

AGENDA

Standards Committee

Date: **Friday 20 April 2012**

Time: **10.00 am**

Place: **The Assembly Hall, Town Hall, St Owen St, Hereford**

Notes: Please note the **time, date** and **venue** of the meeting.

For any further information please contact:

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If you would like help to understand this document, or would like it in another format or language, please call Heather Donaldson, Democratic Services Officer on 01432 261829 or e-mail hdonaldson@herefordshire.gov.uk in advance of the meeting.

Agenda for the Meeting of the Standards Committee

Membership

Chairman	David Stevens	Independent Member
Vice-Chairman	Jake Bharier	Independent Member
	Olwyn Barnett	Local Authority Representative
	Chris Chappell	Local Authority Representative
	Richard Gething	Parish and Town Council Representative
	Mary Morris	Parish and Town Council Representative

GUIDANCE ON DECLARING PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS AT MEETINGS

What is a personal interest?

You have a personal interest in a matter if that matter affects the well-being or financial position of you, your relatives or people with whom you have a close personal association more than it would affect the majority of other people in the ward(s) to which the matter relates.

A personal interest can affect you, your relatives or people with whom you have a close personal association positively or negatively. If you or they would stand to lose by the decision, you should also declare it.

You also have a personal interest in a matter if it relates to any interests, which you must register.

What do I need to do if I have a personal interest?

You must declare it when you get to the item on the agenda headed "Declarations of Interest" or as soon as it becomes apparent to you. You may still speak and vote unless it is a prejudicial interest.

If a matter affects a body to which you have been appointed by the authority, or a body exercising functions of a public nature, you only need declare the interest if you are going to speak on the matter.

What is a prejudicial interest?

You have a prejudicial interest in a matter if;

- a) a member of the public, who knows the relevant facts, would reasonably think your personal interest is so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgment of the public interest; and
- b) the matter affects your financial interests or relates to a licensing or regulatory matter; and
- c) the interest does not fall within one of the exempt categories at paragraph 10(2)(c) of the Code of Conduct.

What do I need to do if I have a prejudicial interest?

If you have a prejudicial interest you must withdraw from the meeting. However, under paragraph 12(2) of the Code of Conduct, if members of the public are allowed to make representations, give evidence or answer questions about that matter, you may also make representations as if you were a member of the public. However, you must withdraw from the meeting once you have made your representations and before any debate starts.

AGENDA

		Pages
1.	<p>RESIGNATION OF A STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEMBER</p> <p>To note the resignation of a Standards Committee member.</p>	
2.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>To receive apologies for absence.</p>	
3.	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>To receive any declarations of interest by members in respect of items on the agenda.</p>	
4.	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2012.</p>	1 - 4
5.	<p>DISPENSATIONS</p> <p>To consider an application for a dispensation received from Bridstow Parish Council.</p>	5 - 10
6.	<p>THE FUTURE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT STANDARDS FRAMEWORK</p> <p>To consider progress made with the implementation of a new regime of member conduct in preparation for changes brought about by the Localism Act 2011, and to receive the notes of the Standards Working Group held on 06 March 2012.</p>	11 - 14
7.	<p>EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS</p> <p>In the opinion of the Proper Officer, the following item will not be, or is likely not to be, open to the public and press at the time it is considered.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: that under section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12(A) of the Act, as indicated below and it is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.</p> <p>7A Information which is subject to an obligation of confidentiality</p>	
8.	<p>LOCAL FILTER CASES AND DETERMINATIONS</p> <p>To update the Committee on progress made with complaints about local authority, parish and town councillors.</p>	15 - 52