

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

10.00 A.M.

3RD MAY 2012

PRESENT:-

Councillors

Sheila Denwood, John Harrison, Billy Hill, Roger Mace and Roger Sherlock

Independent Members

Stephen Lamley (Chairman) and Tony James (Vice-Chairman)

Parish Council Representative

Frank Senior

Apologies for Absence:-

Councillors: Chris Coates and Joyce Taylor

Independent Members: David Jordison and Sue McIntyre

Officers in attendance:-

Sarah Taylor
Peter Baines

Head of Governance / Monitoring Officer
Senior Democratic Support Officer

40 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on Thursday 19th January 2012, were approved as a correct record.

41 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There were no items of urgent business.

42 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

43 LOCALISM ACT 2011 - MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT

The Chairman introduced a report which sought the Committee's views on the form of the new code of conduct which should be recommended to Council.

It was noted that new model codes had recently been circulated by the Local Government Association (LGA) and Department of Communities and Local Government, although the regulations on interests were yet to be published. That being the case, it was not currently possible to finalise the Committee's recommendations on the new code.

In the course of discussion members considered that, whilst both model codes were of merit, it would be preferable to maintain the Council's current Code of Conduct, with the

minimal number of changes necessary to comply with the Localism Act 2011 and forthcoming regulations on interests.

Furthermore, there was general agreement that Council be recommended, in due course, to maintain an independent code of conduct, which could be altered at a future date to reflect local circumstances, rather than agreeing with any other local authorities to have a common code.

Resolved:

That, whilst it was not currently possible to finalise the Committee's view on the future code of conduct, the Committee was minded to recommend maintaining the Council's current Code of Conduct, with the minimal number of changes necessary to comply with the Localism Act 2011 and forthcoming regulations on interests, and with the inclusion of the following text, taken from the LGA's Template Code of Conduct:

- *Championing the needs of residents – the whole community and in a special way my constituents, including those who did not vote for me – and putting their interests first;*
- *Dealing with representations or enquiries from residents, members of our communities and visitors fairly, appropriately and impartially.*

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 10.25 a.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Peter Baines, Democratic Services - telephone 01524 582074, or
email: pbaines@lancaster.gov.uk**