

Minutes of a meeting of the
Standards Committee Assessment Sub-Committee held on
21 March 2012 commencing at 2:00 p.m.

Present:	Independent Member:	Mr A Smith (Chairman)
	Parish/Town Council Representative:	Cllr D Taylor
	District Council Representative:	Cllr Mrs D Morris
	Monitoring Officer:	Mrs C Nuttall
	Democratic Services Officer	Mr D Williamson

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved: That the meeting of the panel to discuss the allegation of Member misconduct (reference FC55), be held in confidential session.

3. CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALLEGATIONS THAT A MEMBER HAS BREACHED THE CODE OF CONDUCT

FC55

The matter related to a Parish Councillor.

Resolved: That the subject member be provided with a summary of the details of the complaint.

The potential breaches of the Code of Conduct identified were:

3. (1) You must treat others with respect.
- (2) You must not:
 - (b) bully any person;
 - (c) intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person who is or is likely to be a complainant, a witness, or involved in the administration of any investigation or proceedings in relation to an allegation that a Member (including yourself) has failed to comply with his or her authority's code of conduct;
5. You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office into disrepute,

**Standards Assessment / Review Sub-Committee –
Wednesday, 21 March 2012**

6. You:
(a) must not use or attempt to use your position as a Member improperly to confer on or secure for yourself or any other person, an advantage or disadvantage

Resolved: Referral of the complaint to the Monitoring Officer for investigation.

Reason

The Sub-Committee took advice from the Monitoring Officer as to its ability to proceed with the Assessment in the light of the alleged police investigation. It was agreed to go ahead, but one member was not happy with this from the subject member's point of view.

The Sub-Committee found some prima facie evidence of possible breaches, if proven, of paragraphs 3(1), 3(2)(b), 5 and 6(a) of the Code referred to above, but did not consider there was evidence of a possible breach of paragraph 3(2)(c). Concern was expressed at the lack of hard, independent evidence; and the fact that it was not known exactly what had been said. The Sub-Committee considered that the allegations were serious enough to be investigated, and that such an investigation should be able, relatively quickly, to establish if there was any hard, independent evidence to support the complaint.

THE MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 2:48 P.M.