

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
STANDARDS COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, 17 AUGUST, 2010 AT 4.00PM
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
PART 1

PRESENT:

Betteridge, Mr. R. (Chairman) Independent Member

Councillors:

Ansell, Mrs. P.A.	Grice, Mrs. D.
Bennett, Mrs. D.J.	Rowley, J.
Burnett, J.	Williams, A.

Chapman, Mrs. J.	Independent Member
Sindrey, G.	Independent Member

Allen, Mrs. M.	Cannock Wood Parish Council
Pearson, A.	Hednesford Town Council

7. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Vice Chairman, Mr. M. King; Councillor Mrs. S.M. Cartwright; Mr. M. Elliott, Independent Member; Councillor D. Clarke, Norton Canes Parish Council; and Councillor Mrs. P. Williams, Rugeley Town Council.

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

No declarations of interests were declared.

9. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 June, 2010 be approved as a correct record.

10. Revised Code of Conduct/Guidance and Standards Matters and Associated Training Needs

Mr. A. Welch, Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer reported that nothing had been

forthcoming in this regard from Standards for England. Training may be a requirement in the Autumn / Winter, even in the absence of anything further from Standards for England, as it was recognised that the underlying principles of the Code of Conduct remained sound.

Further information might become available within the next few months as the Government had indicated that these issues would be addressed as part of its Decentralisation and Localism Bill to be published in October / November.

Depending on the legislation, it might be possible to consider joint training with Stafford BC members.

Bearing in mind all of the foregoing, it was agreed that the matter should be put back on the agenda for the next meeting of the Standards Committee on 10 November, 2010.

11. Proposed Abolition of Standards Board Regime

Mr. A. Welch, Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, referred to the letter which had been circulated from the Chair of Standards for England. He also referred to a question that had been raised in the House of Commons regarding the future of the Standards regime. Whilst the letter and other feedback indicated the Government's clear intention to abolish the Standards Board regime, it was felt that local Standards Committees would probably survive, albeit that it was unclear what the level of appeal above this would be. In principle, local authorities could approve their own local Codes of Conduct to ensure proper standards of behaviour amongst their Members.

12. Standards for England Annual Assembly, 2010

Members noted that that 2010 Annual Assembly had been cancelled.

13. Any Other Business

Members enquired what the implications of the proposals were for the immediate future of the Standards Committee.

The Solicitor and Monitoring advised that until such time as new legislation is made and the relevant timetables approved, nothing changes and Standards for England will continue to support local authorities, as required.

The meeting finished at 4.30 pm

CHAIRMAN