

## STANDARDS COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 9 AUGUST 2006

### DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Standards Committee held on Wednesday, 9 August 2006. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Holly Adams.

### PROCEDURAL ITEMS

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

**RESOLVED** that Mr D Gilbertson be elected Chairman of the Standards Committee for the 2006/07 municipal year.

**2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

**RESOLVED** to defer the appointment of Vice-Chairman to the next regular Standards Committee meeting.

### DECISION ITEMS

**3. FEEDBACK FROM PARISH COUNCILS AND PARISH MEETINGS**

**AGREED** that all future agendas have a standing item for receiving feedback from parish councils and meetings, the conduit for receipt of information to be the parish members of the Standards Committee, and the feedback to be received by the Democratic Services Officer in accordance with the Access to Information Procedure Rules in the Constitution.

**4. ADVICE TO, AND TRAINING OF, DISTRICT AND PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS IN RELATION TO THE MEMBERS' CODE**

**Proposal for Training of Parish Council Chairmen and Clerks**

**AGREED**

- (a) the general outline of the training programme
- (b) to host two days of training with three sessions in each day, held in two different weeks, dates and costs (if any) to be determined following consultation with parish councils;
- (c) to instigate a Standards Committee Newsletter published by the Deputy Monitoring Officer and Democratic Services Officer on the SCDC website; and
- (d) to request that all parish councils put the Standards Committee newsletter on their agendas.

**5. BRIDGING THE GAP: STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND FIFTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY, BIRMINGHAM, 16-17 OCTOBER 2006**

**AGREED** that the Chairman should attend the fifth annual Standards Board Assembly and, if funding could be found, that he should be accompanied by the Deputy Monitoring Officer and Mr M Farrar, parish member.

6. **DISPENSATIONS: REQUEST FROM HISTON & IMPINGTON RECREATION GROUND SUB-COMMITTEE**  
**AGREED** (a) to issue a dispensation to the following members of the Histon & Impington Recreation Ground Sub-Committee with regards to their direct involvement with Histon Hornets Football Club:
- Neil Davies (Histon Parish Council)
  - Phil Gooden (Impington Parish Council)
  - Mark Lawton (Impington Parish Council)
  - Steve Unwin (Impington Parish Council)
- for so long as they remain elected members of their respective parish councils; and
- (b) that the above-named members be required still to declare an interest in matters in which they have been granted this dispensation and to declare the existence of this dispensation.
7. **WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY**  
**RECOMMEND TO CABINET** that the revised Whistleblowing Policy be adopted.
8. **STANDARDS COMMITTEE WEBPAGE**  
**AGREED to** (a) delegate authority to the Deputy Monitoring Officer and Democratic Services Officer to decide what information should be included and a mechanism for keeping this under review;
- (b) nominate Councillor Dr SEK van de Ven to liaise with the Democratic Services Officer regarding creation and on-going maintenance of the webpage; and
- (c) promote the new website via the Winter 2006 edition of *South Cambs Magazine* as part of the proposed article about the Standards Committee.
9. **PROCEDURE FOR LOCAL INVESTIGATION OF REFERRED COMPLAINTS**  
**DEFERRED** consideration of the procedure for local investigation of referred complaints to an extra-ordinary meeting to be held before the end of October 2006.
10. **PROCEDURE FOR LOCAL STANDARDS HEARINGS**  
**DEFERRED** consideration of the procedure for local standards hearings to an extra-ordinary meeting to be held before the end of October 2006.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

11. **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS**  
The Standards Committee **NOTED** the Chairman's appointment of Mr P Brindle, Councillor RF Bryant, Mrs GM Everson and Councillor Mrs VM Trueman to interview and appoint at least two independent members from the five shortlisted candidates, with Mr Brindle acting as Chairman of the panel.