



**NOTES  
OF THE MEETING OF THE  
STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
MONDAY 27 JUNE 2016**

Held at 5.30 pm in Committee Room 1, Civic Centre, Pavilion Road, West Bridgford

**PRESENT:**

Councillors R A Adair (Chairman), K P Beardsall, M Buckle, E J Lungley,  
F A Purdue-Horan, S E Mallender

Independent Members: G Norbury, W A Wood

**OFFICERS PRESENT:**

P Horsfield                      Monitoring Officer  
A Poole                              Constitutional Services Team Leader

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Independent Member: K White  
Independent Person: J R Baggaley

**1. Declarations of Interest**

There were none declared.

**2. Notes of the Previous Meeting**

The notes of the meeting held on Thursday 2 July 2015 were accepted as a true record.

The Monitoring Officer updated Members on the action included on page 3 regarding the provision of training sessions for Parish Councillors regarding the Code of Conduct. He informed Members that he had arranged to speak at the next Town and Parish Conference, which was scheduled for 5 October 2016.

**3. Cases Update**

The Monitoring Officer presented a report which outlined the number of cases that had been received since the implementation of the new regime in 2012. He explained that, of the relatively few complaints received since the last meeting, all had been considered and there was no evidence to support a breach of the code.

He informed Members that most complaints resulted from dissatisfaction with Parish Council services, and the Borough Council and the Standards Committee were unable to address these.

Regarding the complaint received about Bingham Town Council, the Monitoring Officer explained to Members that he had consulted the independent person and they both agreed that there was not a breach of code.

However, they wanted to ensure that the process to make a complaint was fully understood by all members of Parish Councils. Members agreed that there was a lack of understanding of the Code, at a Parish level, rather than a breach of the Code.

Members asked whether the Town or Parish Council could expect feedback from the Monitoring Officer following a complaint. Members were informed that the Monitoring Officer would attend a Town or Parish meeting to provide feedback and engage with all Parish Members.

At 5.38 pm Councillor Mallender joined the meeting.

Members stated that they were concerned about the level of confusion in place at a Parish level regarding the Code. The Monitoring Officer responded that the Code of Conduct was for Councillors and it was for the Standards Committee to agree those standards and decide what was appropriate. He asked that, where Members were concerned about a dispute, that they contact the Monitoring Office immediately to explore mediation opportunities so as to reach a positive conclusion. He informed Members that he had responsibility for the investigation of complaints and would, in all cases, seek an informal resolution of this issue to avoid official procedure.

Regarding the training at the Town and Parish Conference on 5 October 2016, Members were concerned that this would be held during the day and, as this could exclude some Members who worked, they asked for a similar session to be held in the evening. The Monitoring Officer encouraged informal resolution of complaints within at the Parish level, to help avoid a complaint being submitted formally and so the training would be beneficial to them. Members agreed to evaluate the session delivered at the Town and Parish Conference on 5 October 2016, and then to agree the way forward, at their next meeting.

**ACTION: The next meeting to be arranged for after 5 October 2016**

Members asked whether, as Borough Councillors, they could attend. This was agreed.

Members noted the content of the report.

The meeting closed at 5.55pm.