

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THURSDAY, 21ST JUNE, 2012

PRESENT:-

Independent Members: Susan Toland (Chair), Deborah Russell (Independent Member) and Dr Cyril Davies (Independent Member)

Parish Representatives: Veronica Packham and Axel Palmer

Bath and North East Somerset Councillors: Sally Davis, Malcolm Lees, Eleanor Jackson and Nigel Roberts

Officers: Vernon Hitchman (Divisional Director, Legal and Democratic Services)

30 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

31 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Clerk drew attention to the Emergency Evacuation Procedure.

32 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTION

Apologies were received by Nick Stevens – Parish Representative.

33 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

34 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There was none.

35 ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC - TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS

There were none.

36 ITEMS FROM COUNCILLORS AND CO-OPTED AND ADDED MEMBERS RELATING TO THE GENERAL BUSINESS OF THE COMMITTEE

There was none.

37 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 26TH APRIL 2012

The minutes of the meeting of 26th April 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

38 THE NEW STANDARDS REGIME

The Monitoring Officer introduced the report and explained that all Councils are required to adopt a new code of conduct governing elected and co-opted members conduct. He explained that Councils have discretion as to what they include and that

there are some examples appended to the report. He asked the Committee to agree on some principles so that he could draft a new version of the Code to bring back to them at a later date.

The Committee requested that the Monitoring Officer base the new draft code of conduct on the ACSes Draft Code (paper C, marked Appendix D to Report No. 111/2012) with some developments in line with the following:

- The Committee generally preferred the longer rather than the shorter codes but not so long as to put people off of reading it;
- The code should be clearly written and some paragraphs may need amending such as Paragraph 8 which they felt should just read 'set aside your personal interest'
- Parts of the existing code could be used such as those relating to bullying and respect.

It was **agreed** that the Monitoring Officer would circulate a draft a new code of conduct based on the ACSes Draft Code; and to note that a formalised complaints and hearing process and training proposals would be developed in the near future.

The meeting ended at 6.50 am

Chair(person)

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services