

Cherwell District Council

Standards Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Standards Committee held at Bodicote House,
Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 8 July 2010 at 6.30 pm

Present: Dr Sadie Reynolds (Chairman)
Jim McBeth (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Fred Blackwell
Councillor Chris Heath
Councillor Russell Hurle
Councillor James Macnamara
Derek Bacon
Kenneth Hawtin
Councillor David Carr
Councillor Alan Greenslade-Hibbert

Substitute Members: Councillor John Coley
Councillor Lawrie Stratford (In place of Councillor Rose Stratford)

Apologies for absence: Councillor Timothy Hallchurch MBE
Councillor George Parish
Councillor Rose Stratford
Councillor Douglas Williamson

Officers: Liz Howlett, Head of Legal & Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer
Natasha Clark, Senior Democratic and Scrutiny Officer

1 Appointment of Chairman

Resolved

That Dr Sadie Reynolds be elected Chairman of the committee for the 2010/11 Council year. (Dr Reynolds took the Chair)

2 Appointment of Vice-Chairman

Resolved

That Mr Jim McBeth be appointed Vice-Chairman for the Council year 2010/11.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 **Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting**

There were no petitions or requests to address the meeting.

5 **Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business.

6 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 March were agreed subject to the inclusion of the following additional minute:

“60. Senior Democratic and Scrutiny Officer
The Chairman advised the Committee that this was Alexa Coates last meeting. The Committee thanked her for her support to the Committee and wished her well in her new post.”

7 **Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 8th June, 2010 of Standards Assessment Sub-Committee**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Assessment Sub-Committee held on 8 June 2010 were noted.

8 **Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 22nd June, 2010 of Standards Assessment Sub-Committee**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Assessment Sub-Committee held on 22 June 2010 were noted.

9 **Requests for Member Dispensations - Barford St John and St Michael Parish Council**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer submitted a report which sought consideration of a request from the seven members of Barford St John and St Michael Parish Council for dispensations to enable them to participate in meetings of the Parish Council when matters relating to Barford St Michael Village Hall are considered, despite having personal and prejudicial interests.

Resolved

- (1) That dispensations, limited to a period expiring on the date of the next Parish Council elections for Barford St John and St Michael in May 2014, be granted to the present Barford St John and St Michael Parish Councillors (namely Rodney Silvester, Tracey Bullard, Sandi Turner, Robin George Woolgrove, Peter Leslie Eden, Sarah Louise Best and

Lisa Jane Styles) to enable them to participate in meetings of the Parish Council when matters relating to Barford St Michael Village Hall are considered be approved.

- (2) That the dispensation mentioned in (1) above also be given to any new Parish Councillors joining the Parish Council in the meantime, subject to the Parish Clerk providing the relevant details to the Monitoring Officer be approved.

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Requests for Member Dispensation - Wroxton Parish Council

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer submitted a report which sought consideration of a request from members of Wroxton Parish Council for dispensations to enable them to participate in meetings of the Parish Council when all matters relating to the proposed Sports Pavilion and Community Hall in Wroxton and the proposed Village Hall in Balscote, are considered despite having a personal and prejudicial interest.

Resolved

- (1) That dispensations, limited to a period expiring on the date of the next Parish Council elections for Wroxton in May 2014, be granted to the present Wroxton Parish Councillors (namely Barry Allen, David Endicott, Robert Jesson, David McNaught, Michael Roberts, Carl Nicholson and Michael Whelan) to enable them to participate in meetings of the Parish Council when matters relating to the proposed Sports Pavilion and Community Hall in Wroxton and the proposed Village Hall in Balscote are considered be approved.
- (2) That the dispensation mentioned in (1) above also be given to any new Parish Councillors joining the Parish Council in the meantime, subject to the Parish Clerk providing the relevant details to the Monitoring Officer be approved.

11

Draft Standards Annual Report 2009/10

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer submitted a report which presented the draft Standards Committee Annual Report 2009/10. The Committee noted the section on the Appointments to the Standards Committee and agreed that the report should record the Committees' thanks to Mr Douglas Frewer and Cllr Bernard Lane who had stood down from the Committee at the end of the 2009/10 Council year.

The Committee discussed the Government's proposals "to abolish the Standards Board regime". Members of the Committee noted that the majority of Cherwell District Councillors had welcomed the Government's decision to save the cost of running Standards for England at this difficult economic time.

The Committee considered the publicity arrangements for the Annual Report 2009/10. Members agreed that the report should be sent electronically to the local press together with a press release, that it should be sent to every

Parish Council in the District, where possible electronically, and published on the Council's website.

Resolved

- (1) That the Annual Report 2009/10 be approved subject to the amendments outlined above.
- (2) That the publicity arrangements for the Annual Report 2009/10 would be as follows: send the report electronically to the local media with a press release; send the report, electronically where possible, to every Parish Council in the District; and, publish the report on the Council's website.
- (3) That the Annual Report for 2009/10 from the Standards Committee be recommended to Council to note.
- (4) That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be delegated authority to update the Standards Committee Annual Report 2009/10 in light of any announcements about the Standards Board regime by the Government prior to the publication of the Annual Report.

The meeting ended at 7.10 pm

Chairman:

Date: