

Draft Minutes of the Standards Committee Meeting held on Monday 20th February 2007 in Committee Rooms A & B, Level -1, Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham, commencing at 7.00pm

Independent Members: R. Philpott (Chairman)
J. Carine (Vice Chairman)

Parish/Town Council Representatives: Councillors G. Yates and J.R. Scragg

District Councillors: P.J. Goldstone and C. Reid.

Officers: P. Jeremiah (Legal Team Leader) and J. Whittleton (Policy & Democratic Services Assistant).

ST29. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor J.R. Ireland.

ST30. Public Question Time / Receipt of Petitions

There were no public questions nor petitions received.

ST31. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 22nd January 2007 were considered.

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 22nd January 2007 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

ST31. Chairman's Announcements

None.

ST32. Declarations of Interests

None.



ST33. Consultation on Amendments to the Model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members

Consideration was given to the Amendments to the Model Code of Conduct, issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Issues discussed included:

- How the public interest is defined and who determines it;
- Whether the proposed amendments would discourage people from breaching confidences;
- The impact of the recent Ken Livingstone case;
- That the draft amendments seem to state that Councillors are no longer expected to be seen as exemplars;
- The importance of recording the refusal of gifts;
- The effect of inflation on the £25 gift threshold;
- Gifts prior to appointment;
- That the definition of friends will have particular relevance to Parish Councils; and
- That the amendment to participation in relation to prejudicial interests could help Councillor involvement in the Development Control Committee.

Resolved that the Committee's response to the consultation be as follows:

Question 1) The proposed amendments are supported.

Question 2) The proposal to restrict the application of the Code in members private capacity to behaviour which has already been found to be unlawful by the courts is supported.

Question 3) No comment.

Question 4) The proposed amendment is supported.

Question 5) The use of the term 'personal and business associates' was supported.

Question 6) No comment.

Question 7) Agree with the proposed amendment.

Question 8) A user-friendly way of ensuring text is gender neutral should be adopted.

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The meeting started at 7.00pm and concluded at 7.36pm

There were 0 members of the public present.

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