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MEETING	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
DATE	24 JUNE 2011
PRESENT	MRS BAINTON (INDEPENDENT MEMBER, IN THE CHAIR), COUNCILLORS SCOTT (VICE-CHAIR) - ITEM 4 ONWARDS, RUNCIMAN, TAYLOR AND GALVIN (SUBSTITUTE FOR CLLR BARTON) (CYC MEMBERS) MR DIXON AND MR HALL (INDEPENDENT MEMBERS) COUNCILLORS CRAWFORD, FORSTER AND MELLORS (PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS)
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLOR BARTON

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## 1. **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. Councillor Mellors declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 6 – “Application for Dispensation”, as a member of Bishopthorpe Parish Council. He withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item. Councillor Scott declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 3 – “Minutes of Sub-Committees” and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of that item.

## 2. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 17 December 2010 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

## 3. **MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES**

The minutes of the following meetings of sub-committees were approved and signed by the Members who had chaired the meetings:

- 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**

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

#### **5. ABOLITION OF THE STANDARDS REGIME**

Members considered a report that provided an update on the future of the Standards Regime.

Most of the members of the committee agreed that the current arrangements had improved standards both locally and nationally and had provided greater transparency and accountability. Concerns were expressed that the proposals would be detrimental to ethical governance.

Discussion took place regarding possible future arrangements. A suggestion was put forward that an independent working group could be established that would make recommendations to the Council. Members stressed the importance of ensuring that any arrangements that were put in place involved independent members, that there was consistency of application and that effective sanctions were available. It was also important that training continued to be offered to ensure that Members were aware of what was expected of them.

It was agreed that further consideration be given to this matter as information became available.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted and that further updates be provided at future meetings.

**REASON:** To ensure that the Standards Committee is kept informed regarding the future of the Standards Regime.

## **6. APPLICATION FOR DISPENSATION**

Members considered a report that asked 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.

**RESOLVED:** That the dispensation sought by the named Parish Councillors be granted.

**REASON:** To enable them to participate in discussions relating to the Village Hall notwithstanding their status as charity trustees.

## **7. REVIEW OF WORK PLAN**

Consideration was given to the work plan for the Standards Committee. It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled to take place on 26 August 2011.

**RESOLVED:** (i) That the Committee continue to be updated on government proposals relating to the Standards regime.

(ii) That the meeting scheduled for 26 August 2011 be cancelled if there are no items of business requiring attention at that time.

**REASON:** In order to organise the future business of the Committee.

**MRS C BAINTON**

Independent Member, In the Chair

The meeting started at 3.00 pm and finished at 3.40 pm.