

At a Meeting of the **STANDARDS COMMITTEE** held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Kilworthy Park, Drake Road, **TAVISTOCK** on **TUESDAY** the **24th** day of **JANUARY 2012** at **10.00 am**.

Present: **West Devon Borough Council**

Mr A Leech
Miss D Moyse
Mr D Whitcomb

Parish Council Members

Mrs M Morgan

Independent Members

Dr R Meyrick – Vice-Chairman
Mrs V Spence – Chairman

Head of Corporate Services
Solicitor & Monitoring Officer
Solicitor & Deputy Monitoring Officer
Committee & Ombudsman Link Officer

S 12 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Mrs W Eldridge.

S 13 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th October 2011, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

***S 14 APPLICATION FOR DISPENSATIONS FROM GULWORTHY PARISH COUNCIL**

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented a report (page 7 to the Agenda) on a request from Gulworthy Parish Council for dispensations for five of its seven Members to enable their participation in matters relating to the Parish Hall whilst keeping the Parish Council quorate. Under the Standards Committee (Further Provisions)(England) Regulations 2009, the Standards Committee had the power to grant dispensations to Borough and Parish Councillors allowing them to speak and vote at a meeting when they had a prejudicial interest. A dispensation could be granted for speaking and voting or just for speaking.

The request from Gulworthy Parish Council related to five of its seven Members and their participation on the Parish Hall Committee. Of the five co-serving Members, two were Trustees of the Parish Hall. A similar request received from the Parish Council in 2009/2010 excluded the Trustees from voting.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) the Gulworthy Parish Councillors named below be given a dispensation to enable them to speak, debate and vote on matters relating to Gulworthy Parish Hall in respect of planning applications and grant applications until the next Parish Council elections in May 2015:

Cllr James Chalcraft
Cllr Sarah Sampson
Cllr Rosemary Steer

- (ii) because they are trustees, the Gulworthy Parish Councillors named below be given a dispensation to enable them to speak on and to withdraw from the meeting before the debate and to not vote on matters relating to Gulworthy Parish Hall in respect of planning applications and grant applications until the next Parish Council elections in May 2015:

Cllr Winston Lake
Cllr Keith Parsons

***S 15 UPDATE ON STANDARDS COMPLAINTS**

The Deputy Monitoring Officer reported that two complaint Hearings were pending, one relating to a former Parish Council Member and relating to a current Borough Council Member and that two investigations were drawing to a conclusion for draft reports to be prepared for consideration.

***S 16 FUTURE OF STANDARDS**

The Deputy Monitoring Officer tabled a paper detailing the programme to be followed once the Standards Board and the Standards regime cease on 1st July 2012. The paper showed how the Standards Board would close down and the proposals currently being considered locally to take up the Standards mantle.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Committee's agenda for its Meeting in March 2012, contain an item on the Future of Standards and that all Members of the Borough Council be invited to attend.

(The Meeting terminated at 11.08 am.)