



Epping Forest District Council

STANDARDS COMMITTEE Thursday, 2nd February, 2012

Place: Civic Offices, High Street, Epping

Room: Committee Room 1

Time: 7.30 pm

Committee Secretary: G Lunnun (The Office of the Chief Executive)
Tel: 01992 564244 Email: glunnun@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Members:

R Crone (Independent Member) (Chairman), J Guth (Independent Member) (Vice-Chairman), M Wright (Independent Member), Councillor Mrs A Grigg (District Council Appointee), Councillor A Mitchell MBE (District Council Appointee), Councillor Mrs J H Whitehouse (District Council Appointee)

Parish/Town Council Representative(s):

Councillors Mrs D Borton, Chris Pond and B Surtees

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

(Monitoring Officer) To welcome new members to the Committee – Councillor Ann Mitchell, MBE (District Council Appointee) and Councillor Chris Pond (Parish/Town Council Representative nominated by the Essex Association of Local Councils – Epping Forest Branch).

3. MINUTES (Pages 5 - 10)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2011 (attached).

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To declare interests in any item on the agenda.

5. LOCALISM ACT 2011 - NEW STANDARDS REGIME (Pages 11 - 64)

To consider the attached report.

6. LOCALISM ACT 2011 - BRIEFING ON NEW STANDARDS REGIME - 11 FEBRUARY 2012

(Deputy Monitoring Officer) Attention is drawn to this course being held in the Council Chamber on 11 February 2012 from 10.00am until 12 noon. The course is suitable for District Councillors, Parish/Town Councillors and Independent Members of the Standards Committee.

It will provide an outline of the statutory provisions and highlight those matters on which the District Council and Parish/Town Councils will have to address in the coming months.

Reference will also be made to the Act's provisions regarding "predetermination" of decisions by members in decision making.

7. INVESTIGATIONS UNDERTAKEN BY THE MONITORING OFFICER AND DEPUTY MONITORING OFFICER FOR OTHER AUTHORITIES

(Monitoring Officer) To receive an oral report on two investigations undertaken for other authorities.

8. ALLEGATIONS MADE ABOUT THE CONDUCT OF DISTRICT AND PARISH/TOWN COUNCILLORS (Pages 65 - 68)

(Monitoring Officer) To consider the attached schedule showing the current position of active cases.

9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

(Monitoring Officer) The next scheduled meeting is on 19 April 2012.

The calendar for 2012/13 provides for meetings of the Committee on 28 June 2012, 2 October 2012, 13 December 2012 and 28 March 2013.

Additional meetings can be arranged as and when required by the Committee.

10. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

To consider whether, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press should be excluded from the meeting for the items of business set out below on grounds that they will involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act indicated:

Agenda Item No	Subject	Exempt Information Paragraph Number
11	Allegations made about the Conduct of District and Parish/Town Councillors – Issues Arising	1

To resolve that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items which are confidential under Section 100(A)(2)

Agenda Item No	Subject
Nil	Nil

Paragraph 9 of the Council Procedure Rules contained in the Constitution require:

- (1) All business of the Council requiring to be transacted in the presence of the press and public to be completed by 10.00 p.m. at the latest.
- (2) At the time appointed under (1) above, the Chairman shall permit the completion of debate on any item still under consideration, and at his or her discretion, any other remaining business whereupon the Council shall proceed to exclude the public and press.
- (3) Any public business remaining to be dealt with shall be deferred until after the completion of the private part of the meeting, including items submitted for report rather than decision.

Background Papers: Paragraph 8 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Constitution define background papers as being documents relating to the subject matter of the report which in the Proper Officer's opinion:

- (a) disclose any facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the report is based; and
- (b) have been relied on to a material extent in preparing the report does not include published works or those which disclose exempt or confidential information (as defined in Rule 10) and in respect of executive reports, the advice of any political advisor.

Inspection of background papers may be arranged by contacting the officer responsible for the item.

11. ALLEGATIONS MADE ABOUT THE CONDUCT OF DISTRICT AND PARISH/TOWN COUNCILLORS - ISSUES ARISING

(Monitoring Officer) To discuss issues arising, if any, from Sub-Committee meetings held since the last meeting of the Standards Committee.