

MINUTES of the Hearing of Standards Committee held at The Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford on Friday 11 September 2009 at 10.00 am

Present: David Stevens (Independent Member)(in the chair)

Jake Bharier (Independent Member)
Richard Gething (Parish and Town Council Representative)
John Hardwick (Parish and Town Council Representative)
John Stone (Local Authority representative)
Beris Williams (Local Authority Representative)

14. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: (unanimously) that in the absence of Mr Robert Rogers, the Chairman of the Standards Committee, Mr David Stevens be elected Chairman for the duration of the hearing.

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Ms Isabel Fox and Mr Robert Rogers.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made:

Member	Agenda Item	Interest
Councillor John Stone	3. Hearing	Declared a personal interest on the grounds that he had known the Subject in a political capacity for a number of years. He remained in the meeting for the duration of the item.
Councillor Beris Williams	3. Hearing	Declared a personal interest on the grounds that he had known the Complainant and his family for a number of years. He remained in the meeting for the duration of this item.

17. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED: (unanimously) 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 involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12(A), specifically that it disclosed information which is subject to an obligation of confidentiality.

18. HEARING

The Committee considered an advice note which had been issued by the Monitoring Officer, and which highlighted additional matters in relation to the Investigating Officer's report in respect of a complaint received about a particular town, parish or local authority councillor.

The Standards Committee carefully considered all matters in relation to the Investigating Officer's report, and the advice note provided by the Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED: (unanimously) that:

- (i) the Standards Committee Hearing be adjourned under the provisions of Regulation 18(8) of the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008;**
- (ii) the scope of the Hearing be widened to consider whether the Subject had used his position improperly to secure an advantage to himself or disadvantage to another, namely the Complainant;**
- (iii) the Monitoring Officer be instructed to seek further information and produce a supplementary report to be considered at a re-convened hearing, having first shared the supplementary report with the Subject, and given him opportunity to comment.**

The meeting ended at 10.20 am

CHAIRMAN