

**GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD ON 27 SEPTEMBER 2007
(FROM 5.30 PM TO 7.02 PM)**

PRESENT: Councillor Harrison in the Chair. Councillors Anthony Alton, Jean Burdett, Jean Butterfield, Mrs de Courcey-Bayley, John Fox, Galloway, Bob Nash, Newby, Geoff Webber and Andrew Williams.

Late Arrivals: Councillor Williams at 5.45 pm

Early Departures: None

14/07 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES:

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Elwyn Hinchcliffe. Notification had been received that Councillor Jean Burdett was to act as Substitute for Councillor Hawkins.

(5.30 pm)

15/07 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Councillor Jean Butterfield declared a prejudicial interest as described in Minute 20/07 below.

The Chair referred to agenda item 12 - Killinghall Parish Boundary (Minute 25/07 below refers) and advised that when the issue was last discussed he had declared a prejudicial interest but that the new Code of Conduct for Members did not require that of him in his dual-hatted role as a member of the Parish Council. The Chair, therefore, would now be declaring a personal interest in the matter and, notwithstanding any view that the Parish Council had already expressed, he considered that it did not bind him personally and he would be considering the matter afresh at this meeting.

(5.31 pm to 5.32 pm)

16/07 - MINUTES: The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 28 June 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

(Eight Members voted for the motion and there were two abstentions)

(5.33 pm)

17/07 - EXEMPT INFORMATION: There were no exempt information items.

18/07 - PUBLIC ARRANGEMENTS - QUESTIONS: There were no questions to consider pursuant to Standing Order 27.

MATTERS WHICH ARE REFERRED TO COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION

19/07 - THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT 2006 - DELEGATION ARRANGEMENTS: A report in the name of the Head of Public Protection was submitted, which recommended that the Scheme of Delegation be amended to enable the Director of Community Services to exercise powers and duties under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. The Licensing Committee had, at its meeting held on 13 September 2007,

recommended that the Constitution be amended accordingly. The proposed amendment was attached as Appendix 3 to the report.

RECOMMENDED (UNANIMOUSLY):

That the Director of Community Services be given delegated authority to exercise the powers and duties arising under the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and any associated Regulations.

(6.00 pm to 6.01 pm)

20/07 - **NORTH YORKSHIRE STRATEGIC HOUSING BOARD:** A report in the name of the Director of Community Services was submitted, which recommended that the North Yorkshire Strategic Housing Board be formally recognised and included in the Council's Constitution, with the Cabinet Member for Housing as the Council's approved representative. Members requested further information on the Board before making a decision on the matter, although it was accepted that the Cabinet Member would continue attending meetings in the interim.

(Councillor Jean Butterfield declared a prejudicial interest in the item and left the meeting room during the discussion and vote thereon)

RECOMMENDED:

That consideration be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee to enable the Head of Housing to submit further information.

(Six Members voted for the motion and four against)

(6.01 pm to 6.15 pm)

21/07 - **MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES:** A report in the name of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services was submitted regarding allowances payable to the Parish Co-opted Member attending meetings of Standards Committee. The Member Services Manager referred to General Purposes Committee Minute 43/06 and advised that responses received from other authorities regarding their payments was attached as Appendix A to the report. The Officer referred Members to paragraph 3.4 of the report and to the options set out. Currently Parish Co-opted Members received £25 per meeting of the Standards Sub-Committee but the representative who also served on the Standards Committee received an allowance of £1,250, which was in line with other co-opted (appointed) members of that Committee. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services also reported on the matter. A full discussion ensued and it was,

RECOMMENDED (UNANIMOUSLY):

That consideration be deferred and the Independent Remuneration Panel be requested to review payments to all independent appointed and co-opted members on both the Standards Committee and the Standards Sub-Committee for report back to the Committee with the current payments remaining for the time being.

(6.15 pm to 6.30 pm)

22/07 - REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO THE PLANNING CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE: A

report in the name of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services was submitted and the Principal Solicitor referred to the amendments recommended to be made to the Planning Code of Good Practice as a result of the adoption of the new Code of Conduct for Members. The report had been considered by Standards Committee at its meeting held on 19 September and a copy of that Committee's Minute 12/07 was circulated at the meeting. The Committee had endorsed amendments 1-5 and 7-9 but had not accepted proposed amendment 6 in full, as detailed in the Minute.

Concerning proposed amendment 6, the Principal Solicitor referred Members to Section 3 of the covering report and particularly to paragraph 3.7, which set out the proposed arrangements for Members other than Planning Committee members to speak at those meetings. The Committee did not agree with Standards Committee and concurred with the Officer's recommendation in that Members, other than Ward Members, and not having a prejudicial interest, should speak with the consent of the Chair. It was also noted that when required, the Chair of Planning Committee, used discretion to allow a longer time for speakers.

RECOMMENDED (UNANIMOUSLY):

That Standards Committee Minute 12/07 is not endorsed by this Committee and that the Officer's recommendation be approved, so that the Council accepts and adopts the revisions to the Planning Code of Conduct as set out in the Appendix to the report.

(6.30 pm to 7.01 pm)

23/07 - HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE - APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR:

The Committee considered the appointment of a standing Vice-Chair of the Human Resources Committee. Currently, in the absence of the Chair the Committee voted a chair for the meeting on an ad hoc basis.

RECOMMENDED (UNANIMOUSLY):

That Councillor Bob Nash be appointed Vice-Chair of the Human Resources Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

(7.01 pm to 7.02 pm)