

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY, 18 MAY, 2005 AT 4.00 P.M.**  
**IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**  
**PART 1**

PRESENT: Councillors

Bennett, Mrs. D.J. (Vice-Chairman)

Ansell, Mrs. P.A.           Toth, J.  
Mitchell, C.

Mr. M. King – Independent Member  
Mrs. S. Williams – Independent Member  
Mrs. P. Williams – Parish Council Representative

(An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs. G. M. Whitehouse)

Councillor Mrs. D.J. Bennett in the Chair.

1.       **Declarations of Interests of Members and Parish Council Members in Contracts and Other Matters**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Nature of Interest</b>	<b>Type</b>
Ansell, Mrs. P.A.	Member of Cannock Wood Parish Council	Personal
Toth, J.	Member of Heath Hayes and Wimblebury Parish Council	Personal
Toth, J.	Member of Staffordshire County Council	Personal
Toth, J.	Partner Employed by the Council's CCTV/Social Alarms Section	Personal
Williams, Mrs. P.	Member of Rugeley Town Council	Personal

## 2. Discussion on the Chairman of the Standards Committee

The Monitoring Officer reported that Council on 29 September, 2005 resolved that the Parish Council's Standards Sub Committee appoint as its Chairman an Independent Member, as recommended by the Standards Board for England. It was also reported however that the Standards Board also recommend that the Chairman of the Standards Committee be an Independent Member.

The Committee gave consideration to recommending to Council the appointment of an Independent Member as Chairman of the Standards Committee. The Committee also considered that Council be recommended to appoint an Independent Member as Vice Chairman of the Standards Committee.

The voting of those Independent Members, recommended to be appointed as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Standards Committee, was undertaken by a secret ballot.

RESOLVED:

(A) That Council on 29 June 2005 be recommended to appoint as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Standards Committee Independent Members, as recommended by the Standards Board for England.

(B) That subject to the approval of (A) above, Council be recommended to appoint Mrs. S. Williams as Chairman of the Standards Committee and Mr. M. King as Vice Chairman of the Standards Committee.

## 3. Terms of Reference for the Standards Committee

Consideration was given to proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Standards Committee.

RESOLVED:

That Council on 29 June, 2005 be recommended to approve amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Standards Committee.

## 4. Terms of Reference for Parish Councils' Standards Sub-Committee

Consideration was given to a proposed Terms of Reference for the Parish Council's Standards Sub Committee.

Following consideration of the Terms of Reference, Members considered that the Vice Chairman of the Sub Committee be appointed from amongst the Independent Members appointed to the Sub Committee. It was agreed that paragraph 3.2 of the Terms of Reference be deleted and that paragraph 3.1 be amended to read:

"The Chairman and Vice Chairman shall be appointed by the Sub Committee from amongst the Independent Members appointed to the Sub Committee".

RESOLVED:

That Council on 29 June, 2005 be recommended to approve the Terms of Reference for the Parish Council's Standards Sub Committee, as amended.

5. **Discussion on the District Councillors' Representation on the Parish Councils' Standards Sub-Committee**

Consideration was given to the appointment of District Councillors to the Parish Council's Standards Sub Committee.

RESOLVED:

That this matter be deferred for consideration to the next meeting of the Standards Committee when the membership of the Standards Committee will be known following the Annual Meeting of the Council.

6. **Work Programme**

Consideration was given to a proposed work programme for the Standards Committee.

RESOLVED:

(A) That the work programme for the Standards Committee be approved as follows:

- (i) Development of a protocol for future relations between political groups and officers.
- (ii) Development of a protocol for dealing with the press including consideration of previous press conferences.
- (iii) Training for Members of the Council.
- (iv) Recommendations from the Scrutiny Committee regarding the Annual Audit Letter.

(B) That the development of a protocol for dealing with the press, including consideration of previous press conferences, be the first item of the Work Programme to be considered.

7. **Feedback from Independent Members' Induction Training**

The Committee noted the outcome of the training session held for the Independent Members on 13 May, 2005.

8. **Training Event for Standards Committee Members and Parish Councils' Standards Sub-Committee Members – 14 June 2005**

Consideration was given to holding a training event for Members of the Standards Committee and Parish Council's Standards Sub Committee on 14 June, 2005.

RESOLVED:

That an in-house training event be arranged for Members, Independent Members and Parish Council's Members of both the Standards Committee and Parish Council's Standards Sub Committee at 4.00 p.m. on 14 June, 2005.

9. **Proposals for Date of Specialised Training Event**

The Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive reported that the Local Government Group (LGG) had advised that the cost associated for providing a specialised training event for Members, Independent Members and Parish Council Members would be approximately £1,700. In addition, an additional £12.00 would be charged for providing each delegate with a training pack.

RESOLVED:

That the Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive submit to the next meeting of the Standards Committee proposed dates for the training event.

CHAIRMAN