

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

10.00 A.M.

13TH SEPTEMBER 2007

PRESENT:- Councillors Jon Barry, Shirley Burns, Susie Charles (Substitute for Sarah Fishwick), Sheila Denwood, Janie Kirkman, Roger Sherlock and Joyce Taylor
Independent Members Stephen Lamley (Chairman) and Tony James

Apologies for Absence

Councillors Sarah Fishwick
Independent Members Margaret Davey and Sue McIntyre

Officers in attendance:-

James Doble	Principal Democratic Support Officer
Sarah Taylor	Head of Legal and Human Resources and Monitoring Officer

7 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st June 2007 were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

8 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR MUNICIPAL YEAR 2007/08

It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Councillor Burns that Tony James be appointed Vice-Chairman for the Municipal Year 2007/08.

Resolved, unanimously:

That Tony James be appointed Vice-Chairman for Municipal Year 2007/08.

9 CITY COUNCIL MEETING TIMES - 2008/09

The Monitoring Officer introduced a report requesting the committee to consider its preference for meeting times for the Municipal Year 2008/09. The Committee discussed the issue and agreed that meetings of the Committee should be in the day time, with some members preferring afternoon meetings.

Resolved, unanimously:

That the comments as set out in the above minute be forwarded to the Head of Democratic Services.

10 CODE OF CONDUCT - REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The Monitoring Officer updated the Committee with regard to compliance with the submitting of an entry for the Register of Members' Interests. It was reported that all City Council members had made a submission and that change forms had been issued to all members so that they could keep their entry updated. With regard to Parish Councils it was noted that some had adopted the new Code of Conduct in May 2007 and others were due to in September 2007 and declaration forms were currently being received. It was noted that advice was being provided to those filling in forms as it was required.

Resolved, unanimously:

- (1) That the proactive approach being taken by the Monitoring Officer be welcomed.
- (2) That the Committee receive update reports form time to time.

11 CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING - UPDATE

The Monitoring Officer advised that all City Councillors had now been trained on the Code of Conduct and at the request of Thurnham Parish Council she had attended their meeting to discuss the Code of Conduct. The Monitoring Officer also reported that she had attended a meeting of the Lancashire Association of Parish and Town Councils to discuss training. Since the last meeting two training sessions had been provided for Parish Councillors and Clerks, with just over 50% of the Parish Councils in the district represented. It was agreed not to organise any more training sessions for parishes at this time and that the issue of training for Parish Councils should be revisited at a future meeting when the Parish representative was present.

Resolved, unanimously:

That the issue of training for Parish Councils be considered at the meeting of the Committee scheduled for 10th April 2008.

12 REVIEW OF PROTOCOL ON PLANNING PROCEDURE (Pages 1 - 12)

The Monitoring Officer introduced a report setting out revisions to the Protocol on Planning Procedure which had been amended as a result of the revised Code of Conduct. The Monitoring Officer circulated a revised text to replace paragraph 2, section 8 of the Protocol. It was agreed that in order to give Members time to provide any observations on the revised paragraph final approval of the protocol would be delegated to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chairman.

The Committee considered the revised Protocol on Planning Procedure in detail and made several amendments to the document.

Resolved, unanimously:

- (1) That the Protocol on Planning Procedure (as appended to these minutes) be approved in principle.
- (2) That final approval of the Protocol on Planning Procedure be delegated to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chairman, for recommending to Council Business Committee.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 11.32 a.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
James Doble, Democratic Services - telephone (01524) 582057 or email
jdoble@lancaster.gov.uk**