

Minutes

Standards Committee

Venue:	Committee Room
Date:	23 January 2012
Present:	Councillors Mrs M Davis, C Lunn, Mrs K McSherry, R Parker, Miss H Putman (Chair) and Mrs W Stables
Apologies for Absence:	Councillor B Crossdale
Officers Present:	Jonathan Lund – Monitoring Officer, Caroline Fleming - Senior Solicitor and Karen Mann - Democratic Services Officer

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

18. MINUTES

The minutes from the Standards Committee meeting on the 26 September 2011 were submitted for approval.

The minutes of the Local Assessment Sub Committee and Review Sub Committee held on the 5 December 2011 were also submitted for approval.

RESOLVED:

- i) To receive, approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Standards Committee held on 26 September 2011, subject to minor amendments;.**
- ii) To receive, approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Local Assessment Sub Committee and Review Sub Committee meetings held on the 5 December 2011.**

19. CHAIR'S ADDRESS TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Chair thanked everyone for attending. The Chair proposed a change to the order of the agenda, to hear agenda item 8 prior to agenda item 5. This was agreed.

20. CASE MONITORING REPORT

The Monitoring Officer presented the current case monitoring report up to the end of December 2011.

Several of the outstanding reports were coming to an end. The Monitoring Officer had passed several complaints to an external investigation officer to assist in bringing them to a conclusion.

RESOLVED: To receive and note the report

21. PRIVATE SESSION

To exclude the press and the public from the meeting in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 because, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, there is likely to be disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section 100(1) of the Act as described in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act.

22. COMPLAINT SDC2011010 - REPORT BACK ON "OTHER ACTION"

The Monitoring Officer presented a report setting out the action taken following the decision of the Local Assessment Sub-committee to respond to Complaint SDC 2011010 by way of other action.

The Committee noted the action taken and the co-operation of the subject member and it was determined.

RESOLVED:

To note the report and conclude that the matter had been dealt with, to the Committee's satisfaction.

The meeting moved back into Public Session.

23. THE LOCALISM ACT 2011

The Monitoring Officer presented a draft report for the committee to consider prior to submission to full Council in February or April 2012. The Executive had already been briefed and had suggested an amendment to the report to include the possibility of having no Standards Committee.

The Monitoring Officer updated the committee of the changes contained in the Localism Act that would impact on the current Standards Committee.

The Standard Board for England ceases on 31 January 2012. The current Standards Committee continues until told otherwise (the latest indications being July 2012).

The committee members discussed possible amendments to the report. It was felt by that it was important to have meaningful Parish Council and Independent Member representation on the committee and appropriate mechanisms for appeals.

RESOLVED:

- i) To note the report**
- ii) To ask the Monitoring Officer to reflect the Committee's comments in the report to Council; and**
- iii) To make any appropriate amendments to the standard decision notice, to inform and give notice of changes to the complaints process**

The Chair thanked all members for their contributions.

The meeting closed at 6.25pm.