

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**10 February 2014**

Attendance:

Councillor Read (Chairman) (P)

Councillors:

E Berry (P)  
Chamberlain (P)  
Clear

Johnston (P)  
Nelmes (P)  
Phillips (P)

Parish Representatives (non voting co-optees) in attendance:

Ms J Bond  
Mr A Walmsley  
Mr J Watson

Independent Persons (non voting advisors) in attendance:

Mr B Bailey  
Ms R Blundell  
Mr J Pearson

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1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Clear.

2. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 24 October 2014 be approved and adopted.

3. **MONITORING OF PROCEEDINGS - RESULTS**

(Report ST103 refers)

In addition to the points about the Guildhall set out in the report, Members commented that the start time of meetings was often not specified on the daily events sheets displayed on the freestanding noticeboards. Also, with regard to the Planning Development Control Committee, it was suggested that the procedural announcement made at the start of each meeting, could usefully

be repeated at the commencement of the afternoon session, as there was usually a different public audience by that stage.

The Chief Operating Officer agreed to pursue both points.

RESOLVED:

1 That the Independent Persons and Parish Representatives be thanked for undertaking the monitoring of committee meetings, to ascertain the level of compliance with the Code of Conduct and other guidance.

2 That, subject to the above comments, no further actions be taken apart from those referred to in the report.

3 That the content of this report and the additional comments from the Committee be drawn to the attention of all Group Leaders, chairmen and the relevant officers.

4. **REVIEW OF THE MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT**  
(Report S105 refers)

RESOLVED:

That, having considered the core Code requirements as proposed by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Authorities Group, no changes be made to the City Council's current Members Code of Conduct.

5 **CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS PROCESS – REVISED ARRANGEMENTS AND GUIDANCE**  
(Report ST106 refers)

The Chief Operating Officer reminded the meeting of the processes operated by the Council prior to the Localism Act 2011. The above document had been drafted having regard to the new legislation. It was more flexible and less bureaucratic, but where possible had retained the best features of the previous scheme.

The Committee noted how the system would now operate in practice and, in particular, welcomed the retention of the provision which allowed complainants to have the assessment decision on their complaint reviewed by a different group of Members.

**RECOMMENDED:**

1. THAT, FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 28 OF THE LOCALISM ACT 2011, THE REVISED ARRANGEMENTS IN APPENDICES 1 AND 2 OF THE ABOVE REPORT FOR THE CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE BE APPROVED.

2. THAT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE BE UPDATED TO ALLOW FUTURE REVIEWS TO BE UNDERTAKEN UNDER THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL DELEGATED POWER IN RESPECT OF BOTH THE DISTRICT AND PARISH COUNCILS:-

“ TO REVIEW AND DETERMINE THE COUNCIL’S ARRANGEMENTS FOR HANDLING COMPLAINTS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 28 OF THE LOCALISM ACT 2011”

6 **DISPENSATION REQUEST – COUNCILLOR JANET BERRY**  
(Report ST104 refers)

**RESOLVED:**

That Councillor Janet Berry be granted a dispensation for the remainder of her current term of office, in respect of discussions about community issues in Winnall, including making any representations which include views from the Winnall Community Association. However, when any possible grant to the Association or a related body arises as a specific item of business at any meeting of the Council, the dispensation will not cover that situation and she must declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and leave the room immediately for the duration of the item.

The meeting commenced at 6.15pm and concluded at 7.15pm.

Chairman