

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE
HELD ON 13 JUNE 2007
(FROM 5.30 PM TO 5.46 PM)**

PRESENT: Mr G Badcock in the Chair. Dr M J French and Mrs R Richards (Appointed Members) and Mrs Holdsworth (Parish Co-opted Member). Councillors Hawkins, Pauline McHardy and Willis.

Late Arrivals: None.

Early Departures: None.

01/07 - **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES:**

There were no apologies for absence or notification of any substitutes.

(5.31 pm)

02/07 - **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Councillor Hawkins declared a personal interest as a Member of Knaresborough Town Council. Mrs A Holdsworth declared a personal interest as a Member of Killinghall Parish Council.

(5.32 pm)

03/07 - **MINUTES:** In relation to Minute 21/06 - Officers' Code of Conduct: Gifts and Hospitality, Dr French requested an update concerning the Monitoring Officer bringing a further report to the Committee in respect of proposed revisions to the statement of guidance on gifts and hospitality issued to Chief Officers. The Monitoring Officer confirmed that he had been unable to present the report before the end of the last municipal year due to a number of other important issues that were still outstanding. Mr Badcock queried whether a timeframe could be provided for producing the report. It was advised that it would not be possible to provide an exact timeframe at the present stage. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised the Committee that he would aim to ensure that the report would be made available to the Committee by the end of the year.

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 27 February 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

(Six Members voted in favour of the motion with one abstaining).

(5.32 pm - 5.37 pm)

04/07 - **EXEMPT INFORMATION:** There were no exempt information items.

(5.37 pm)

05/07 - **PUBLIC ARRANGEMENTS – QUESTIONS:** No questions had been received.

(5.37 pm)

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MATTER REFERRED TO COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION

06/07 - **REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS:** The Monitoring Officer submitted a written report regarding the revised Code of Conduct for Members. He reported that under the Local Government Act 2000 the Council and the Parish Councils in the district had until the end of September to adopt the new Code. It was noted that if the new Code was not adopted by then, then its provisions were binding on the Members without having been adopted. The Monitoring Officer reported that a number of Councils and Parish Councils had already adopted the revised Code. It was anticipated that the Council would adopt the Code at the Council meeting, scheduled to take place on Thursday 19th July.

RECOMMENDED (UNANIMOUSLY):

That the Committee endorses the revised code set out in Appendix 1 to the report in place of the Code of Conduct currently forming Appendix 1 to Part 5: Codes and Protocols: Conduct of Members, of the Constitution.

(5.37 pm - 5.46 pm)