

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Standards Committee held on 12 August 2008 at 7 pm

Present: Independent Members: Mr. Riddell (Chairman)
Mr. Hobbs (Vice-Chairman)

Cllrs. Dibsdall, Loney, Mrs. Morris and Mrs. Parkin.

Town/Parish Representatives: Mr. London and Mrs. Wallach.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Mrs. Dyball and Ryan,
Mr. Smith, Mrs. Schofield and Mr. Taylor.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 15 July 2008 be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mrs. Morris declared a personal and prejudicial interest on the basis that she knew and was on the same Parish Council as the first applicant, Mr Tony Austin. She therefore left the meeting during the interview and did not participate in voting for a Parish/Town Council Representative.

3. CONSIDERATION OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

Resolved: That, under section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the ground that likely disclosure of exempt information is involved as defined by the relevant paragraph of Schedule 12(A) to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006:

<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Head of Schedule 12(A) and Brief Description</u>
4.	Interviews for the Appointment of two Town/Parish Representatives and one Independent Member to the Standards Committee.	1. Information relating to any individual.

4. APPOINTMENT OF TWO ADDITIONAL TOWN/PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Following a decision taken by the Standards Committee (04.03.08), three applicants were interviewed for two additional Town/Parish Council Representative positions on the Committee. The interviews followed the procedure approved at the meeting of the

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Committee held on 3rd November 2005. Appropriate questions were asked of each interviewee.

After the interviews had taken place the Committee discussed each applicant in turn.

Resolved: That, subject to the receipt of satisfactory references, Mr. Gordon Clark and Mr. Tony Austin be appointed as Town/Parish Council Representatives for the Standards Committee of Sevenoaks District Council.

5. APPOINTMENT OF ONE ADDITIONAL INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Following a decision taken by the Standards Committee (04.03.08), four applicants were interviewed for the position of one additional Independent Member on the Committee. The interviews followed the procedure approved at the meeting of the Committee held on 3rd November 2005. Appropriate questions were asked of each interviewee.

After the interviews had taken place the Committee discussed each applicant in turn and was of the view that Mr. Painter should be appointed as an Independent Member of the Committee

The Committee was advised that one of the Independent Members, Mrs. Schofield, had been unable to attend meetings of the Committee for some considerable time. The Monitoring Officer was asked to contact Mrs. Schofield to ascertain whether she wished to remain a member of the Committee. Members decided that, should Mrs. Schofield not wish to continue as a member of the Committee, Mr. Reece should be appointed as an Independent Member of the Committee.

The Committee noted that the new Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 Part 2 Para 5 (1)(a) provided that a person may be appointed as an Independent Member of a Standards Committee only if the appointment was approved by a majority of the Members of the authority. Accordingly, the appointment of the Independent Member would be referred to Council on 23 September 2008 for approval.

Resolved: a) That, subject to the receipt of satisfactory references, it be recommended to Council that Mr. Keith Painter be appointed as an additional Independent Member of the Standards Committee; and

b) that, due to an immediate vacancy and subject to receipt of satisfactory references, it be recommended to Council that Mr. James Reece be appointed as an Independent Member of the Standards Committee.

THE MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 9.30 P.M.

Chairman

Note by Chief Executive

Following the meeting, Mrs. Schofield confirmed that she did not wish to continue as a member of the Committee.