

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
16 JUNE 2009**

Present: Independent member: -  
Mrs S Fellows (in the Chair)

Councillors Bird, Daniel, Fawthrop, Martin and Soan.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr V Kempner and Councillor Roberts.

**1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

**2. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2009 be approved and signed by the chair as a correct record.

**3. ANNUAL REPORT OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE TO COUNCIL**

The Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer presented a report recommending a report to Council on the activities of Standards Committee for the previous municipal year. She submitted a draft report to the Council on matters within the Standards Committee's remit occurring during the previous municipal year.

**RESOLVED** that the draft report be adopted for reference to full Council subject to the following amendments: -

- (a) addition of the words, "and chose to lose their allocation on the Standards Committee", at the end of paragraph 2 (Membership); and
- (b) the addition of information about the publication of members allowances on the Council's website, at paragraph 13.

**4. LOCAL ASSESSMENT OF COMPLAINTS**

The Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer presented a report recommending that Committee delegated authority to her to seek to resolve suitable complaints informally without reference as a formal complaint to the Assessment Sub-Committee. Until now all complaints had to be referred to the Assessment Sub-Committee for assessment of the complaint. There would be cases where the matter could be resolved informally more quickly and effectively than through the formal process.

**RESOLVED** that Committee delegates authority to the Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chair or, in the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair, to seek to resolve

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**suitable complaints informally without reference as a formal complaint to the Assessment Sub-Committee, on the basis as set out in the report.**

**5. STANDARDS COMMITTEE WEB PAGE**

The Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer presented a report recommending the Committee to take a page on the Council's website. Whilst there was information on the Council's website about the Committee, the information was held in different places and it would be beneficial to have a dedicated webpage which explained the functions of the Committee, its membership and, in particular, its role of assessing, investigating and determining complaints against members. The report outlined other matters that could be included on the webpage.

**RESOLVED that: -**

- (1) the Monitoring Officer be instructed to draw up a web page giving publicity to the functions of the Standards Committee, in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and a representative from each of the two political groups on the Committee; and**
- (2) Councillors Bird and Daniel be appointed as the representatives of the Conservative and Labour Groups respectively.**

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.21 pm)