

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 5TH APRIL, 2007

PRESENT: Mrs. N. E. Trigg (Chairman), Councillor E. C. Tibby (Vice-Chairman),
Councillor Mrs. J. D. Luck, Councillor C. R. Scurrall, Councillor S. P.
Shannon and Councillor Mrs. C. J. Spencer

Observer: Councillor N. Psirides J.P.

Officers: Mrs. C. Felton and Mr. A. Jessop.

34/06 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Committee held on the 21st March 2007, were submitted.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that, as a matter of record, the words "the Council could still disenfranchise that candidate" in Resolution (ii) to Minute No. 32/06 (Minutes of Last Meeting) be amended to read "the Council should not still be able to disenfranchise that candidate";
- (b) that, with regard to Minute No. 33/06 (Local Investigation of a Complaint to the Standards Board), the words "it was the majority decision of the Committee" should be added to the text in (i) the second paragraph of the preamble after the words "after retiring to consider their decision", and (ii) at the beginning of the resolution thereon; and
- (c) that, in all other respects, the Minutes be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

35/06 **MONITORING OFFICER UPDATE**

The Report of the Monitoring Officer, outlining brief updates on the following matters, was considered:-

- (i) Independent Member vacancy;
- (ii) Code of Conduct Training;
- (iii) Standards Board Road Show; and
- (iv) Review of the Constitution.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the Deputy Monitoring Officer be requested to enquire whether there would be any more places available than the three already booked at the Road Show Event, to be held at the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, on Thursday, 14th June 2007; and
- (b) that, in all other respects, the Report be noted and approved.

36/06 **PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ROLE AND COMPOSITION OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Following the recent Ethical Governance Health Check undertaken by the IDeA, together with the current review of the Constitution, a Report from the Monitoring Officer on proposed changes to the role and composition of the Standards Committee was submitted.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) that, subject to the proviso set out in (b) below, no substitutes be allowed to serve on the Standards Committee;
- (b) that, on the question of Parish Council representation, this should remain at one, but that a Deputy Parish representative be appointed (with full necessary training), who would be allowed to substitute; and
- (c) that, as it was a statutory requirement that at least 25% of the Committee should be made up of Independent Members, their number should remain at three.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that, notwithstanding that it was the majority decision of the Committee to retain the number of District Councillors at five, as there were no "operational" suggestions proffered that would actually work (other than by political balance), this matter be deferred for further consideration at the first available meeting in the new municipal year once the political make-up of the Council was known; and
- (b) that those matters set out in the Report which were proposed should be referred to the Standards Committee be noted.

The meeting closed at 7.10 p.m.

Chairman