

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

24th JULY 2006

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THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE MEETING

Dear Councillor

13th July 2006

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the Standards Committee to be held on **Monday 24th July 2006 at 7.00pm** in Committee Rooms C & D, Level -1, Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham.

Yours sincerely

John Watling
Policy & Democratic Services Team Leader

District Councillors: P. J. Goldstone, J. R. Ireland, G. Offord and C. Reid
Town / Parish Members: G. Yates and J. R. Scragg
Independent Members: J. Carine and R. Philpott

To all other Councillors for information.

AGENDA

1. **Election of Chairman**
2. **Election of Vice-Chairman**
3. **Apologies for Absence**
4. **Public Question Time/Receipt of Petitions**

To receive public questions and / or petitions in accordance with Council Procedure Rules Numbers 11 and 12.

5. **Minutes**

To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 18th April 2006 (**copy attached**).

6. **Chairman's Announcements (if any)**

7. **Declarations of Interest**

To receive declarations of interest from Members in respect of any item contained on this Agenda.

8. **Comments & Complaints Policy and Procedure**

The purpose of Report No.8 (**copy attached**) is to provide an overview of how the Council deals with comments and complaints. The report also provides information on the number of comments and complaints received by service areas for each financial year commencing April 2004.

Note: A copy of the Comments & Complaints Policy has been circulated as a separate document and is available upon request.

9. **Standards Committee Hearings**

The Ethical Standards Officer has referred two complaints to the Monitoring Officer for investigation and determination under S.58 of the Local Government Act 2000. The two complaints are listed as SBE.14558.06 and SBE.14559.06. Both complaints are in respect of the same issue and concern a Parish Council.

At its meeting on 11th September 2003, the Standards Committee agreed that hearings will take place in front of 3 Members of the Committee. These Members to be selected on the basis of availability and must include an independent Member and a town or parish Member.

Members are asked to agree 3 Members to determine these complaints.

10. The Code of Conduct - Training for Members

The purpose of Report No.10 (**copy attached**) is to seek the views of the Committee upon proposals in respect of training for District, Town and Parish Councillors on the Code of Conduct for Members.

**11. Monitoring Officers' & Independent Members' Forum
– Oxfordshire, Berkshire & Wiltshire**

The purpose of Report No.11 (**copy attached**) is to provide feedback from Mr J. Carine following his attendance at the Monitoring Officers' and Independent Members' Forum on 21st April 2006.

12. Standards Board for England - Consultation Exercise

To receive feedback from Mr B. Philpott in respect of an interview undertaken with BMG Research (on behalf of the Standards Board for England) which sought views upon the future direction of the Standards Regime.

13. Standards Board for England - Bulletin 29

The Standards Board for England publication "Bulletin 29" is **attached** for information as Report No.13.