

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS,
HERTFORD ON WEDNESDAY 1 JULY
2026, AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT:

District Council Members:

Councillors V Burt, N Clements, C Horner,
V Smith, T Stowe and R Townsend

Independent Person:

Nicolas Moss

Parish Council
Member

Councillors I Hunt,

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Erica Carter

Stephanie
Tarrant

Victoria
Wilders

- Committee
Support Officer
- Assistant Director
for Democracy,
Elections and
Information
Governance
- Assistant Chief
Legal Officer
(Hertfordshire
County Council)

1 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

It was moved by Councillor Horner and seconded by
Councillor Smith, that Councillor Clements be appointed
Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee for the 2026/27

civic year. After being put to the meeting and a vote taken, the motion was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED – that Councillor Clements be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee for the 2026/27 civic year.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received by Councillor Parsad-Wyatt.

3 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair reminded Members to use their microphones so they could be heard on the webcast.

The full webcast of the meeting can be viewed here:
[Standards Committee - 1 July 2026](#)

It was noted that the Monitoring Officer was on leave, and thanks were given to the Assistant Chief Legal Officer from Hertfordshire County Council for standing in.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5 MINUTES - 21 JANUARY 2026

It was moved by Councillor Stowe and seconded by Councillor Clements that the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2026 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

After being put to the meeting and a vote taken, the motion was declared CARRIED.

It was noted that Councillor Townsend abstained from the vote as he was not present at the meeting on 21 January 2026.

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2026 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

6 STANDARDS UPDATE REPORT

The Assistant Chief Legal officer presented the Standards update report on behalf of the Monitoring Officer.

Two standards complaints had been lodged since January 2026, and both had been concluded.

Members were updated on preparations related to local government reorganization, including discussions across Hertfordshire about forming voluntary joint standards committees to prepare for the new unitary authority. It was noted that the national government had not yet issued further updates on strengthening standards in public life, despite earlier expectations.

Members raised questions about the complaints process, including whether complainants' identities could be disclosed and whether parish-level complaints were normally referred back locally. It was confirmed that complaints and identities could not be disclosed and that complaints were referred back to Parish Councils.

Members discussed the value of forming voluntary committees early, given the limited time expected once the structural changes order was issued.

It was moved by Councillor Stowe and seconded by Councillor Smith that the recommendations, as detailed, be approved. After being put to the meeting and a vote taken, this motion was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED – that (A) Members review recent complaint cases; and

(B) Members provide observations on preparations

for maintaining standards under the new authority
and national reforms.

7 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

The meeting closed at 7.10 pm

Chairman

Date