

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Enquiries to: **Helen Braid**
Email: hbraid@northwilts.gov.uk

Minutes of the Standards Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 18th April 2006 in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham, commencing at 7.10pm

Present:

Independent Members: Mr J. Carine Vice-Chairman (in the Chair)

Parish/Town Council Representatives: Councillor G. Yates

District Council Members: Councillor P. J. Goldstone

Officers: H. Braid (Policy & Democratic Services Officer) and P. Jeremiah (Legal Services Team Leader)

ST34. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors G. Offord, C. Reid and J. R. Scragg.

ST35. Public Question Time / Receipt of Petitions

None.

ST36. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 23rd January 2006 were considered.

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 23rd January 2006 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.



ST37. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman made the following announcement:

"I would like to take the opportunity to inform Members of the dates of future meetings of the Standards Committee. These are 24th July and 23rd October 2006 and 22nd January and 23rd April 2007. A note will be circulated confirming these dates."

ST38. Declarations of Interests

None.

ST39. A Work Programme for the Standards Committee

Consideration was given to Report No.6 (circulated with the agenda) which informed the Committee of the Work Programme that had been formulated by the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Standards Committee.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The issue of training may need to be re-visited following the local elections in May 2007.
- Any amendment to the Code may result in further training being required for Members.

Resolved that the Standards Committee Work Programme be noted.

ST40. Complaints to the Local Government Ombudsman

Consideration was given to Report No.7 (circulated with the agenda) which provided the Committee with an overview of how complaints made to the Local Government Ombudsman about North Wiltshire District Council (NWDC) are dealt with. The report also provided information on the type of complaints made against NWDC and the determinations made.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The low number of complaints made in respect of planning issues when compared with the number of applications dealt with.
- No complaints had been made in respect of the new licensing regime.
- The Annual Letter will be circulated to the Committee when it is received.

Resolved that the report be noted.

ST41. Fifth Annual Assembly of Standards Committees

Consideration was given to Report No.8 (circulated with the agenda) which sought consideration of the attendance of a Committee Representative at the Fifth Annual Assembly of Standards Committees to be held during October 2006 at the ICC Birmingham.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The Vice-Chairman of the Committee was attending the Conference on behalf of the Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Authority and was happy to also represent the North Wiltshire District Council Standards Committee.

Resolved that, subject to the agreement of the Chairman of the Standards Committee:

- (1) The Vice-Chairman, Mr. J. Carine, attend the Fifth Annual Assembly of Standards Committees and report back to the Standards Committee.
- (2) The Vice-Chairman will only claim travel and accommodation expenses from North Wiltshire District Council.

ST42. Standards Board for England Bulletin 27

Consideration was given to the Standards Board for England Bulletin 27 (circulated with the agenda as Report No.9).

- That an apology had been made in respect of Hitchins & Others –v- Standards Board for England.
- The issue of declarations of interest at the Parish Council level.
- Guidance issued by the Standards Board for England in respect of declarations of interest will be circulated to all Members and to the Clerks of Town & Parish Councils in the District.

Resolved that the Standards Board for England Bulletin 27 be noted.

The meeting started at 7.10pm and concluded at 7.30pm.

There were no members of the public present.

Signed:

Dated: