

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE

PARISH COUNCILS STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE

4.00 P.M., ON TUESDAY, 16 MAY, 2006

IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PRESENT:

Mrs. S. Williams – Independent Member (Chairman)

Mr. M. King – Independent Member (Vice-Chairman)

District Councillors:

Bennett, Mrs. D.J.

Toth, J.

Parish/Town Councillors:

Williams, Mrs. P.

Independent Members:

Mr. M. Elliott

Mr. M. Beeso

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. G. M. Whitehouse, Mrs. P. A. Ansell, C. Mitchell and Parish Town Councillors D. Mawle, D. Clarke and R. J. Todd).

1. Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Mrs. S. Williams and Mr. M. King were appointed Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively for the 2006/07 Municipal Year.

2. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

<u>Member</u>	<u>Nature</u>	<u>Type</u>
Toth, J.	Member of Staffordshire County Council	Personal
Toth, J.	Council's CCTV/Social Alarms Section – Family Connection with Employee	Personal
Toth, J.	Member of Heath Hayes and Wimblebury Parish Council	Personal

3. Training Session in Respect of Local Investigations and Hearings

Further to Minute 18 of the Standards Committee held on 13 March, 2006, Members viewed a training DVD issued by the Standards Board for England in relation to Local Investigations and Hearings.

Members of the Standards Committee were invited to attend for this item.

Following the training Members discussed the fact that a number of Parish/Town Council representatives were not present and had, therefore, not had the opportunity to view the training DVD. It was considered that the timing and location of the meeting may have contributed to this and there was some discussion as to whether meetings could start later and be held at Parish/Town Council premises. It was agreed that the Monitoring Officer should write to the Clerks of each Parish/Town Council:

- with regard to the Local Investigations and Hearings training being provided by the Monitoring Officer at Parish/Town Council meetings and
- to enquire whether a change in the timing and location of future meetings of the Sub-Committee would assist attendance.

RESOLVED:

That the Monitoring Officer be recommended to write to each Parish/Town Council:

- (A) to request that arrangements be made for training in relation to Local Investigations and Hearings to be given by the Monitoring Officer at one of their meetings and
- (B) to consult on whether a change in the timing and location of future meetings of the Sub-Committee would enable more Members to attend.

4. Updates from the Monitoring Officer

Consideration was given to a report of the Monitoring Officer (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.10 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Following consideration of the report, Members considered that an update report of the Monitoring Officer be submitted to future meetings of the Sub-Committee. Consideration was also given to suggested dates for future meetings when it was agreed that the proposed meeting date of 14 May 2007 be rescheduled due to the Parish Council Elections to be held in May 2007.

With regard to local investigations, it was agreed that future update reports to the Sub-Committee should include information relating to the number of complaints made to the Standards Board, together with details of the number referred to the Ethical Standards Officer.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That an update report of the Monitoring Officer be submitted to future meetings of the Sub-Committee, to include details of the number of complaints made to the Standards Board, together with details of the number referred for investigation.
- (B) That the dates of future meetings be as follows:-
 - Wednesday, 15 August, 2006
 - Monday, 6 November, 2006
 - Monday, 5 February, 2007

5. Government Paper on the Future of the Ethical Regime for Local Government

Consideration was given to a report of the Monitoring Officer (Enclosure 6.1 – 6.4 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

6. Work Programme 2006-07

Consideration was given to the Work Programme of the Sub-Committee for 2006-07.

RESOLVED:

That the Work Programme for 2006/07 be as follows:-

- Further training for Members of the Sub-Committee.
- Additional training on general or specific topics for all Parish/Town Council Members.
- Preparing guidance for distribution to all Parish/Town Council Members in relation to the Code of Conduct.
- Developing local protocols for Parish/Town Council's to consider.
- Any other matters that Parish/Town Council representatives have been asked to raise by their respective Councils.

CHAIRMAN