

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD IN THE
ROOM 27, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD ON
MONDAY 2 AUGUST 2010, AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT:

District Council Members:

Councillors R L Parker, P A Ruffles,
J P Warren and M Wood

Town Councils' Representative:

Mrs E Woods

Parish Councils' Representatives:

Mr J Jones
Mr C Marks

Independent Members:

Mr S Bouette
Mr D Farrell
Mr T Vickers (Chairman)

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillor D Andrews

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

194 APOLOGY

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Mr J Morphew.

RESOLVED ITEMS195 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING

In the absence of the Committee Chairman, Members elected Mr T Vickers to chair the meeting.

RESOLVED – that Mr T Vickers be elected Chairman for this meeting of the Standards Committee.

196 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee meeting held on 6 July 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

197 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Committee considered whether or not to exclude the press and public from the meeting during the discussion of the item of business detailed at Minute 198 below on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 7c of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. The Committee agreed that this item should be considered in public.

The Committee also agreed that both the Investigating Officer's report on the complaint and the Monitoring Officer's covering report did not contain any exempt information or personal data and should therefore be made available for public inspection.

RESOLVED – that (A) the matter detailed in Minute 198

below be considered in public, and

(B) as both the Investigating Officer's report on the complaint and the Monitoring Officer's covering report do not contain any exempt information or personal data they be made available for public inspection.

198 COMPLAINT IN RESPECT OF A COUNCILLOR,
REFERENCE EHDC/01/2010

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report in respect of a complaint detailing a series of allegations that Councillor M Tindale had breached East Hertfordshire District Council's Member Code of Conduct.

The complaint had been referred to the Monitoring Officer for investigation by the Assessment Sub-Committee.

The Committee noted the details of the allegations within the complaint.

The Committee considered the Investigating Officer's report on the allegations and the conclusions reached.

The Committee also considered comments submitted by the complainant on the Investigating Officer's report.

The Monitoring Officer advised that the Committee was required to consider the Investigating Officer's report and make one of the following findings:

- (a) the matter should be considered at a hearing (of the Committee) conducted under Regulation 18, or
- (b) the matter should be referred to the First-Tier Tribunal (Local Government Standards in England).

The Committee noted the criteria for referring a matter to the First-Tier Tribunal.

It was agreed that the matter should be considered at a

hearing of the Standards Committee.

The Committee also agreed to invite the complainant (Councillor D Clark) to attend the hearing as a witness.

The Monitoring Officer confirmed that the Investigating Officer would attend the hearing.

RESOLVED – that (A) in respect of the complaint referenced EHDC/01/2010, the Investigating Officer’s findings on the allegations be considered at a hearing of the Committee pursuant to the provisions of Regulation 18 of The Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008, and

(B) the complainant be invited to attend the hearing referred to in (A) above as a witness.

The meeting closed at 7.25 am

Chairman
Date