

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD ON
WEDNESDAY 18 JANUARY 2023, AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor I Devonshire (Chairman).
Councillors D Andrews, R Bolton, M Brady,
E Buckmaster, J Burmicz, K Crofton,
B Crystall, A Curtis, B Deering, H Drake,
J Dumont, R Fernando, J Frecknall,
M Goldspink, J Goodeve, A Hall, L Haysey,
A Huggins, J Jones, J Kaye, I Kemp,
G McAndrew, S Newton, T Page, M Pope,
C Redfern, S Reed, P Ruffles, T Stowe,
N Symonds, A Ward-Booth, G Williamson,
C Wilson and J Wyllie.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Richard Cassidy	- Chief Executive
James Ellis	- Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer
Jonathan Geall	- Head of Housing and Health
Steven Linnett	- Head of Strategic Finance and Property
Katie Mogan	- Democratic Services Manager
Helen Standen	- Deputy Chief Executive
Ben Wood	- Head of

Communications,
Strategy and
Policy

303 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman presented certificates to recipients of the King's New Year's Honours. Sarah Pickup was awarded a CBE for services to Social Care and Professor Sunil Shaunak was awarded an OBE for services to Infectious Diseases and Drug Discovery.

The Chairman reminded Members about the Holocaust Memorial Event taking place on Thursday 26 January 2023 at 6.30 pm and invited all Members to come along.

The Chairman announced that he would be holding a garden party on Saturday 15 April 2023 and would provide more information at the next meeting.

304 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader thanked the recipients of the King's New Year's Honours and said they demonstrated the quality and the range of people who choose to live in East Herts and she said she was humbled to have such great people who lived in the district and who make major contributions to society.

The Leader said that she had received an email from a Hertford resident who had asked her to share its contents with the Council. The email recognised the

hard work of Clinton who was the gatekeeper for a housing development site. The resident said that he brought joy to everyone by waving and smiling at passers-by. The Leader said that housing developments often brought complaints but Clinton made the difference to being a well run organised site and it would be nice to replicate it across East Herts.

The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability announced that East Herts had switched its vehicle fleet from diesel to electric vehicles. He said that this would reduce the council's carbon footprint, reduce leasing costs and was good news for the environment.

305 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alder, Beckett, Bell, Boylan, R Buckmaster, Cutting, Hollebon, McMullen, Rutland-Barsby, Snowdon, Stevenson and Townsend.

306 MINUTES - 14 DECEMBER 2022

Councillor Curtis said he asked at the last meeting if the council used the official definition of anti-Semitism and asked for it to be confirmed in the minutes.

Councillor Curtis referred to the 'North of Hertford – Land West of Wadesmill Road (HERT4, Phase 2) Masterplanning' item and said that he said he would vote in line with the ward members on the item, not that he wouldn't be voting at all.

Councillor Haysey proposed, and Councillor E Buckmaster seconded a motion that the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2022 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman, subject to the amendments raised by Councillor Curtis. On being put to the meeting and a vote taken, the motion was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the amendments raised by Councillor Curtis.

307 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

308 PETITIONS

No petitions were submitted.

309 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

310 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Question 1

Cllr Joseph Dumont to ask Cllr Jan Goodeve, the Executive Member for Planning and Growth

The members of Neighbourhood Planning Group in my Ward and Parish Councillors have been working hard and doing their best to develop the neighbourhood plan for Stanstead Abbots. They have found it difficult, especially because it is being proposed that green belt land is released. There is strong local feeling against the requirement to build 94 new homes.

Will the Executive Member tell me whether it is or is not the case that Stanstead Abbots will be more susceptible to green belt development, and if the quota of 94 homes can be more easily exceeded by developers if a Neighbourhood plan is not adopted?

Response

We recognise and commend the hard work that is underway to develop a neighbourhood plan for Stanstead Abbots.

In the East Herts District Plan, Group 1 Villages are identified as the most sustainable villages in the district and are expected to accommodate growth as part of the housing strategy. The requirement for at least 94 new homes in Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets is set out in Policy VILL1 of the District Plan. In accordance with the policy, if the housing requirement is not met by the adoption of a Neighbourhood Plan, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to identify the site for development through a Site Allocations Development Plan.

In this scenario the parish council and neighbourhood plan group would have less control in the allocation

and design of proposed sites.

Without a neighbourhood plan, there is potential for speculative development in the Green Belt. Even if the Council refuse an application, it could potentially be allowed at appeal if an Inspector considers 'very special circumstances' have been justified, particularly if weight is given to the argument that the District Plan requirement for 94 homes in the village has not been met. There is also no certainty that 94 homes will not be exceeded because the figure is not a limit but a minimum requirement.

The Council would prefer development to be planned so that the impacts on local infrastructure and character can be fully considered through the plan-making system. Allocation in a neighbourhood plan will ensure that the design and community benefits of any proposed scheme best reflect the ambitions of the local community.

There was no supplementary question.

Question 2

Cllr Mione Goldspink to ask Cllr Linda Haysey, the Leader of the Council

What actions can East Herts Council take to demonstrate its support for Asylum Seekers and Refugees who are seeking safety within our District?

Response

I would like to thank Cllr Goldspink for her question.

I believe that the council and indeed communities across our district can be proud of how East Herts has come together in recent years to demonstrate support those seeking refuge in our area.

Since 2016, the council has worked with local housing associations and community groups, such as Herts Welcomes Refugees, to support seven Syrian families settle in East Herts. The council has commissioned the Refugee Council to provide the necessary support. More recently, we have drawn on those same networks to provide homes for four Afghan families; so far, three families have settled here and we are currently identifying a fourth suitable property.

I know that Cllr Jonathan Kaye takes great care each year when leading the council's inclusive Holocaust Day commemorative event to recognise the often horrific circumstances refugees and asylum seekers are fleeing. I believe this demonstrates the genuine approach we have to welcoming people to East Herts. May I just take the opportunity, on Cllr Kaye's behalf, to invite you all to this year's commemorative event which will take place in person for the first time in three years at 6.30pm on Thursday, 26th January here in the Council Chamber.

Finally, let me turn to the council's response to the war in Ukraine. I find it quite humbling when I think about the number of local people who have opened their homes to Ukrainian people as part of the government's Homes for Ukraine programme. The council has worked with Hertfordshire County Council every step

of the way on this scheme. To date, our Environmental Health team has conducted 183 inspections of hosts' properties, with new inspections happening each week within a few days of being requested. Thus far, this has ensured that 320 Ukrainian people have already been able to settle in East Herts with another 61 people with visas waiting to arrive once their hosts are ready for them. Of the Ukrainians who have already arrived, there are 200 adults and 120 children. In addition, there will be a small number of Ukrainians who have joined family members who have lived here for some time but exact numbers are not collated.

It is worth noting that East Herts has the second highest number of placements through the Homes for Ukraine programme in Hertfordshire; only St Albans has more.

As I mentioned, work to inspect hosts' properties is continuing and furthermore officers in the Housing service are now working closely with colleagues across the county to provide high quality support and advice on housing options. To date, 15 Ukrainian *households* have turned to the council for advice. In most cases, the households are settled with host households and are simply asking 'what happens next' questions. However, the Housing service has matched two Ukrainian households with another host household and helped another three households access the private rented sector. Over this time, the Housing service has provided short-term temporary accommodation for four Ukrainian households while helping them find a new home.

May I remind you that the council's website includes a

whole range of useful information for those coming to our district and residents wishing to support.

So, I hope I have been able to assure all members that East Herts Council has and continues to demonstrate its practical support for people seeking a place of safety in our district.

Supplementary question

Councillor Goldspink asked if the Leader would issue a statement expressing the Council's support for asylum seekers.

Response

The Leader said she would liaise with County Council colleagues to find the appropriate wording.

Question 3

Cllr Chris Wilson to ask Cllr Peter Boylan, the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods

Last month, a report was published entitled "The Better Social Housing Review". This report was jointly commissioned by the National Housing Federation and the Chartered Institute of Housing, and both these organisations accepted its findings in their entirety. Its recommendations included that Housing Associations should carry out an audit of every single one of their housing stock and that improved housing standards should be adopted by the associations within six months and fully implemented by three years. This of

course is with particular reference to the prevalence of health-endangering damp in many of this country's social housing. I, like many other members, have been shocked by the state of some of the housing our residents are living in.

Does Cllr Boylan agree that it is right that the Housing Associations should conduct such an audit and apply the proposed standards? If so does he agree that this council needs to hold these associations to account and make every effort to ensure they comply with all the recommendations of the Better Social Housing Review?"

Response

Both myself and officers within the Housing service are aware of this important report produced by the two leading 'trade bodies' for the affordable housing sector, the National Housing Federation and the Chartered Institute of Housing. It is also reassuring to note that the National Housing Federation's G15 group of housing associations was involved in preparation of the report as both Clarion Housing and Network Homes are members of this group.

The council welcomes the recommendations that, in summary, urge housing associations to work closely with their tenants to provide excellent support, maintenance and other services, including adopting a standard approach to stock audits.

The report's authors recognise the roles of the national Regulator for Social Housing and Housing

Ombudsman in promoting and monitoring housing associations' standards and performance. While the report does not articulate a specific role for local authorities, I'd like to assure members that East Herts Council can and does seek to promote high standards in the district. Of note:

- we have been proactive in establishing cross-party strategic member liaison groups with our two largest housing associations, Network and Clarion
- our Environmental Health team works with housing associations to tackle damp, mould and disrepair issues and
- we have provided grant and other support to enable Network Homes to set up a community hub in a previously vacant shop in Sele Farm.

In response to the report, officers will promote the council's support for its recommendations through the regular housing association liaison meetings, including seeking updates on the extent to which the associations are acting on the report's findings.

Question 4

Cllr Chris Wilson to ask Cllr Graham McAndrew, the Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability

At the full council meeting on 16th November, one of my residents, Mr James Dean, asked if the council would consider the adoption of a permit-type system to discount parking after 6.30pm for local residents who lived near council-operated car parks. Mr Dean,

along with some other nearby residents have no other realistic place to park besides Crown Terrace Car Park. It was stated that this would be looked into by officers but the new late-parking charges have since been implemented and there has been no indication of whether such a scheme can be initiated. Can you please provide an update on what discussions and/or decisions have been made so that Mr Dean and other affected residents can be appropriately informed?

Response

I thank Cllr Wilson for his question. We have a permit option that is available for Crown Terrace residents to allow them to park in the Crown Terrace car park. The Traffic Regulation Order that provides the requisite authority defines eligibility criteria in respect of address and currently the cost of each permit is £1,494.00 per year. The benefits of the permit scheme are that no daily payment is required and therefore from a convenience perspective this may be considered beneficial. In response to your request, I have discussed the matter with the Parking Services Manager, who has advised me that there are discretionary powers to offer this car park permit type to your constituent on the existing terms. I appreciate this isn't a discounted rate, however there is currently no authority for concessions.

Alternatively, the London Road resident has other options to park near their home. We have looked into this and there are several roads providing permitted parking on street, that are available in the evenings and on Sunday. These roads provide adequate

capacity for parking and are all within 5 minutes' walk of the resident's address.

As you will be aware the Council agreed to implement the evening and Sunday charges to ensure that those customers using the council's facilities contribute towards the costs of operating and maintaining the assets. Crown Terrace is a very popular car park, serving a number of groups including local businesses, workers, shoppers, and residents.

Supplementary question

Councillor Wilson asked what authority would be needed to offer the discount and whether this would be a long process?

Response

The Executive Member said he would look into it and provide Councillor Wilson with a response outside the meeting.

311 EXECUTIVE REPORT - 10 JANUARY 2023

The Leader of the Council presented a report setting out recommendations to the Council made by the Executive at its meetings on 10 January 2023.

312 ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2021/22

The Executive Member for Financial Sustainability presented the recommendation in the Executive report of 10 January 2023, regarding the Annual Treasury

Management Review 2021/22.

Councillor Williamson proposed that the recommendation in the report be supported.
Councillor Pope seconded the proposal.

The motion to support the recommendation having been proposed and seconded was put to the meeting and upon a vote being taken, was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED - That the Annual Treasury Management Review 2021/22 and the outturn Prudential Indicators be approved.

313 EAST HERTS UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND AND RURAL PROSPERITY FUND

The Leader of the Council presented the recommendations in the Executive report of 10 January 2023, regarding the East Herts UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural Prosperity Fund. She said that this funding replaced the various funds from the European Union and East Herts had been allocated over £1 million to be spent over a three-year period.

Councillor Haysey said that the council had engaged with the local community and the local MPs as to where the money should be spent and some of the money needed to be spent by March 2023 so the council had identified projects that were ready to go.

Councillor Haysey proposed that the recommendations in the report be supported.
Councillor Fernando seconded the proposal.

Councillor E Buckmaster said he was happy to support the recommendations and said that the Cultural Strategy was really important and some of the funding would go towards carrying out asset mapping across the district to find out what activities were already taking place. He also said that the Climate Change strategy was important and said the projects were admirable things to support.

Councillor Goldspink said that the Liberal Democrat group supported the recommendations in the report but said she was surprised that it had taken such a long time for the government to put forward these grants considering the Brexit vote was in 2016. She said she was shocked that the Council was required to make a decision and spend the money by March 2023.

Councillor Curtis said that there was a lot to be celebrated in the report. He said that business support was crucial and said the council could learn a lot from its colleagues in Harlow and Broxbourne who had allocated land for business use. He said that it was important to speed up the process for determining planning applications so that businesses look to invest in the district.

Councillor Kaye said he welcomed that East Herts had one of the highest allocations in the country. He referred to Councillor Goldspink's point about having to spend the money quickly but highlighted that was only for this year's allocation and there were two more financial years to come where decisions can be more considered.

Councillor Crystall also welcomed the funding and said it was good news for the district. He thanked the officers involved in the report on behalf of the Green Group. He referred to Appendix B and the funding to measure footfall in the town centres and asked if it was possible for Members to receive regular reports on it.

Councillor Goodeve confirmed this would be possible.

Councillor Deering referred to Councillor Goldspink's earlier comments about the slowness of the funding and said it was the credit of the Conservative government that the district was getting the money.

Councillor Wilson said he also welcomed the funding, especially the funding to the Bishop's Stortford Pride event. He said he had spent time speaking with the LGBTQ+ community and they felt that they were being neglected so hoped the funding would go some way to them getting recognised. He said there had been an overall reduction of 40% from the EU Funding to the UK funding and asked how the size of the funding differed.

Councillor Haysey said she would find out the details for Councillor Wilson. She said that she used to chair the LEP and said there were advantages in this scheme in that it was simple to administer and easy to pick own projects and monitor what was needed in the district. She said that the EU funding required massive amounts of paperwork and assessments to be completed and it was used for larger infrastructure

projects as opposed to local ones.

Councillor Kemp said that although the announcement of this fund was relatively recent, it had been on the horizon for some time so the council was to be commended on their advanced planning of projects that could be recognised. He referred to Councillor Curtis' point about land for business and employment use and said that the 2018 District Plan set aside land for that purpose.

The motion to support the recommendations having been proposed and seconded was put to the meeting and upon a vote being taken, was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED – That (A) the following amounts from the East Herts UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and the Rural Prosperity Fund (RPF) be agreed:

- up to £290,000 allocated from the UKSPF for delivery of the Cultural Strategy
- up to £566,000 allocated from the UKSPF for delivery of the Climate Change Strategy
- up to £630,000 allocated from the UKSPF and up to £236,421 from the RPF for delivery of town and village centre improvements
- up to £287,000 allocated from the UKSPF and up to £236,421 from the RPF for delivery of business support activity

(B) the award of UKSPF and RPF funded grants and/ or contracts to deliver:

- Cultural Strategy objectives be delegated to the Head of Housing and Health acting in consultation with the Executive Member for Communities
- Climate Change Strategy objectives be delegated to the Head of Housing and Health acting in consultation with the Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability
- Town and village centre objectives be delegated to the Head of Communications, Strategy and Policy acting in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Growth
- Business support objectives be delegated to the Head of Communications, Strategy and Policy acting in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Growth.

(C) this year's (2022-23) UKSPF allocation of £215,186 be allocated to the projects set out in Appendix B.

314 BISHOP'S STORTFORD TOWN COUNCIL CEMETERY BILL

Councillor Wyllie presented the Bishop's Stortford Town Council Cemetery Bill as the local Ward Member. He said that the Council resolved to promote a Private Bill to enable the reuse of burial space in two cemeteries in Bishop's Stortford on 16 November 2022 and there was a statutory requirement for the Council to now confirm that resolution and this report seeks that confirmation. He said that in order to promote the

Bill a resolution needs to be passed by a majority of the whole number of the members of the authority.

Councillor Wyllie proposed that the recommendation in the report be supported. Councillor Ward-Booth seconded the proposal.

Councillor Ward-Booth said the private bill would provide much needed expansion of cemetery space in Bishop's Stortford.

Councillor Curtis said he sympathised with the challenge faced of not enough cemetery space but said he would not be able to vote in favour of the bill due to religious reasons.

The motion to support the recommendations having been proposed and seconded was put to the meeting and upon a vote being taken, was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED – That the resolution for the promotion of the Bill intituled the Bishop's Stortford Cemetery Bill be confirmed which has been deposited in Parliament pursuant to the resolution of this Council passed at a meeting held on Wednesday 16 November 2022 be and is by this resolution confirmed.

315 MILLSTREAM 30 YEAR BUSINESS PLAN 2023/24

The Executive Member for Financial Sustainability presented the Millstream 30 Year Business Plan for 2023/24. He said that the property investment company was established in 2018 and was currently in

its fifth year of trading. The company was required to present its business plan each year and the council, as a company shareholder, must approve it.

The Head of Housing and Health spoke to the meeting in his role as a Director of Millstream. He assured Members that the company had met its deadline to provide a draft business plan to the Shareholder Advisory Group which provided the appropriate checking and scrutinising role under the shareholder agreement. He said that Millstream was still able to maximise income to its shareholders in the most tax efficient way possible, providing cash flow to the council from interest on existing loans and payments for officers' time at cost recovery plus five percent.

The Executive Member for Financial Sustainability added that the company provided much needed income to the council in excess of £160,000. He said that the company helped local people with low rents whilst the council received much needed income.

Councillor Williamson proposed that the recommendation in the report be supported.
Councillor Deering seconded the proposal.

Councillor Pope asked if current high inflation was a risk to the business.

The Director of Millstream said that the company model budget projection every year and take a range of adverse factors and feed them through the business plan. He said that high inflation had been previously considered and built in and the directors were

confident that they were able to model heightened inflation.

Councillor Crystall asked if there were any solar panels installed on the properties owned by Millstream or if there were plans to do so in the future.

The Director of Millstream said that there were not any solar panels currently. He said that any improvement works to properties would seek to improve energy performance.

The motion to support the recommendation having been proposed and seconded was put to the meeting and upon a vote being taken, was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED – That Millstream Property Investment Ltd’s 2023/24 30 Year Business Plan, presented in the EXEMPT Appendix A, be approved.

316 PROTOCOL FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PLANNING APPLICATION REPRESENTATIONS

The Executive Member for Planning and Growth presented the Protocol for the submission of Planning Application Representations report. She said that the proposal was to ensure that the Development Management Committee continued to operate in an efficient manner and to avoid delays in decision making.

The Executive Member for Planning and Growth said that in most cases, representations were made and

received during the consultation period and officers were able to consider them in full and formulate a committee report. She said that further representations were often made after the agenda was published and some representations were so substantive that it was difficult to fully consider them and provide advice to Members which sometimes meant the meeting had to be adjourned or reconvened.

The Executive Member for Planning and Growth said that the report proposed that the council adopt a position that all representations should be received by 5pm, three working days before the meeting. She said that this would give Officers two working days to consider all representations. She said that there was no intention to curtail the legitimate right of all stakeholders to submit representations but was to encourage all parties to act in a reasonable way so the committee can be correctly advised.

Councillor Goodeve proposed that the recommendation in the report be supported. Councillor Huggins seconded the proposal.

Councillor Goldspink said she supported the idea behind the proposals but proposed an amendment to the deadline for submitting representations. She proposed that the words "should be received by the council not later than 5pm on the third working day prior to" with "should be received by the council not later than midnight on the Sunday before the DMC meeting on the Wednesday".

Councillor Dumont seconded the amendment.

Councillor Goodeve said that the addition of a Sunday deadline would not be transferable when a Development Management Committee was held on another weekday.

Councillor E Buckmaster said that he could not agree with the amendment and understood the substantial work that Officers and Members have when representations come in late.

Councillor Deering spoke as the Chairman of the Development Management Committee and said he was not supportive of the amendment. He said that it was crucial for officers to have enough time to consider the representation and to advise and guide Members. He said the proposal from Councillor Goodeve was sensible and reasonable.

Councillor Crofton said he was supportive of the original proposals. He said that in future it should be considered that more weight was given to local Members representations as they had local knowledge.

Councillor Kemp asked in what circumstances were late representations received and questioned how effective the protocol would be at stopping the late representations.

Councillor Goodeve said that it would not prevent late representations but it would send a strong message as to how the council would like things to operate. She

said that she suspected that the late submission of representations was being used on purpose to frustrate or delay applications.

Councillor Goldspink responded to the points made. She said she respected the amount of work undertaken by the planning officers but said many late representations were in response to the agenda being published and this deadline would not leave much time for the public to submit their comments. She said the Sunday deadline would make it fairer for the public.

The motion to support the amendments having been proposed and seconded was put to the meeting and upon a vote being taken, was declared LOST.

The meeting returned to debating the original proposal.

Councillor Crystall asked if it could be considered that the publication of the agenda could be brought forward a few days to give residents a fair chance at responding.

Councillor Goodeve said that it was not resident submissions that were presenting the department with challenges, it was the letters from legal firms.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services said that the publishing of agendas was set out in legislation so was not something the council could change.

Councillor Curtis said that Councillor Goodeve had

outlined the issue faced with legal firms putting in representations to delay the decision. He said that applications had a long consultation period and the Development Management Committee was often many months after the consultation period. He said that he didn't want the council taking longer to determine planning applications than they already were.

Councillor Deering said the planning process was not responsive. He said the notification of a planning application was sent out a long time before the decision was made.

Councillor Haysey said she was aware of extraordinarily long legal letters that had previously been submitted for strategic sites and said that they were unlikely to have been written after the agenda had been published.

Councillor Redfern questioned if the time deadline would change if the meeting was held in the day.

Councillor Dumont asked if this protocol was enforceable.

Councillor Goodeve said that the protocol outlined how the council would like its committee to operate. She said the council could not refuse late representations but complex legal documents needed time to be considered. She said the protocol would ensure things operated fairly for both residents and members.

Councillor Drake referred to Councillor Redfern's comment regarding daytime meetings. She said the start time of the meeting was irrelevant because the three working day deadline did not include the day of the meeting.

The motion to support the recommendations having been proposed and seconded was put to the meeting and upon a vote being taken, was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED – That (A) the Council adopt a Protocol in relation to the submission of representations regarding planning and other related applications that are due to be reported to the Development Management Committee as set out in Appendix 1 to this report; and

(B) delegation be given to the Head of Planning and Building Control in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Growth to revise and amend the detailed wording of the Protocol, as set out in Appendix 1 to this report, prior to its publication.

317 REVIEW OF COUNCILLOR COMPLAINTS HANDLING PROCEDURE

The Chairman of the Standards Committee, Councillor Stowe, presented the Review of Councillor Complaints Handling Procedure. He said the procedure was last reviewed in 2011 and there were many things in it that need to be updated. He said that there was the addition of a local resolution stage to try and encourage town and parish councils to resolve

complaints before submitting to the Monitoring Officer.

Councillor Stowe proposed that the recommendations in the report be supported. Councillor Crofton seconded the proposal.

Councillor Goldspink said that the Liberal Democrat group were very happy to support the recommendations. She referred to Appendix A and the comments from the Standards Committee about a councillor acting 'in capacity'. She said she hoped that this would not be used as an excuse for poor behaviour.

Councillor Haysey said that it was important given the debate at the last Council meeting that all councillors should behave appropriately. She suggested that town and parish councils approached the Association of Herts Town and Parish Councils to provide training for councillors on the Code of Conduct.

Councillor Curtis said he was a member of the Executive at the Association of Herts Town and Parish Councils and said he was happy to feedback to them about engaging councils in training.

The motion to support the recommendations having been proposed and seconded was put to the meeting and upon a vote being taken, was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED - That (A) the comments from the Standards Committee and the Independent Person, as shown at Appendix A be considered,

and the recommended actions shown be endorsed; and

(B) the revised Councillor Complaints Handling Procedure, as amended by recommendation (a), contained at Appendix B be adopted.

318 MOTIONS ON NOTICE

There were no motions on notice.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Chairman
Date