

## SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the STANDARDS COMMITTEE held on 30 March 2009, in Committee Room 2, The Civic Centre, Portholme Road, Selby, commencing at 4.00pm.

736	Minutes
737	Planned Training and Development
738	Annual Standards Board Conference
739	Update Monitoring Report
740	Draft Standards Committee Annual Report 2008/09

Present: Miss B Potts in the Chair.

Councillors: C Lunn

Mr B Crossdale (Parish Council representative), Mr R Parker (Parish Council representative)

Officials: Monitoring Officer, Senior Solicitor and Committee Administrator

Public: 0

Press: 0

### 734 **Apologies for Absence**

Ms H Putman (Independent Member) and Councillor Ms M Davis

### 735 **Disclosure of Interest**

None

### 736 **Minutes**

The Monitoring Officer updated members on issues raised in Minute 361

- In response to queries concerning sanctions that could be imposed, the senior solicitor issued documents to members that detailed sanctions and explained the sanctions procedures.
- In response to queries relating to clarification of the budget available for training fees and Decision Notice publications, the Monitoring Officers confirmed, that whilst there was no specific budget allocated, the Council would fund any training requirements or notice

publication costs which the committee deemed necessary.

**Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 13 October 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.**

737 **Planned Training and Development**

The Monitoring Officer informed members about plans for training sessions for Parish Councils regarding Declaration and Conflicts of Interests. The aim would be to invite all Parish, Town and District Councillors. The Senior Solicitor informed members that as a new revised Code of Conduct was expected to be issued soon, the training would be linked into this.

738 **Annual Standards Board Conference**

The Senior Solicitor informed members of the Annual Standards Board Conference, due to be held in Birmingham on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> October 2009. This was a very useful conference and nominations were sought for attendees.

**Resolved:**

**It was agreed that two places be reserved at this conference.**

739 **Update Monitoring Report**

The Monitoring Officer presented the monitoring report and requested feedback on the new format. Members liked the new format and requested future reports be presented in this format.

The Monitoring Officer was aware that some timescales taken to investigate some cases were lengthy but explained that this was mainly due to the introduction of the new procedures. It was envisaged that timescales would improve as both Officers and members became more circumspect with the investigations and the use of other options available to them.

The Senior Solicitor confirmed that some of the procedures involved were time consuming and could not be shortened but other actions, such as sanctions could perhaps be used in place of full investigations.

740 **Draft Standards Committee Annual Report 2008/09**

The Monitoring Officer presented the draft report and requested comments by the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2009. As the vice chair was absent, it was agreed her

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comments should be received as soon as possible in order for the final report be presented to full council in June.

R Parker requested his name be spelt correctly and asked that the final report be circulated to all Parish Councils, possibly via the Parish Forums and newsletter.

The Monitoring Officer informed members that this was the Senior Solicitors last meeting as he would be leaving the authority at Easter. He passed on grateful thanks for his work concerning the Standard Committee and wished him well in his new career.

The meeting closed at 4.40pm.