

**EAST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th February, 2010 at 3.00 p.m.

Present:

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

Present: Councillor 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).

481. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs J. Dover and Mr Alan Leeson (Independent).

482. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made on this occasion.

483. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th December, 2009 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

484. Presentations by the Public

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

**DELEGATED BUSINESS**

485. Request for Dispensation - Corfe Mullen Parish Council

The report was submitted, 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 dispensation requests from Members of the Corfe Mullen Parish Council.

**RESOLVED that dispensation requests be granted to Councillors Mrs Val Kitson, Mrs Susan Jeffries and Tim Graham of the Corfe Mullen Parish Council, the dispensations to run until 1 May 2011.**

Voting: Nem. Con.

486. Local Investigation - Code of Conduct

The report was submitted, 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 of the Committee considered the report of the Investigating Officer into an allegation by Mrs Liz Matthews (formerly Councillor Liz Stevens of Ferndown Town Council) against Mrs Jacqueline Moss (formerly Councillor Mrs Jacqueline Moss of Ferndown Town Council).

Members supported the recommendation for training in chairmanship skills for town councillors, as detailed in paragraph 6.6 of the investigating officer's report, and that this should also be extended to relevant town council officers.

It was noted that Ferndown Town Council, along with other east Dorset councils, should benefit from the mentoring provision under the compact agreement.

**RESOLVED that;**

- a) in accordance with paragraph 19 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 the discussion and decision of the final reports (but not the background papers or additional submissions) on the local investigation will be held in public session;**
- b) this Committee accepts the report of the Investigating Officer that there are no findings on the allegations and that the report be made public;**
- c) a written summary be provided to Mrs Jacqueline Moss who may request that the decision of the finding be the subject of an advert in the local press; and that**
- d) a written summary be provided to Mrs Liz Matthews who shall be further informed that there is no right of appeal to the Standards Committee but that a complaint may be made to First Level Tribunal ie, the High Court.**

Voting: Unanimous

The meeting ended at 4.00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN