

Committee: Standards Committee

Date: Thursday 18 March 2010

Time: 6.30 pm

Venue Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA

Membership

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| Dr Sadie Reynolds (Chairman) | Jim McBeth (Vice-Chairman) |
| Councillor Fred Blackwell | Councillor Ann Bonner |
| Councillor Timothy Hallchurch MBE | Councillor Eric Heath |
| Councillor James Macnamara | Councillor George Parish |
| Councillor Rose Stratford | Councillor Douglas Williamson |
| Councillor Bernard Lane | Douglas Frewer |
| Kenneth Hawtin | Councillor Alan Greenslade-Hibbert |

Substitutes Councillor David Carr, Councillor John Coley, Councillor Ken Atack, Councillor Nick Cotter, Councillor Margaret Cullip, Councillor Mrs Diana Edwards, Councillor Russell Hurle, Councillor P A O'Sullivan, Councillor Leslie F Sibley and Councillor Lawrie Stratford

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitute Members

2. Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare any interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.

3. Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting

The Chairman to report on any requests to submit petitions or to address the meeting.

4. Urgent Business

The Chairman to advise whether they have agreed to any item of urgent business being admitted to the agenda.

5. Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21 January 2010.

6. Minutes Standards Assessment Sub-Committee 25 February 2010 (Pages 5 - 6)

To note the minutes of the Standards Assessment Sub Committee meeting held on 25 February 2010.

7. Update on Complaints (Pages 7 - 8)

Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer

Summary

This report provides an update to members on complaints relating to alleged breaches of the code of conduct received since the last meeting of the committee.

Recommendation

(1) To note the contents of the report.

8. Update from Standards for England (Pages 9 - 12)

Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer

Summary

To update members of the committee on new information from Standards for England regarding the proposed revised code of conduct and the local assessment framework.

Recommendation

(1) To note the contents of the report.

9. Parish Council Visits (Pages 13 - 16)

Report of the Chairman of the Standards Committee

Summary

To update the committee on the Chairman and Vice Chairman's proposed parish visits, discussed at the last meeting of the committee.

Recommendation

- (1) To note the contents of the report and confirm it is happy with the proposals.

10. Committee Membership (Pages 17 - 28)

Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer

Summary

To consider the membership of the committee following the resignations of Mr Frewer (Independent Member) and Councillor Lane (Parish Representative.)

Recommendation

- (1) To recommend to Council that Cllr David Carr is appointed as Parish Representative to take effect following the parish elections in 2010.
- (2) To consider the recruitment of a further substitute parish representative following the parish elections in 2010.
- (3) To approve the role description, person specification and advert for the new independent member.
- (4) To consider where to publish the advert for the new independent member.
- (5) To thank Mr Frewer and Cllr Lane for all their hard work whilst on the committee.

11. Draft Annual Return 2010 (Pages 29 - 38)

Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer

Summary

To consider Cherwell's response to the Standards for England 2010 Annual Return questionnaire.

Recommendation

- (1) To agree Cherwell's draft responses to the Annual Return

Information about this Agenda

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence should be notified to democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or (01295) 221591 prior to the start of the meeting.

Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare interests at item 2 on the agenda or if arriving after the start of the meeting, at the start of the relevant agenda item. The definition of personal and prejudicial interests is set out in Part 5 Section A of the constitution. The Democratic Support Officer will have a copy available for inspection at all meetings.

Personal Interest: Members must declare the interest but may stay in the room, debate and vote on the issue.

Prejudicial Interest: Member must withdraw from the meeting room and should inform the Chairman accordingly.

With the exception of the some very specific circumstances, a Member with a personal interest also has a prejudicial interest if it is one which a Member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest.

Local Government and Finance Act 1992 – Budget Setting, Contracts & Supplementary Estimates

Members are reminded that any member who is two months in arrears with Council Tax must declare the fact and may speak but not vote on any decision which involves budget setting, extending or agreeing contracts or incurring expenditure not provided for in the agreed budget for a given year and could affect calculations on the level of Council Tax.

Queries Regarding this Agenda

Please contact Alexa Coates, Legal and Democratic Services alexa.coates@cherwell-dc.gov.uk (01295) 221591

Mary Harpley
Chief Executive

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