



Police, which designated a specific police officer as a contact point. In respect of the case that had been referred to the Police the Committee was informed that no further action was taken. The Committee felt that it had taken quite some time to finalise this complaint but accepted that the Police had to prioritise cases.

The Committee reviewed the cases and discussed if there was a need for any further training. It was felt that Borough Councillors had received sufficient training and that this should be included again within the induction programme following the 2015 elections.

Councillor MacInnes stated that as a member of the Labour Party he was required, on an annual basis, to sign that he understood the Code and would abide by it. The Senior Solicitor informed Members that the Committee on Standards in Public Life, which had been critical of the changes in the regime and its effectiveness, had surveyed various bodies in respect of how ethical standards were embedded within their culture. Following this guidance would be produced for members of public bodies.

With regard to parish councils the Committee was informed that the new Code had been a topic at a Parish Forum in 2012. Members felt that it was important that parish councillors understood how their actions could be perceived and how this related to the Code. The Committee felt that, in the future, training should be offered to parish chairmen, vice chairmen and clerks. It was also important to point out that whether the parish councillor was elected or co-opted the Code applied to them.

Following a question, the Monitoring Officer explained that he had previously written to every parish informing them of the changes to the Code. He stated that there was a good relationship with the parishes and that he, or the Senior Solicitor, could be contacted for advice. He reminded the Committee that under the old regime the Standards Board for England had issued guidance notes for Committee members. It was agreed that training should be an item on the Committee's January agenda. At that meeting the Monitoring Officer would provide training on what constituted a breach of the Code using the Standards Board's training video, some of which was still relevant.

The Committee acknowledged that the new regime was less burdensome than the previous one and that it was working well.

The meeting closed at 6.05 pm.