

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

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Minutes of a meeting of the Standards Committee held on Wednesday 9 July 2008 at City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 1405

Concluded 1440

PRESENT

Independent Members

Mrs P Essler, Mr G Dobson, The Very Revd Dr D J Ison and Mr M Shakeel

Parish and Town Council Member

Parish Councillor Mitchell

Councillors

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Owens	Ferriby	Q Khan
D Smith		

Apologies:

Parish Councillor Jay, Councillors Binney, Flowers and Ikram

Mrs P Essler in the Chair

1. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest in matters under consideration were received.

2. MINUTES

Resolved -

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 April 2008 be signed as a correct record.



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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Suzan Hemingway, Assistant Director Corporate Services (City Solicitor)



3. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no appeals submitted by the public to review decisions to restrict documents.

4. MONITORING OFFICER'S REPORT ON COMPLAINTS

The Monitoring Officer reported to the meeting the receipt of any complaint notified by the Standards Board for England, the stage that any notified complaint had reached and the final outcome on the consideration of a complaint as set out in the table below.

Date of SBE Notification	District or Parish/Town Councillor	SBE Initial Action	Current Position	Outcome
16 April 2008	District	Not to refer to Ethical Standards Officer – no potential breach of the Code of Conduct	Case Closed	No action
22 May 2008	District	Refer to Ethical Standards Officer for investigation		

Date of Complaint	District or Parish/Town Councillor	Initial Action of Standards Committee	Current Position	Outcome
13 May 2008	District	Initial assessment to be undertaken by Standards Committee		
29 June 2008	District	Initial assessment to be undertaken by Standards Committee		

Reference was made to a number of allegations which were from a particular Town Council but that did not feature in this report. The Monitoring Officer advised the Committee that the Standards Board for England had determined that none of the allegations were suitable for investigation. The Board however had issued a direction to her to work towards resolving issues between the parties concerned which she was in the process of undertaking. She would update the Standards Board for England on progress in relation to this matter. At the request of a member of the Committee the Monitoring Officer agreed to communicate this to the other members of the Town Council.

Resolved –

That the report be noted.

ACTION: Assistant Director Corporate Services (City Solicitor)

5. STANDARDS COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

An updated copy of the Committee's work programme was appended to the agenda for Members' information.

Resolved –

That the work programme as appended to the agenda be noted and updated by the Assistant Director of Corporate Services (City Solicitor) to take account of the schedule of meetings for the forthcoming year.

ACTION: Assistant Director Corporate Services (City Solicitor)

6. APPOINTMENT OF HEARINGS PANELS

The Committee was advised that the Constitution required it to appoint two Hearings Panels:-

- i) Hearings Panel (Bradford Council Members)
- ii) Hearings Panel (Parish and Town Councillors)

The Panels heard and determined allegations of breach of the relevant code(s) of conduct by Members of Council and of Parish and Town Councils respectively.

Resolved –

That the Hearings Panel (Bradford Council Members) and Hearings Panel (Parish and Town Councillors) be appointed with memberships and role and functions as contained in the Constitution and subject to the Rules of Procedure contained in Part 3 of the Constitution adopted by Annual Council on 20 May 2008.

ACTION: Assistant Director Corporate Services (City Solicitor)

7. SEVENTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF STANDARDS COMMITTEES

Members were asked to note that the seventh annual assembly of Standards Committees was to be held in Birmingham on 13-14 October 2008.

Three places had been reserved for delegates from Bradford to attend and the Committees was asked to nominate Members to take up those places.

Resolved –

- (1) That the three places reserved for delegates from Bradford be allocated as follows:**

**Mr Dobson
The Very Revd Dr D J Ison
Town Cllr Mitchell**

(2) That the following be held in reserve, to attend if necessary:

Cllr Q Khan
The Parish & Town Council member appointed to fill the current vacancy

ACTION: Assistant Director Corporate Services (City Solicitor)

8. DATES OF MEETINGS

The Committee was asked to consider the establishment of a programme for dates for the municipal year.

Resolved –

That the Committee meet on the following dates at 14.00:

11 September 2008

22 October 2008

4 December 2008

22 January 2009

5 March 2009

22 April 2009

ACTION: Assistant Director Corporate Services (City Solicitor)

Chair

Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of the Committee.

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THESE MINUTES HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER