

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at County Hall, Northallerton on Thursday, 23 April 2009.

PRESENT:

Mr James F S Daghish (Chairman).

County Councillors David Jeffels, Brian Marshall, Caroline Seymour and Peter Sowray.

Independent Members: Henry Cronin and Dr Janet Holt.

Apologies were received from County Councillors J W Marshall and Jim Snowball; together with Independent Member Ms Gillian Fleming.

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

236. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 2 February 2009, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to an alteration under - Present – Apologies - which should read Independent Member Dr Janet Holt and not Hoult.

237. PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR STATEMENTS

The Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) reported that no notice of any public question or statement to be made to the Committee had been received.

238. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Monitoring Officer presenting for Members' consideration, requests from Members of Craven Area Committee, for a dispensation in almost identical terms and in respect of the same issue, from the Standards Committee.

The report outlined how the Craven Area Committee was shortly to give consideration to a report to determine issues pertinent to the County Council resulting from the imposition of car parking charges by Craven District Council in that area.

The County Councillors who had been invited to submit a dispensation application were also Members of Craven District Council. The non-voting co-opted Members who had been invited to submit a dispensation application were also Members of Craven District Council. Those Members were seeking a dispensation to enable them to speak and remain present during the consideration of that item.

The next meeting of the Craven Area Committee at which the issue would be discussed was to be held on 30 April 2009. It was noted that six of the seven voting

County Councillors were also Members of Craven District Council and, therefore, had a personal and prejudicial interest in this issue. The request had been made to ensure a quorum could be obtained for the meeting when the report was considered.

Of the Members entitled to apply for a dispensation it was noted that five voting and one non-voting Members had submitted applications.

Details of the dispensation process were outlined in the report.

The report also outlined how the Monitoring Officer had become aware that a similar issue had arisen recently in respect of dual hatted Members on the Yorkshire Coast and Moors County Area Committee and although that issue had been resolved as a bare quorum had been reached, such parking interests issues were increasing across all areas of the County and it was suggested that Members of the Standards Committee may wish to consider whether to invite such dual hatted Members on all Area Committees, after the elections, to apply for general dispensations in respect of car parking issues.

Members suggested that further information on this matter should be sought and a report should be developed and submitted for consideration at the next meeting of the Standards Committee.

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the applications for dispensation by County Councillors Philip Barrett, Polly English, David Heather, Robert Heseltine and David Ireton, to enable them to speak, vote and be included within the quorum at the meeting of the Area Committee on which they sit, when that Committee is determining issues pertinent to the County Council, in respect of Craven District Council's proposals for car parking charges in the Craven District, be approved;
- (ii) That the application for dispensation by the non-voting co-opted Member, Councillor Paul Whittaker, enabling him to speak at meetings of the Area Committee on which he sits, when that Committee is determining issues pertinent to the County Council, in respect of Craven District Council's proposals for car parking charges in the Craven District, be approved;
- (iii) That the dispensations be granted until the date of the local government elections in 2009; and
- (iv) That a further report be submitted to the next meeting of the Standards Committee allowing consideration to be given to whether to invite such dual hatted Members on all Area Committees, after the elections in June 2009, to apply for general dispensations in respect of such issues.

SL/ALJ