

## Standards Committee

- To:** Mrs Christine Bainton (Independent Member, in the Chair)  
Cllrs Scott (Vice-Chair), Barton, Runciman and Taylor  
Mr A L Dixon (Independent Member) and Mr M R Hall (Independent Member)  
Cllrs Crawford (Parish Council Member), Forster (Parish Council Member) and Mellors (Parish Council Member)
- Date:** Friday, 24 June 2011
- Time:** 3.00 pm
- Venue:** The Guildhall, York

## AGENDA

Note:

This meeting will be preceded by a short training / workshop session on the assessment of complaints received against members.

**1. Declarations of Interest**

At this point, Members are asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business on this agenda.

**2. Minutes**

(Pages 3 - 6)

To approve and sign the minutes of the last meeting of the Standards Committee, held on 17 December 2010.

- 3. Minutes of Sub-Committees** (Pages 7 - 16)  
To approve and sign the minutes of the following meetings of sub-committees:
- Assessment Sub-Committee - meetings held on 21 December 2010, 4 April 2011 and 27 April 2011
  - Review Sub-Committee – meeting held on 17 December 2010
  - Hearings Sub-Committee – meeting held on 11 February 2011
- 4. Public Participation**  
At this point in the meeting, members of the public who have registered their wish to speak, regarding an item on the agenda or an issue within the remit of the Standards Committee, may do so. The deadline for registering is **5:00 pm on 23 June 2011**.
- 5. Abolition of the Standards Regime** (Pages 17 - 20)  
This report provides an update on the future of the Standards Regime.
- 6. Application for Dispensation** (Pages 21 - 24)  
This report asks the Committee to consider a request from Bishopthorpe Parish Councillors for a dispensation from the Code of Conduct, to allow them to participate in decisions relating to the Village Hall.
- 7. Review of Work Plan**  
To review the work plan for the Standards Committee for the 2011- 2012 municipal year.
- 8. Urgent Business**  
Any other business which the Chair decides is urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democratic Services Officer responsible for this meeting:

Name: Fiona Young

Contact Details:

- Telephone – (01904) 551027
- E-mail – [fiona.young@york.gov.uk](mailto:fiona.young@york.gov.uk)

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

Contact details are set out above.

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- ensure that what you want to say speak relates to an item of business on the agenda or an issue which the committee has power to consider (speak to the Democracy Officer for advice on this);
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### Further information about what's being discussed at this meeting

All the reports which Members will be considering are available for viewing online on the Council's website. Alternatively, copies of individual reports or the full agenda are available from Democratic Services. Contact the Democracy Officer whose name and contact details are given on the agenda for the meeting. **Please note a small charge may be made for full copies of the agenda requested to cover administration costs.**

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### **Holding the Cabinet to Account**

The majority of councillors are not appointed to the Cabinet (39 out of 47). Any 3 non-Cabinet councillors can 'call-in' an item of business from a published Cabinet (or Cabinet Member Decision Session (CMDS)) agenda. The Cabinet will still discuss the 'called in' business on the published date and will set out its views for consideration by a specially convened Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC). That SMC meeting will then make its recommendations to the next scheduled Cabinet meeting in the following week, where a final decision on the 'called-in' business will be made.

### **Scrutiny Committees**

The purpose of all scrutiny and ad-hoc scrutiny committees appointed by the Council is to:

- Monitor the performance and effectiveness of services;
- Review existing policies and assist in the development of new ones, as necessary; and
- Monitor best value continuous service improvement plans

### **Who Gets Agenda and Reports for our Meetings?**

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City of York Council

Minutes

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MEETING	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
DATE	17 DECEMBER 2010
PRESENT	MRS BAINTON (INDEPENDENT MEMBER, IN THE CHAIR) COUNCILLORS HORTON (VICE-CHAIR), WAUDBY, HUDSON AND TAYLOR (CYC MEMBERS) MR HALL, (INDEPENDENT MEMBER) COUNCILLORS CRAWFORD AND FORSTER (PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS)
APOLOGIES	MR DIXON AND MR WILSON (INDEPENDENT MEMBERS) COUNCILLOR MELLORS (PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER)

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**19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda.

Cllrs Horton and Waudby each declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in agenda item 5 (Registers of Gifts and Hospitality), as former Lord Mayors who had been in receipt of tickets from the Racecourse.

**20. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 22 October 2010 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**21. MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES**

The minutes of the Standards Committee Assessment Sub-Committee meetings held on 22 October 2010 and 11 November 2010 were approved by the relevant members and signed as a correct record. The minutes of the 22 October meeting were signed by Mr Hall, who had chaired that meeting, while those of the 11 November meeting were signed by Mrs Bainton.

**22. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

**23. REGISTERS OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY**

Members received a report which responded to a resolution made at the meeting in January 2010, requesting an annual review of the registers of gifts and hospitality.

About half of City of York Council (CYC) Members, and a much lower proportion of Parish councillors, had entered details of gifts and hospitality in the register. Some CYC Members had gone further than the Code required, registering items of a value lower than £25. Previously, most CYC declarations had related to tickets to the Racecourse or Theatre Royal. However, race tickets were no longer offered generally to councillors and no theatre tickets appeared to have been accepted during 2010.

All CYC Members and Parish clerks had been reminded by the Monitoring Officer of the need to ensure that registers were kept up to date.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

REASON: For information.

**24. CHARTER FOR MEMBER DEVELOPMENT**

Members received a report which advised them of the City of York Council's successful bid for Member Development Charter status.

The Charter had been formally presented on 24 November 2010, following a successful external assessment on 28 September 2010. The assessment team had commented favourably on the Member Development Steering Group (MDSG), the annual programme and the Member Development Strategy.

The team made a number of suggestions for further improvement, as detailed in paragraph 4 of the report. Some of these would be taken forward by the MDSG at future meetings.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

REASON: For information.

**25. FIRST MONITOR OF MEMBER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT**

Members considered a report which informed them of the take-up of, and feedback from, member development events offered during the first half of 2010/11.

It was reported that, to date:

- 5 non-Executive Members had achieved the minimum target of attending 8 qualifying sessions, 4 of whom had exceeded the target;
- 2 Executive Members had achieved the minimum target of attending 12 qualifying sessions;



- all Executive Members had undertaken at least 2 qualifying events or activities;
- 7 non-Executive Members had not undertaken any qualifying events or activities.

A summary of feedback received from Members on development events and sessions was provided in paragraphs 10 to 13 of the report and in Annexes A and B.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be noted.

REASON: In order to comply with the monitoring arrangements set out in the Member Development Steering Group's Terms of Reference, as approved by Council.

**26. UPDATE ON GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS RELATING TO THE STANDARDS REGIME**

Members received a report which provided an update on the Government's proposals to abolish the 'Standards Board Regime'.

Recent correspondence received by the Standards Board from the Department for Communities and Local Government was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. This confirmed that, in addition to revoking the Code of Conduct and abolishing both the Standards Board and Standards committees, the Relevant Authorities (General Principles) Order 2001 would also be revoked.

The correspondence also set out proposed transitional arrangements and details of the 'post Standards Board' conduct regime. Local authorities would be able to adopt their own voluntary Code of Conduct but the only sanction for non-compliance would be censure. Councils could also establish their own Standards Committees, but these would be ordinary committees of the council and as such could not include voting external members.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

REASON: For information.

**27. REVIEW OF WORK PLAN**

Members reviewed the Committee's work plan for the remainder of the 2010/11 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED: (i) That the next meeting of the Standards Committee be held on 25 February 2011 (and not 22 January as stated on the work plan), and that a further update on government proposals relating to the Standards regime be received at that meeting.

(ii) That no further changes be made to the work plan at this stage.

REASON: In order to organise the future business of the Committee, whilst taking account of proposals to abolish the Standards regime.

C BAINTON

Independent Member, In the Chair

The meeting started at 3.00 pm and finished at 3.25 pm.

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

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MEETING	STANDARDS COMMITTEE ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE
DATE	21 DECEMBER 2010
PRESENT	MR DIXON (INDEPENDENT MEMBER, IN THE CHAIR) COUNCILLOR FORSTER (PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER) COUNCILLOR HORTON (CYC MEMBER)

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#### **8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda. No interests were declared.

#### **9. COMPLAINT AGAINST A MEMBER OF HEWORTH PARISH COUNCIL - INVESTIGATION RESULTS**

Members considered a report which presented the results of an investigation carried out in respect of a complaint against a member of Heworth Parish Council. The matter had been referred for investigation by an Assessment Sub-Committee on 25 June 2010.

The investigation had been carried out by the City of York Council's Deputy Monitoring Officer, whose final report was attached as Annex 1. It concluded that the member in question had not breached the Code of Conduct.

Members were reminded of their responsibilities at this stage, namely to decide whether to accept the findings of the Investigating Officer or whether the matter should be referred to the Hearings Sub-Committee for consideration or to the Adjudication Panel for determination.

Having considered all the information presented, it was

**RESOLVED:** That the matter be referred for consideration at a hearing before the Hearings Sub-Committee.

**REASON:** Members are of the view that there is a case to answer and that the subject member may be in breach of the Code of Conduct.

A Dixon, Chair

[The meeting started at 1.05 pm and finished at 1.20 pm].

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MEETING	STANDARDS COMMITTEE ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE
DATE	4 APRIL 2011
PRESENT	MRS BAINTON (INDEPENDENT MEMBER), HUDSON AND MELLORS (PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER)

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#### **10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda. No interests were declared.

#### **11. COMPLAINT AGAINST A MEMBER OF CITY OF YORK COUNCIL**

The Sub-Committee considered a complaint made against a member of City of York Council.

It was alleged that the subject member, by way of comments posted on a public website, had not treated others with respect, had disclosed confidential information and had brought the Council into disrepute, thus breaching paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of the Code of Conduct.

Having considered the evidence provided in support of the complaint, it was

RESOLVED: That no further action be taken in this case.

REASON: The Sub-Committee considers that there has been no breach of the Code, as the subject member was not acting in his official capacity, did not disclose information obtained by virtue of his position as a councillor and did not identify the complainant by name.

#### **12. COMPLAINT AGAINST A MEMBER OF OSBALDWICK PARISH COUNCIL**

The Sub-Committee considered a complaint made against a member of City of Osbaldwick Parish Council.

It was alleged that the subject member, by way of comments made to the complainant at a meeting of the parish council, had treated the complainant with disrespect and had brought the council into disrepute, thus breaching paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Code of Conduct.

Having considered the evidence provided in support of the complaint, including an additional letter from the complainant circulated at the meeting, it was

RESOLVED: That no further action be taken in this case.

REASON: The Sub-Committee considers that the allegations, if proven, would not amount to a breach of the Code, and is of the opinion that the situation has arisen due to the procedures adopted for the running of the parish council meetings.

**13. COMPLAINT AGAINST A MEMBER OF UPPER POPPLETON PARISH COUNCIL**

The Sub-Committee considered a complaint made against a member of Upper Poppleton Parish Council.

It was alleged that the subject member had failed to declare an interest in a charitable organisation of which he was a trustee when participating in a decision by the parish council to grant funding to that organisation, thus breaching paragraphs 5, 8, 9, 10 and 12 of the Code of Conduct.

Having considered the evidence provided, including the results of a search on the Charity Commission's website for details of the organisation in question, it was

RESOLVED: That no further action be taken in this case.

REASON: The Sub-Committee is satisfied that the subject member was not a trustee of the organisation in question at the time the decision was taken to approve the grant.

C Bainton, Chair

[The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 10.40 am].

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MEETING	STANDARDS COMMITTEE ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE
DATE	27 APRIL 2011
PRESENT	MR HALL (INDEPENDENT MEMBER, IN THE CHAIR) COUNCILLOR FORSTER (PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER), HALL (INDEPENDENT MEMBER) AND TAYLOR (CYC MEMBER)

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#### **14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No personal or prejudicial interests were declared by Members in the business on the agenda.

#### **15. COMPLAINT AGAINST MEMBERS OF OSBALDWICK PARISH COUNCIL**

The Sub-Committee considered a complaint made against eleven members of Osbaldwick Parish Council.

It was alleged that the subject members had all been involved in the production of a Parish Council newsletter, the contents of which supported the candidacy of the Parish Council Chair, Cllr Mark Warters, in the forthcoming City Council elections, thus breaching paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Code of Conduct. The newsletter had also contained comments about a City Councillor, allegedly in breach of paragraph 3 of the Code.

Having taken into account the evidence presented, including the view of the auditor that expenditure on the newsletter had been unlawful, it was

RESOLVED: That no action be taken.

REASON: The Sub-Committee considers that the actions of the subject members in producing the newsletter may amount to an improper use of the authority's resources for political purposes, in breach of paragraph 6 of the Code of Conduct, but that the circumstances of the potential breach do not warrant an investigation.

M Hall, Chair

[The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 10.15 am].

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MEETING	STANDARDS COMMITTEE REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE
DATE	17 DECEMBER 2010
PRESENT	MRS BAINTON (INDEPENDENT MEMBER, IN THE CHAIR) COUNCILLOR CRAWFORD (PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER) COUNCILLOR TAYLOR (CYC MEMBER)

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#### **10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda. No interests were declared.

#### **11. REVIEW OF A DECISION OF THE ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE ON A COMPLAINT AGAINST A MEMBER OF CITY OF YORK COUNCIL**

Members reviewed a decision made by the Assessment Sub-Committee on 22 October 2010 that no further action be taken in respect of a complaint made against a member of City of York Council. The review had been requested by the complainant on 25 November 2010, following the issue of a decision notice.

Having considered all the evidence, including the papers submitted to the Assessment Sub-Committee, the decision notice and the points made by the complainant in the review request, it was

**RESOLVED:** That the decision of the Assessment Sub-Committee on 22 October 2010 be endorsed and that no further action be taken in respect of this complaint.

**REASON:** The Review Sub-Committee is in agreement with the decision of the Assessment Sub-Committee and the reasons given for that decision, as set out in the decision notices.

C Bainton, Chair

[The meeting started at 2.30 pm and finished at 2.40 pm].

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MEETING	STANDARDS COMMITTEE HEARINGS SUB-COMMITTEE
DATE	11 FEBRUARY 2011
PRESENT	MR DIXON (INDEPENDENT MEMBER, IN THE CHAIR) COUNCILLOR FORSTER (PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER) COUNCILLOR HORTON (CYC MEMBER)

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**1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No personal or prejudicial interests were declared in the business on the agenda.

**2. PUBLIC OR PRIVATE HEARING**

It was agreed that the meeting be held in public.

**3. COMPLAINT AGAINST A MEMBER OF HEWORTH WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL**

Members considered a complaint made against Cllr Alice Thomas, of Heworth Without Parish Council, which had been referred to the Hearings Sub-Committee for determination following an investigation.

The complaint related to an allegation that the subject member had approached the complainant in an angry and threatening manner on a number of occasions, when he was waiting in his car in a restricted parking area to collect his daughter from school, and had shouted "I've got your registration. I'm a councillor and I am going to get you." The Assessment Sub-Committee had referred the case for investigation on 25 June 2010. On meeting again on 21 December 2010 to consider the report of the Investigating Officer, they had decided that there was a case to answer. The matter had therefore been referred for a hearing.

The complainant and subject member did not attend the hearing and no witnesses were in attendance. The Deputy Monitoring Officer attended in his role as Investigating Officer, to present his report.

Having considered all the evidence presented, it was

RESOLVED: (i) That Cllr Thomas failed to comply with paragraphs 2 and 5 of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct.


(ii) That a sanction of censure be applied for this breach.

REASON: (i) The Sub Committee accepts that Councillor Thomas was entitled to have concerns about parking on yellow lines and was entitled to express those concerns and to encourage drivers not to park inappropriately. However, the Sub Committee believes that Councillor Thomas went too far. She did not treat the complainant with respect and brought her office into disrepute.

(ii) The Sub-Committee considers this to be an appropriate sanction, taking into account the circumstances of the case, the time that has elapsed since the incidents and the supportive statement provided by the Parish Clerk.

A Dixon, Chair

[The meeting started at 9.30 am and finished at 10.10 am].

	
<b>STANDARDS COMMITTEE</b>	<b>24 June 2011</b>
<b>Report of the Monitoring Officer</b>	

## Abolition of the Standards Regime

### 1. Summary

1.1 This report updates Members on the future of the Standards Regime.

### 2. Background

2.1 Early in its life the Government confirmed an intention to abolish the "Standards Board" regime. Subsequently it became clear that this intention covered the abolition not only of the national Standards Board which issues guidance, oversees the system and arranges investigations of the most serious allegations but of the whole ethical framework for local government. The intention therefore covered the abolition of:

- The national code of conduct.
- Shared Parish Council/upper tier authority Standards Committees.
- The regime of local assessment, investigation and hearings with the power to impose a range of sanctions up to suspending Members from Office.
- The national Tribunal with power to disqualify Councillors from Office.

2.2 The Government's proposals have found their way into the Localism Bill, which has recently left the House of Commons for scrutiny in the Lords. After completing its Lords' stages the Bill will return to the Commons. It is not anticipated that this will occur until after the summer recess. The Bill is therefore unlikely to receive Royal Assent before late October or November of this year.

### Local Codes and investigations

2.3 The key provisions of the Bill other than those abolishing the existing arrangements include:

- a **duty** on a "relevant authority" to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members of the authority. This obligation extends to all "relevant authorities" which include parish councils, fire and rescue authorities and police authorities in England or in Wales.

- A **power** to adopt a code of conduct for their members. The Bill says that the authority must consider whether it is appropriate to investigate any written allegation that the local code has been breached and, if it decides that an investigation is appropriate, investigate the allegation "in such manner as it thinks fit". If an authority finds that a member or co-opted member of the authority has failed to comply with its code of conduct it may have regard to the failure in deciding whether and what action to take.

2.4 These provisions raise some interesting issues. Firstly, if a Council decides not to exercise its power to put in place a Code then there is no duty to investigate any allegation against a Member. Secondly, even if there is a Code, the new arrangements make no specific provisions for any sanction. Clearly, an authority could express its disapproval at a Member's actions, it could offer training or it could withdraw any facilities or allowances made to Members. Beyond that it is difficult to see what sanction would be available and the withdrawal of facilities depends upon them being offered in the first place – not the norm for Parish Councils. Finally, without the current statutory framework for a Standards Committee covering all the Parish Councils in an area, it is difficult to see how one Standards Committee could act for all the Parishes.

### **Register of Interests**

2.5 The Secretary of State is given powers to make Regulations requiring the registration of interests and setting out circumstances in which Members cannot participate in meetings at which business relating to their registered interest is being discussed. The regulations may also dictate what sanctions can be imposed by the Authority where a member fails to comply with these duties. Interestingly, the Secretary of State's powers under the Bill do not include provision for suspension, partial suspension or disqualification of members.

2.6 The Bill also creates new offences relating to failures to register interests in accordance with the regulations referred to above or participating in business when prohibited from doing so by the regulations. A conviction will bring a fine of up to £5000. The Court will also have the power to order disqualification for a period of up to 5 years from being a member or co-opted member of a relevant authority. The Director of Public Prosecutions must authorise any prosecution.

2.7 The Secretary of State will have the power to make transitional arrangements. It has previously been indicated that on the "appointed day" any ongoing investigations being handled at a national level will transfer to the relevant local authority. A local authority's Standards Committee will remain established until it had dealt with all outstanding complaints. However, the suspension sanction will be removed from Standards Committees for the transitional period. Any cases with which the First Tier Tribunal is dealing with on the appointed day will be

concluded by that tribunal. It will not receive any appeals against Standard Committee rulings after that date. The right of appeal will not exist for those cases. The suspension sanction will be removed from Standards Committees for the transitional period. Hence the most a Standards Committee could do is, for instance, to issue a councillor with a censure or a request that they undergo training.

2.8 The Bill has received criticism. The Association of County Secretaries and Solicitors, which represents Chief Legal Officers in local government, have described the standards provisions as:

“so permissive as to be practically ineffective”.

It will be interesting to see whether the House of Lords make any changes.

### 3. Recommendations

3.1 That the Standards Committee note this report and request updates for future meetings.


<b>Author</b>	<b>Chief Officer Responsible for the report</b>			
<i>Author's name: Andy Docherty Title: Assistant Director of Governance and ICT</i>	<i>Chief Officer's Andy Docherty Title: Assistant Director of Governance and ICT</i>			
<i>Dept: CBSS Ext: 1004</i>	<b>Report Approved</b>	<i>Tick</i>	<b>Date</b>	<i>15 June 2011</i>

### Background papers

None

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<b>STANDARDS COMMITTEE</b>	<b>24 June 2011</b>
<b>Report of the Monitoring Officer</b>	

## Application for dispensation

### 1. Summary

- 1.1 Bishopthorpe Parish Councillors are seeking a dispensation from the Code of Conduct allowing them to participate in decisions relating to the Village Hall.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 Councillors are obliged to register interests in any body directed to charitable purposes of which the Councillor is a member or in a position of general control or management. If any business of the authority relates to or is likely to affect that body then the Councillor has a personal interest in that business which must be declared.
- 2.2 Where a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would consider the interest to be so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Councillor's view of the public interest then the interest will be considered to be prejudicial. This though only applies where the business would affect the financial position of the body or relates to a regulatory matter.
- 2.3 The effect of an interest being prejudicial is that the Councillor must normally withdraw from the meeting while the business is being discussed. The Standards Committee has the power though to grant dispensations allowing Councillors to participate in discussing such business if more than half the Councillors would have to withdraw or if the political balance of the meeting would be upset. Such a dispensation may be given for a specific meeting or for a period of up to four years.
- 2.4 Bishopthorpe Parish Councillors act as trustees to the St. Andrew's Reading Room Charity. The Charity is responsible for the village hall, which is in turn managed by the Parish Council. There will undoubtedly be a need for Parish Councillors to declare their interest in the charity whenever the Village Hall is discussed and, if the discussions affect finances then the interest may well be prejudicial. This would mean that none of the Councillors would be able to participate in decision making. For that reason, four years ago the Committee granted Bishopthorpe Parish Councillors a dispensation allowing them to participate in discussions relating to the Village Hall notwithstanding their status as

charity trustees. This dispensation has now expired and the ten Parish Councillors have made a formal written request for it to be renewed.

2.5 A copy of the application for dispensation is attached to this report at annex one.

**3. Recommendations**

3.1 That the Standards Committee grants the dispensation sought by the named Parish Councillors.

<b>Author</b>	<b>Chief Officer Responsible for the report</b>			
<i>Author's name: Andy Docherty</i> <i>Title: Assistant Director of Governance and ICT</i>	<i>Name: Andy Docherty</i> <i>Title: Assistant Director of Governance and ICT</i>			
<i>Dept: CBSS</i>	<b>Report Approved</b>	<i>Tick</i>	<b>Date</b>	15/6/2011
<i>Ext: 1004</i>				

**Background papers**

None

**Annex**

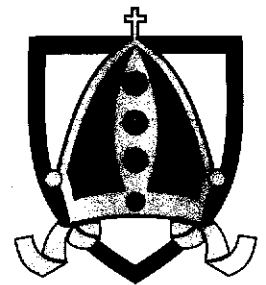
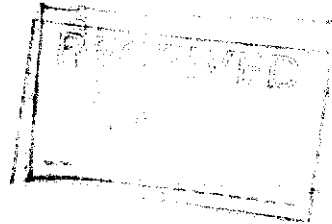
Application for dispensation

**Bishopthorpe Parish Council**

Chairman: Cllr. Stewart Harrison

27 May 2011

Ms S Hemingway  
Civic, Democratic and Legal Service  
City of York Council  
Guildhall  
York  
YO1 9QN



Mrs C Godfrey - Clerk  
The Village Hall  
40 Main Street  
Bishopthorpe, York  
YO23 2RB

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Dear Ms Hemingway

Please find enclosed a signed application to the Standards Committee to renew the dispensation by members of Bishopthorpe Parish Council regarding the Village Hall in Bishopthorpe. The current dispensation was granted on the 10<sup>th</sup> August 2007.

Please could you advise me in due course if this application is granted.

Yours sincerely

Cayley Godfrey  
Clerk, Bishopthorpe Parish Council

**City of York Standards Committee  
C/O Monitoring Officer**

We the undersigned Bishopthorpe Parish Council are making representation to the Standards Committee for dispensation from the provisions of the Code of Conduct, which prevent participation in decisions where members have a prejudicial interest.

Members of the Parish Council are the sole trustees of the charity St Andrew's Reading Room. This charity is responsible for the village hall. The actual responsibility of running the Village Hall rests with the Parish Council who for that purpose had appointed a management committee with three Parish Councillors and selected users of the Village Hall.

Thus at discussions in council about the Village Hall, all councillors would have a prejudicial interest and would be required not to participate.

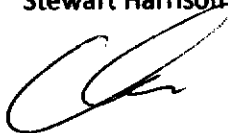
It is for this reason dispensation is sought on the grounds that more than 50% of the Parish Council membership would be prevented from taking part in the monitoring.



Stewart Harrison



Ian Jamison



Carole Green



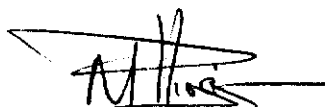
Chris Gajewicz



Susan Hughes



Richard Williams



Malcolm Higgins



Gillian Clifton



Brian Mellors



Sandy Kelly

