
STANDARDS COMMITTEE

25 OCTOBER 2010

Present:- Mr J Addison (Independent Chairman), Mr C Ward (Independent Vice-Chairman), Mr D Edmunds (Independent Member), Councillor Johnson, Councillor Rutson, Councillor H A Shearing, Councillor Talbot, Mr J White (Parish Member).

Substitute Member:- Mr D Dixon (Substitute Parish Member) (for Mr F Nicholls).

Also Present:- Mr D Foss-Smith (Substitute Independent Member), Mr C Tracey (Substitute Independent Member).

In Attendance:- Principal Solicitor, Democratic Services Officer.

(2.30 p.m. – 3.55 p.m.)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Heaney and Payne and Mr F Nicholls.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10 September 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. HEARING SUB-COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meetings of the Hearing Sub-Committee held on 9 March 2010 and 19 July 2010 were approved as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

4. LICENSING GUIDANCE FOR COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS – SITE VISITS

Members' approval was sought to a minor revision to the Licensing Guidance for Councillors and Officers relating to the process for deciding whether a site visit should be held prior to determination of a licence application.

Councillor H A Shearing declared a personal interest in the subject matter of this item.

It was moved by Mr J White, seconded by Mr D Dixon and:-

RESOLVED - That Section 7.1 of the Licensing Guidance for Councillors and Officers be amended to read as follows:-

“In relation to licensing applications, most sites are visited by Officers as part of the application consideration process. Upon notification of a forthcoming meeting to consider a licensing application Councillors may want to visit a specific site to consider issues to be raised at a Licensing Committee meeting. Councillors should not carry out site visits alone and unaccompanied but should instead approach the Chairman of the Committee with a request that a formal site visit is arranged on a mutually agreeable date prior to the date on which the application is scheduled to be determined. The Chairman's decision will be final. The Chairman will notify the Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer as soon as practicable that a site visit is required along with the reasons for such visit which will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the Committee which determines the application.”

Note: References to Licensing Committee and/or licensing include, where applicable, references to the Council's Licensing Committee and its associated Sub-Committees and its and their functions and delegated powers as set out in the Council's Constitution.

5. SCHEDULE OF SIX MONTHLY MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee considered a schedule of six monthly meetings of the Committee.

It was moved by Councillor Rutson, seconded by Councillor Johnson and:-

RESOLVED – That the schedule of six monthly meetings of the Committee be as set out below:-

Monday 14 March 2011 and
Monday 19 September 2011

each meeting to commence at 2.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Weeley.

6. INVITATION TO TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS TO ATTEND AN INFORMAL MEETING TO DISCUSS THE WORK OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Members considered a report updating them on the response received from Town and Parish Councils to an invitation extended by the Chairman to attend an informal meeting to discuss the work of the Standards Committee.

RESOLVED - That all Councillors and Clerks from the District, Town and Parish Councils be invited to attend an informal meeting with members of the Standards Committee on one of the following dates:-

Thursday 25 November 2010 – 7.00 p.m.
Thursday 2 December 2010 – 7.00 p.m.
Thursday 9 December 2010 – 2.30 p.m.

each meeting to be held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Weeley.

Chairman