

EAST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th September, 2007 at 4.00 p.m.

Present:

Mr David Atkinson (Independent) - Chairman
Councillor Janet Dover - Vice-Chairman

Present: Councillors Ronald Daw, Sally Elliot, Hon Geoff Beck (Independent)
Councillors Anthony Gibb (Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Council),
Martin Instone (Knowlton Parish Council) and Mr Alan Leeson (Independent).

Also in attendance: Councillors Pete Holden and Spencer Flower.

172. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Lucy Clark.

173. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Janet Dover declared a personal interest in Minute 180 (Request for Dispensations - Colehill Parish Council, Ferndown Town Council & Verwood Town Council) and remained present.

Councillor Anthony Gibb (Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Council) declared a personal interest in Minute No. 178 (Protocol for Members and Officers involved in Partnerships) and remained present.

174. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th June, 2007 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

175. Presentations by the Public

There were no questions, petitions or deputations received on this occasion.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

176. Review of Protocols - Part V Council's Constitution

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'A' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members considered the review of Protocols contained within Part V of the Council's Constitution.

RECOMMENDED that;

- a) **Members recommend to Council the amendment proposed at paragraph 6.2 of the report regarding paragraph (r) of the Protocol relating to the duties of the Monitoring Officer as**

detailed below:

(r) In accordance with the Code of Conduct in relation to Parish and Town Council matters, the Monitoring Officer will act in that statutory capacity for Parish and Town Councils in the District and in furtherance of those duties will make arrangements to ensure good communication between him/her and the Clerks to those respective Councils.

and that;

b) Members accept that the Protocol governing the attendance of Members at County Council meetings requires no amendment at this time

Voting: Nem. Con.

DELEGATED BUSINESS

177. Monitoring of Stage One Complaints

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'B' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members considered the feasibility of monitoring Stage One complaints and to review other options, and agreed to the report's recommendation subject to a review of arrangements in twelve months time.

RESOLVED that instead of monitoring Stage One complaints, the Committee uses the outcomes and learning from Stages Two and Three and any areas highlighted by satisfaction or other surveys to highlight areas for closer scrutiny and that this be reviewed in twelve months time.

Voting: Unanimous

178. Protocol for Members and Officers involved in Partnerships

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'C' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members received the draft Protocol for Members and Officers involved in Partnerships and were asked to authorise its release for consultation.

Following discussion, Members asked that the following paragraphs be amended:

- a) In paragraph 3.1, the final sentence of the first bullet point to read "They have shareholders and may distribute profits to shareholders as dividends".
- b) In paragraph 14.3, the first sentence should read "Company law in particular requires directors to act in the best interests of the company and its shareholders but the principle applies to all other

forms of partnership.”

RESOLVED that Members approve the draft Protocol for Members and Officers involved in Partnerships for consultation and feedback reported to the next meeting of the Standards Committee.

Voting: Unanimous

(Councillor Anthony Gibb (Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Council) declared a personal interest in this item and remained present.)

179. Adoption of Local Performance Indicators for the Standards Committee

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'D' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members considered the adoption of Local Performance Indicators to monitor the effectiveness of local training and development and agreed the following amendment to the report:

- a) In paragraph 6.2(c), the second bullet point should read “Officer attendance, where requested, at meetings...”.

RESOLVED that the Committee adopt the local performance indicators as set out in paragraph 6.2 of the report.

Voting: Nem. Con.

180. Request for Dispensations - Colehill Parish Council, Ferndown Town Council & Verwood Town Council

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'E' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members considered the requests received from Colehill Parish Council, Ferndown Town Council and Verwood Town Council for the grant of dispensations.

RESOLVED that Members grant the request for dispensations in respect of:

- (a) **Councillors serving on the Ferndown Town Council in their capacity as charity trustees for the King George V Field Charity;**
- (b) **Councillors serving on the Verwood Town Council in their capacity as charity trustees of the Verwood Recreation Ground; and**
- (c) **Councillors serving on the Colehill Parish Council in their capacity as charity trustees for the Colehill Memorial Hall.**

Voting: Unanimous

(Councillor Janet Dover declared a personal interest in this item and remained present.)

181. Internal Corporate Complaints

The Chief Executive submitted a report for information, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'F' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members noted the details of corporate complaints for the period April 2007 - June 2007 Stages Two and Three.

182. Request for Dispensation – Personnel Committee Ferndown Town Council

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'G' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members considered the request received from Ferndown Town Council Personnel Committee for a grant of dispensation.

RESOLVED that Members grant the request for dispensation to Councillors Queenie Comfort, John Little and Pauline Reynolds to enable them to serve on the Personnel Committee of Ferndown Town Council.

Voting: Unanimous

183. Code of Conduct Training

Members were advised of a DVD that had been received by this Council on the new Code of Conduct and that this would be viewed at the December meeting of the Standards Committee.

It was agreed that Members could borrow the DVD and that the DVD be used to reinforce training to parish and town councils.

The meeting ended at 4.50 p.m.

CHAIRMAN