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Jeff Hughes
*Head of Democratic and Legal
Support Services*

MEETING : STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE
VENUE : ROOM 27, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD
DATE : WEDNESDAY 4 JUNE 2014
TIME : 2.30 PM

PLEASE NOTE TIME AND VENUE

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

Councillors K Crofton, M Newman and M Wood.

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DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

1. A Member, present at a meeting of the Authority, or any committee, sub-committee, joint committee or joint sub-committee of the Authority, with a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in any matter to be considered or being considered at a meeting:
 - must not participate in any discussion of the matter at the meeting;
 - must not participate in any vote taken on the matter at the meeting;
 - must disclose the interest to the meeting, whether registered or not, subject to the provisions of section 32 of the Localism Act 2011;
 - if the interest is not registered and is not the subject of a pending notification, must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days;
 - must leave the room while any discussion or voting takes place.
2. A DPI is an interest of a Member or their partner (which means spouse or civil partner, a person with whom they are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom they are living as if they were civil partners) within the descriptions as defined in the Localism Act 2011.
3. The Authority may grant a Member dispensation, but only in limited circumstances, to enable him/her to participate and vote on a matter in which they have a DPI.
4. It is a criminal offence to:
 - fail to disclose a disclosable pecuniary interest at a meeting if it is not on the register;
 - fail to notify the Monitoring Officer, within 28 days, of a DPI that is not on the register that a Member disclosed to a meeting;
 - participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which a Member has a DPI;
 - knowingly or recklessly provide information that is false or misleading in notifying the Monitoring Officer of a DPI or in disclosing such interest to a meeting.

(Note: The criminal penalties available to a court are to impose a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale and disqualification from being a councillor for up to 5 years.)

AGENDA:

1. Appointment of Chairman

To appoint a Chairman for this meeting.

2. Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence.

3. Chairman's Announcements

To receive any Chairman's announcements.

4. Minutes (Pages 5 – 6).

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2014.

5. Declarations of Interest

6. Complaint Against District Councillor – EHDC/1/2014

Report to follow.

7. Urgent Business

To consider such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration and is not likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE HELD IN
THE MEETING ROOM B -
CHARRINGTONS HOUSE, BISHOP'S
STORTFORD ON THURSDAY 6 MARCH
2014, AT 3.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor S Rutland-Barsby (Chairman)
Councillors K Crofton and M Wood

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Simon Drinkwater	- Monitoring Officer
Jeff Hughes	- Head of Democratic and Legal Support Services

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Philip Copland	- Independent Person
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7 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED – the Councillor S Rutland-Barsby be elected Chairman for this meeting.

8 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Sub-Committee held on 26 June 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

9 COMPLAINT IN RESPECT HUNSDON PARISH COUNCILLOR D GIBBS - INVESTIGATION REPORT

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report on a complaint alleging that Hunsdon Parish Councillor D Gibbs had breached Hunsdon Parish Council’s Councillors Code of Conduct.

The complaint was the subject of an investigation by an independent Investigating Officer appointed by the Monitoring Officer.

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Investigating Officer’s findings on the complaint in accordance with its approved procedure.

The Standards Sub-Committee, in consultation with the Independent Person, determined that, in relation to all the circumstances of the case, there was no evidence of any failure by Parish Councillor Gibbs to comply with the Code of Conduct and therefore, there was no case to answer.

The Sub-Committee noted that the Parish Council had not adopted a Code of Conduct required under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011. The Monitoring Officer undertook to remind the Parish Council of its statutory responsibility to adopt such a code.

The Monitoring Officer also undertook to convey to the Parish Council the Sub-Committee’s view that the decision now taken on the complaint should be seen as a starting point for a process of community reconciliation.

RESOLVED – that in relation to all the circumstances of the case, there was no evidence of any failure by Hunsdon Parish Councillor D Gibbs to comply with that Authority’s Code of Conduct and therefore, there was no case to answer.

The meeting closed at 3.25 pm

Chairman
Date