

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Date: Wednesday 16 January 2013

Time: 6.00 p.m.

Place: Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Stevenage

Present: Councillors D Kissane, Mrs J Lloyd, L Martin-Haugh,
J Mead, M Notley and B Underwood.

Start/End Time: Start Time: 6.00 p.m.
End Time: 6.15 p.m.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Nominations were requested for the appointment of the Chair of the Standards Committee for the remainder of the 2012/13 Municipal Year.

It was duly proposed and seconded that Councillor Mrs J Lloyd be appointed as Chair for the remainder of 2012/13 Municipal Year.

There being no other nominations, a vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Mrs J Lloyd be appointed as Chairman of the Standards Committee for the remainder of the 2012/13 Municipal Year.

Councillor Mrs J Lloyd in the Chair

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

An apology for absence was received from the Independent Person, Mr A Holland.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES – 6 JUNE 2012

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. DISPENSATIONS

The Committee had before it an officer report requesting the consideration of requests for dispensations under Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011.

The Committee was advised that dispensations were required for Members to remain in a meeting and vote if they had declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in the subject matter, and that dispensations were usually requested should the number of Members potentially debarred from a meeting be sufficient to render the meeting inquorate.

In reply to a question it was confirmed that all requests for dispensations should be made in writing by the Member concerned.

In reply to a further question it was confirmed that should the dispensations requested in the report be granted all Members would be able to attend and vote at the Special Council meeting on 23 January 2013.

It was **RESOLVED:**

1. That dispensations for a period of 4 years be granted to all Members from the restrictions set out in Section 31 (4) (a) and (b) of the Localism Act 2011 (the Act) for the purposes of all meetings and business relating to budgeting, council tax setting and rent setting in the circumstances set out in sections 4 (2) (3) and (5) below, where their disability arises either from a DPI in a beneficial interest in land or a contract with the Council as a result of their membership of a non profit making voluntary or community body.
2. That Officers be requested to instigate a rolling programme whereby Members be reminded of the requirement to re-apply for dispensations in writing immediately following any election, by-election or appointment to an Outside Body.
3. That the Borough Solicitor be authorised to consider and grant dispensations in similar circumstances to any member who may make an application for a dispensation in the future

5. URGENT PART I BUSINESS

None

6. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Not required.

PART II

7. URGENT PART II BUSINESS

None