



Epping Forest District Council

STANDARDS COMMITTEE Wednesday, 29th September, 2010

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:

Councillors Mrs A Grigg, Mrs P Smith, Mrs J H Whitehouse, R Crone, J Guth, M Wright, Mrs D Borton, B Surtees, Councillor J Salter and G Weltch (Independent Member)

Parish/Town Council Representative(s):

Councillors Mrs D Borton, J Salter and B Surtees

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Recommendation:

To elect Richard Crone as Chairman of the Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2010/11

(Monitoring Officer) The Committee is asked to elect a Chairman for the current year. The Chairman must be elected from the independent co-optees and cannot be a member of the District Council or of any Parish or Town Council.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Recommendation:

To appoint Jason Guth as Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2010/11

(Monitoring Officer) The Committee is asked to appoint a Vice-Chairman for the current year. The Vice-Chairman must be elected from the independent co-optees and cannot be a member of the District Council or of any Parish or Town Council.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

4. MINUTES (Pages 5 - 10)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2010 (attached).

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To declare interests in any item on the agenda.

6. ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10 (Pages 11 - 30)

Recommendations:

- (1) To consider the draft Annual Report for the last municipal year; and**
- (2) To consider arrangements for presenting this report to the Council meeting on 2 November 2010.**

(Deputy Monitoring Officer) A draft annual report for the last municipal year is attached. This draft has been sent to Mary Marshall and Grenville Welch as they were independent members of the Committee throughout that period.

Mary Marshall as Chairman of the Committee throughout the period has provided a foreward. The availability of the report will be publicised via the website and in the Council's Forester Magazine.

It has been usual for the Chairman of the Standards Committee to give a brief presentation on the report at the Council at which it is submitted. The Committee is asked how it wishes to deal with this.

The report will eventually form part of the "E Annual" report published on the Council's website.

7. STANDARDS FOR ENGLAND BULLETIN - AUGUST 2010 (Pages 31 - 34)

Recommendation:

To consider the attached Bulletin

(Monitoring Officer) The attached Bulletin updates the current position of Standards for England and its role in the foreseeable future.

8. ALLEGATIONS MADE ABOUT THE CONDUCT OF DISTRICT AND PARISH/TOWN COUNCILLORS (Pages 35 - 38)

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

9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

(Monitoring Officer) The calendar for 2010/11 provides for meetings of the

Committee on 18 January 2011 and 19 April 2011.

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 and 2

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) of the Local Government Act 1972:

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 from recent Sub-Committee meetings.