. COMPLAINTS TO THE STANDARDS BOARD

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented the report which gave details of complaints against Members to the Standards Board.

The contents of the report were noted.

754. STANDARDS COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented the Standards Committee Work Plan 2011/12 to the meeting.

The work plan was noted.

755. CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES TO ARRANGEMENTS FOR SCRUTINY COMMITTEES AND REVISED SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES

The Chair informed the meeting that this item had been withdrawn.

756. LOCALISM ACT – REPORT ON PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented the report to the meeting. The Localism Bill had received Royal Assent on 15th November 2011 and would cover many areas of Local Government. There were two main areas for Standards

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Committee to consider and this part of the report detailed possible changes to the Constitution.

Members asked questions and discussions took place.

The report was noted.

757. LOCALISM ACT – STANDARDS FRAMEWORK

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented the report to the meeting. The report detailed possible changes to Standards; the Code of Conduct; Declarations of Interest and complaints, all of which are uncertain until the regulations have been finalised.

Discussions took place on Declarations of Interests.

A draft timetable was included in the report.

The report was noted.

758. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS REVIEW

The Deputy Monitoring Officer advised the meeting how it was necessary to update the Financial Regulations in the Constitution in line with changes that had taken place within the Authority and these were in front of Members for approval.

Moved by Councillor M. Dooley, seconded by Councillor H. Gilmour
RECOMMENDED that the changes to the Financial Regulations in the
Constitution be approved.

(Head of Democratic Services)

The meeting concluded at 1501 hours.