

EAST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th June, 2009 at 3.00 p.m.

Present:

Mr Philip Goodall (Independent) - Chairman
Councillor R. E. Daw - Vice-Chairman

Present: Councillors Mrs J. Dover and Mrs G. S. Elliot, and Mr David Atkinson (Independent), Councillor A. Gibb (Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Council), Councillor J. Laker (Knowlton Parish Council) and Councillor Ms J Russell (Verwood Town Council).

86. **Election of Chairman**

RESOLVED that Mr Philip Goodall be elected Chairman of the Committee for the 2009/10 Municipal Year.

87. **Election of Vice-Chairman**

RESOLVED that Councillor R. E. Daw be elected Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the 2009/10 Municipal Year.

88. **Apologies for Absence**

An Apology for absence was received from Mr Alan Leeson (Independent)

89. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made on this occasion.

90. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th March, 2009 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

91. **Presentations by the Public**

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

DELEGATED BUSINESS

92. **Legislation Update - The Standards Committee (Further Provisions) (England) Regulations 2009**

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 received an update on the 2009 Regulations for Standards Committees. Concern was expressed where a high number of declarations of interest could affect the political balance of a committee and the ability to make a decision based on the will of the majority party.

Officers agreed to consult with the Leader of Council and the Leader of the Opposition.

RESOLVED that Members;

- (a) note the amended provisions for the grant of dispensations;**
- (b) request the Monitoring Officer to draw the dispensation provisions to the attention of Parish and Town Councils as well as East Dorset District Councillors which will include the Leader of Council and the Leader of the Opposition; and**
- (c) note the provisions for the establishment of Joint Standards Committees but take no further action at this time.**

Voting: Unanimous

93. Standards Committee - Work Programme 2009/10

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 items for inclusion in their work programme for 2009/10.

RESOLVED that Members establish a work programme for 2009/10 to include;

- (a) raising the awareness of the Code of Conduct;**
- (b) overseeing implementations of the revised Code of Conduct;**
- (c) monitoring complaints; and**
- (d) developing the Parish and Town Council Compact.**

Voting: Unanimous

94. 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 'C' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members noted details of corporate complaints for the period 1 January 2009 to 31 March 2009 at stages 2 and 3, and at Local Government Ombudsman level.

95. End of Year Statistical Analysis of Corporate and Local Government Ombudsman 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 'D' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members noted the end of year information on corporate complaints, compliments and Local Government Ombudsman investigations.

96 Analysis of Code of Conduct Complaints - 2008/09

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 'E' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members received an analysis of the Code of Conduct complaints dealt with in the last financial year and thanked the Monitoring Officer for all the hard work that had been put in.

The meeting ended at 4.00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN