

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Standards Committee held on
Wednesday 16 November 2011 at 10.30 am, in The Committee Suite,
King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn**

PRESENT:

Mr M Sale (Chairman - Independent Member),
Mr J Dawson (Parish Representative),
Mr D Shepperson (Parish Representative), Mr R Steward (Independent Member),
Councillors B Ayres and G Wareham
Nicola Leader (Legal Services Manager/Monitoring Officer)
Wendy Vincent (Democratic Services Officer)
Anne Heard (Investigating Officer, Lincolnshire County Council)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr G Brierley (Independent Member), Councillors R Bird, D Harwood and D Johnson

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the following meetings were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Full Standards Committee

15 June 2011

Standards Committee – Local Assessment Sub-Committee

6 July 2011 (Complaints 03/11 and 04/11)

Sub-Committee: Mr G Brierley (Chairman – Independent Member),
Mr J Dawson (Parish Representative), Councillor D Harwood

17 August 2011 (Complaint 05/11)

Sub-Committee: Mr M Sale (Chairman – Independent Member),
Mr J Dawson (Parish Representative), Councillor D Harwood

7 October 2011 (Complaints 06/11, 07/11, 08/11, 09/11, 10/11, 11/11)

Sub-Committee: Mr G Brierley (Chairman – Independent Member),
Mr J Dawson (Parish Representative), Mr D Shepperson

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman announced that the Member being complained of was a member of the Standards Committee. Advice had therefore been sought from Standards for England, who stated that it was proper practice for the Standards Committee to consider the complaint, provided that no Member was a close associate of the member concerned.

4 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED "That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act."

5 PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL REPORT OF THE INVESTIGATING OFFICER RELATING TO COMPLAINT 03/11

Anne Heard, the Investigating Officer from Lincolnshire County Council presented the report relating to complaint 03/11.

The Committee was invited to ask questions of the Investigating Officer.

The Investigating Officer responded to comments and questions from the Committee.

RESOLVED: The Standards Committee agreed with the findings of the Investigating Officer's report that there was no breach of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct.

RETURNED TO OPEN SESSION

6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Update on the Localism Bill

The Monitoring Officer provided a verbal update on the Localism Bill and informed the Committee that the House of Lords had proposed an amendment to the Bill for Councils and Parish Councils to adopt a Code which reflected the Nolan standards. The Bill was due to receive royal assent in February 2012.

The Monitoring Officer therefore suggested that a meeting of the Standards Committee be convened during early January 2012 to brief Members on the final amendment to the Localism Bill.

7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF THE FULL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the next meeting of the Full Standards Committee would be convened during early January 2012.

The Meeting closed at 11.14 am