

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON
THURSDAY 14 APRIL, 2011 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT:

Betteridge, Mr. R. (Chairman), Independent Member
Mr. M. King, Independent Member (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

Ansell, Mrs. P.A.	Rowley, J.
Grice, Mrs. D.	
Chapman, Mrs. J.	Independent Member
Sindrey, G.	Independent Member
Allen, Mrs. M.	Cannock Wood Parish Council
Toth, J.	Norton Canes Parish Council

24. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. D. J. Bennett, A. Williams and Mr. M. Elliott, Independent Member.

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

<u>Member</u>	<u>Nature of Interest</u>	<u>Type</u>
Councillor J. Toth, Norton Canes Parish Council	Is standing in the forthcoming District Election	Personal

26. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 February, 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed.

27. Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

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PART 2

27. Application for Exemption from Political Restriction

Consideration was given to the NFP Report of the Monitoring Officer and Solicitor (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Councillor Toth expressed concern that contained within the report at 3.1 it stated that -

‘The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 provides that certain posts within local government shall be politically restricted. Certain types of post are defined as politically restricted in the Act such as the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Chief Officers. In addition any post paid at above spinal point 44 is designated and any other post.....’

and that this was incorrect since from 25 January, 2011 the reference to above spinal point 44 had been deleted. Councillor Toth asked if due to this, the list of posts politically restricted had been updated.

The Monitoring Officer and Solicitor informed the Committee that Councillor Toth was correct and the reference to above spinal point 44 had been removed. He would investigate whether the list of posts politically restricted had been updated and, if not, a review would be carried out. It was requested that the outcome of any review be reported back to the Committee.

The Committee considered that as the reference to spinal point 44 had been deleted, the post referred to in the report should be taken off the list of those politically restricted.

RESOLVED:

That the post referred to in the report be removed from the list of politically restricted posts.

28. Any other Business

Abolition of the Standards Regime

A copy of a letter with regard to the abolition of the Standards regime that was sent to the Chairman from the Department for Communities and Local Government was circulated at the meeting.

The Monitoring Officer and Solicitor explained that it was not, at present, clear what the position would be when the Standards Board was abolished. However, it was considered that authorities would be able to determine if they wanted to set up a Committee similar to the Standards Committee, but that they would have no statutory powers.

(The meeting closed at 4.45 p.m.)

CHAIRMAN