

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
STANDARDS COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2008 AT 4.00PM
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Betteridge, Mr. R. (Chairman)	}	Independent Members
King Mr. M.		

Ansell, Mrs. P.A.	Grice, Mrs. D.
Ball, G.D.	Holder, M.J.
Bennett, Mrs. D.J.	Williams, A.
Burnett, J.	

Pearson, A.	Hednesford Town Council
Fisher, P.A.	Brereton & Ravenhill Parish Council
Williams, Mrs. P.	Rugeley Town Council

Elliott, M.	Independent Member
Sindrey, G.	Independent Member
Chapman, Mrs. J.	Independent Member

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K. Baker, Brindley Heath Parish Council, Mrs. M. Allen, Cannock Wood Parish Council and D. Clarke, Norton Canes Parish Council).

3. Declarations of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

<u>Member</u>	<u>Nature of Interest</u>	<u>Type</u>
Grice, Mrs. D.	Member of Hednesford Town Council	Personal

4. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2008 be approved as a correct record.

5. Gifts and Hospitality – A Protocol for Councillors

Consideration was given to the Report of the Director of Governance (Enclosure 4.1 – 4.13 of

the Official Minutes of the Council).

Arising from consideration of the report, the Committee considered that the Protocol needed to take account of the different cultural differences that exist within society, particularly where refusing to accept a gift in some cultures could be considered an insult. The Director of Governance agreed to amend the protocol, indicating that Members who accept gifts in such circumstances should donate them to the Chairman's charities.

The Committee also agreed that paragraph 2(a)(vi) of the Protocol be amended to delete the figure of £10 on the basis that Members, when invited to attend a working lunch, would not know whether the lunch exceeded £10 a head.

RESOLVED:

(A) That the contents of the protocol on gifts and hospitality for Councillors be endorsed subject to the following amendments:

(ii) That the protocol take account of the different cultural differences that exist within society, particularly where refusing to accept a gift in some cultures could be considered an insult, and that where Members accept gifts in such circumstances they be donated to the Chairman's charities.

(iii) That the figure of £10 be deleted from paragraph 2(a)(vi) of the protocol.

(B) That Council be recommended to adopt the gifts and hospitality protocol for Councillors.

6. Initial Assessment of Standards Complaints – Assessment and Review Criteria

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Governance (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.12 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Arising from consideration of the report, the Committee agreed that the criteria be adopted for a period of 12 months and that it be reviewed following the expiry of that period.

RESOLVED:

That the initial assessment of standards complaint assessment and review criteria as included at Annex 1 of the report be adopted for a period of 12 months and that it be reviewed following the expiry of that period.

7. Referral of Complaints to the Standards Committee

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Governance (Enclosure 6.1 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Arising from consideration of the report, the Chairman stressed the importance of Members of the Committee maintaining and ensuring confidentiality when dealing with complaints against Councillors and it was agreed that he would write to all Members of the Committee reminding them of their obligations.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (B) That the Chairman write to all Members of the Committee reminding them of the importance of maintaining and ensuring confidentiality when dealing with complaints against Councillors.

CHAIRMAN